

Agenda

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 09 July 2012 Agenda

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes
 - i. Minutes from the 11 June 2012 GSA Council meeting (**previously distributed on July 05**)

Changes in Council Membership

3. Changes in Council Membership
 - i. Introduction of new Councillors (*If you are new to Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

Presentations and Councillor Announcements

4. Presentations
 - ii. Health and Dental Plan (Lev Bukhman, Studentcare Executive Director, and Amanda Smytaniuk, Studentcare Western Director) (**previously distributed on July 05**)
 - i. HUB Mall Tragedy (Dr. Frank Robinson, Dean of Students; Robin Everall, Provost Fellow; Rob Munro, Director of Environmental, Health and Safety) (**no material**)
 - ii. Station Pointe Co-Op Housing Development (Andrew Rathbone, University Housing Coop, and Brian Scott, Communitas) (**no material**)
5. Councillor Announcements

Reports

6. President
 - i. President's Report (**attached**)
 - ii. GSA Board (**previously distributed on July 05**)
 - iii. Budget and Finance Committee (**will be meeting in August to review quarterly financial reports**)
 - iv. Governance Committee (**editorial changes to Bylaw and Policy to be sent to the GC in July/August**)
 - v. Nominating Committee (**previously distributed on June 28**)
7. Vice-President Academic
 - i. Vice-President Academic's Report (**attached**)
8. Vice-President Student Services
 - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report (**attached**)
 - ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice President Student Life) (**the GSAB sought SAAC's input by email regarding the University Bookstore**)
9. Vice-President Student Life
 - i. Vice-President Student Life's Report (**attached**)
 - ii. Awards Selection Committee (**No need to meet at this time; review of awards process in progress**)
10. Vice-President Labour
 - i. Vice-President Labour's Report (**attached**)
 - ii. Negotiating Committee (**no need to meet yet**)

- iii. Labour Relations Committee **(previously distributed on July 05)**
- 11. Senator
 - i. Senator's Report **(a new Senator was elected on June 29)**
- 12. Speaker
 - i. Speaker's Report **(no material)**
- 13. Chief Returning Officer
 - i. Chief Returning Officer's Report **(previously distributed on July 05)**
 - ii. Elections and Referenda Committee **(will meet in late summer to review elections Bylaws and Policies)**
- 14. GSA Management
 - i. Executive Director's Report **(previously distributed on June 28; updated version distributed on July 05)**

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business

- 15. Action Items **(none)**
- 16. Elections
 - i. Slate for the GSA Labour Relations Committee **(previously distributed on 28 June)**
- 17. Discussion Items **(none)**

Question Period

- 18. Written Questions **(none)**
- 19. Oral Questions

Adjournment

**Meeting Minutes
11 June 2012
GSA Council Meeting**

[Note: All materials referred to in these Minutes are stored in hard copy in the Official File, as well as electronically]

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 11 June 2012 Agenda

Members had before them the 11 June 2012 Consolidated Agenda, which had been distributed on 5 June 2012.

The Agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes

i. **Minutes from the 14 May 2012 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 14 May 2012 GSA Council Minutes, which had been distributed on 5 June 2012.

The Minutes were approved.

Changes in Council Membership

3. Changes in Council Membership

i. **Introduction of new Councillors**

This was the first meeting for a number of new Members: MD Shirajum Munir (CAL), Amir Khadem (Comp Lit), Zhen Li (CAL), Qiang Li (CAL), Billal Sultani (Lab Med & Path), Simarjit S Bal (CAL), Asif Sidiqqi (CAL), Andres Antonio Torres-Scott (CAL), Isaac Odoom (CAL), Andy Rathbone (CAL), and Brent Epperson (VPL).

ii. **Farewell to departing Councillors**

This was Thomas McIntyre's (ECE) last meeting after 2.5 years of service.

Presentations and Councillor Announcements

4. Presentations

i. **Campus Smoking Policy (Janine Hancock, Smoke-Free Campus Initiative)**

No material was distributed in advance. During the presentation, Janine Hancock:

- Provided background information, including a powerpoint presentation, on their group and current smoking policies in effect at the University of Alberta (Provincial and City bylaws) and at other institutions, including NAIT, MacEwan, University of Regina.
- Presented possibilities relating to smoking policy changes; emphasis on current focus of creating designated smoking areas.

After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- R Agrawal (CRO) asked about the current smoking policy and what flaws were found that led to the request for change. J Hancock replied that the current policy was in accordance with city bylaws (e.g., no smoking indoors, smokers must be 5m away from doors), and that the group believed this was not effective on campus; the group had been in discussions with Protective Services on enforcement but agreed that other concerns needed to be addressed, such as designated smoking areas would need to be well lit for safety; the need to establish demarcation of these spaces (structures versus shrubs, etc.); the group had spoken with other groups on campus including the SU and NASA; the SU had passed a political policy that supported the idea of designated areas.
- I Odoom (CAL) asked what the group was looking for from GSA representatives. In response, J Hancock noted the group wanted to engage in an open discussion with student groups to raise awareness, and wanted to see the GSA adopt a political policy to demonstrate its support for the group's initiatives. In response to I Odoom's request for further information on initiatives taken forward, J Hancock noted that they had found that rates of smoking are higher among international students so cultural issues were being reviewed; they had also expected opposition from NASA, another group with higher rates of smoking, so were pleased to be well received by NASA.
- B Epperson (VPL) asked if this was the right approach to bring this into the policy realm, considering collective versus individual rights, and whether a public information campaign might be more effective than policy changes. J Hancock indicated that the group was not trying to pit people against each other but rather to encourage discussion; that there was recognition that apathy on campus was an issue so policy may be a more effective route; the group saw this as similar to other health-

related initiatives on campus; the group did not see smoking as a rights issue. B Epperson noted that Protective Services had a small staff and limited resources and that there was already much discussion on campus concerning substance use enforcement and asked if smoking enforcement was a good use of these resources. In response, J Hancock noted the group had discussions with Protective Services and there was recognition of use of these resources; that on other campuses, including Dalhousie which is smoke-free, self-enforcement was the key; that at the beginning of the policy implementation there had to be public awareness programs; people need to see enforcement; this should be possible even with limited resources.

- In response to S Bal's (CAL) question related to cost estimates in terms of implementation (e.g., restricted zones) and how costs would be met, J Hancock replied that they had estimates based on other campuses that could be provided to the GSA; there was a higher cost to designated smoking areas including signage, space demarcation (hedges, stalls) etc; there were grants available through the Canadian Cancer Society and other tobacco use reduction groups.
- N Sinkov (Chem) asked how the group intended to educate international students especially if campus policy was different from city and provincial laws. J Hancock noted that they had just met with the Dean of Students about this and that the group also had an issue with how to inform visitors to campus; there would be warnings built into the system, visitor guides, and information provided in residences.
- A Bernier (Pres) asked about enforcement and penalties and under what authority Protective Services would write student tickets (i.e., the Code of Student Behaviour). J Hancock responded that Protective Services already had authority to write tickets, but was uncertain under what authority this was done.
- Z Li (CAL) asked if it was better to offer this policy as a recommendation rather than having ticketing/penalties and J Hancock responded that the group believed there must be an element of enforcement but it would be left to the development of the policy to specify appropriate penalties.
- In response to B Sultani's (Lab Med & Path) question about possible penalties, J Hancock noted they were not yet at that point and that it

would be up to the University and other interest groups such as the GSA to determine these.

- N Andrews (VPAC) asked if the group had figured out where on campus these designated smoking zones would be and J Hancock responded that they had not plotted the zones on a map but there were areas that have high concentrations of smokers (e.g., outside LRT stations) and that it would be natural to put the zones near those facilities but still away from doors and major thoroughfares.
- C Moore (Physics) ask how far along the group was and what was its plan/roadmap of policies needed to accomplish its goals. J Hancock replied that there were several different routes to implement policies and the first step was meeting with groups including the Board of Governors and GSA.
- In response to V Kandalam's query about timelines, J Hancock noted that they were looking at six months to two years for implementation, but in terms of getting the campus policy changed, the goal was for this to happen in the next two terms. V Kandalam then asked about statistics and surveys. J Hancock replied that they had numbers from a student health survey showing 7% of students on campus smoke.

A Bernier (Pres) moved to **extend J Hancock's presentation and question time to the end of the Speaker's list**, seconded by N Sinkov (Chem).

The MOTION was APPROVED.

- N Adnan (VPSS) asked if after implementing the smoking control policy changes on other campuses were there any surveys to see if the number of smokers had been reduced or if the changes were effective. J Hancock replied that it appeared other campuses had variable success.

ii. Health and Dental Plan Update (A Bernier, President)

No material was distributed in advance. During the presentation, A Bernier (Pres) provided:

- Background on the Plan Update, noting that a request for quotation process from Studentcare.net/works was made by the GSA Board; that the current insurance provider since 2003 was Sun Life; three quotes were received and the most cost effective was Desjardins (based in

Quebec); the fee amount they came back with was less than the proposed fee approved by Council; this would result in a surplus that could be put back into the H&D reserve fund to ensure sustainability.

- Information about the process of due diligence to make the change from Sun Life to Desjardins.

(Note: In order to respond to some questions from Council, several attempts were made during the discussion to reach a Studentcare representative through teleconferencing but were unable to connect. Studentcare representatives will be present at the July meeting of Council to present information and respond to questions.)

After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- A Siddiqui (CAL) asked if there was any information about the records of these insurance companies, in particular those related to claims. A Bernier replied that Studentcare had done some investigation and they were all in line with our current provider; we would need to make some changes to the dental claim process but Studentcare would ensure all changes were in place before an agreement was signed with Desjardins; Studentcare had identified some other issues and had stated they were willing to support the GSA with any problems. A Siddiqui then asked if the fact that this company is located in Quebec was going to be an issue. In response A Bernier replied she did not foresee this as an issue; that several institutions had participated in this request for quotes including the SU; the SU was also going forward with changing the provider to Desjardins; that it helped if the GSA used the same provider as the SU to reduce confusion.
- In response to Z Li's (CAL) questions about coverage, A Bernier noted the GSA was limited to looking at those providers who had submitted a quote and that our agreement with Studentcare was ongoing so entertaining quotes from providers that are not part of this process was not possible. In terms of the level of benefits, they will remain the same; this was a stipulation of the quote process that there could be no change in coverage. Looking at improved benefits would necessitate an additional cost. In response to Z Li's further query about increases in costs, A Bernier responded that this would need follow up with Studentcare for a

response. She added it was best moving forward to consider using the same level of coverage.

- S Bal (CAL) asked how long this rate would be for, expressing concern that the rate quoted would be a teaser rate. A Bernier noted that the companies had the option to provide quotes for one year guaranteed and two year guaranteed. The agreements were for three years so there was the possibility that in the third year the fee could be elevated, but if we had a surplus to put in the reserve fund, we would be able to cover an increase.
- A Sabzevari (Law) asked how member rates/member networks (e.g., preferred dentists who provide an additional discount) would be affected. R Coulthard (Guest/past Pres) noted that the Studentcare preferred provider networks would be maintained and that they were created by Studentcare and not the insurance provider.
- N Adnan (VPSS) noted that if they were not able to deliver the service we want we can cancel the service.
- In response to I Odoom's (CAL) query about what was required of Council, F Wu (Speaker) noted that this was an item that had been brought forward for discussion by the GSA Board and that no specific action was required of Council.
- MD Munir (CAL) asked if any surveys had been taken of graduate students related to H&D services. In response, A Bernier noted that in the most recent survey, graduate students indicated that they were willing to pay more as long as the current levels of services were maintained. The survey did not go into details about adding additional services.
- N Adnan (VPSS) noted for clarification that the GSA Board's concern this year was that the premium was going higher; we went through the review process to see if we could find a lower quote from another provider; we were planning a survey but because the Board then received, through the request for quotes process, a lower quote than the approved fee we were going to charge, there was then no need for a survey at this time; there will be another survey but likely not until next year.
- MD Munir (CAL) asked if there was any possibility to provide insurance in two or three tiers, for example, students would have options to buy into different plans with different levels of coverage. In response, N Adnan

and A Bernier noted that because it was a group rate lower quotes were obtained. MD Munir then asked if there was an option to pay more for more coverage beyond the minimum. A Bernier responded that this could be explored with Studentcare but that it was not a possibility that was presented to the GSA in the RFQ process.

- In relation to the number of quotes, B Sultani (Lab Med & Path) asked if the GSA should try to get additional quotes that included a reduction in benefits. A Bernier reiterated that the feedback received from graduate students was that they did not want any reduction in the level of benefits even if it was associated with a reduced cost. B Sultani questioned whether, by not having any stipulations when we asked for quotes, we can determine if it really was a beneficial move.
- N Sinkov (Chem) asked if there was any information about the history of Desjardins, the proposed insurance provider. A Bernier responded that while there was no further information, Studentcare acts in our favour and that Studentcare receives a flat fee from the GSA so they can act on our behalf without impact to its fee.
- Q Li (CAL) asked if there was any way to increase awareness of the H&D plan and services. A Bernier replied that the GSA will work with Studentcare on this. Studentcare has an on-campus office (another reason why it was beneficial to share a provider with SU – a shared office and same provider means less confusion for all students when they visit the office with questions). N Adnan added that the GSA Handbook included this information as does the GSA website.

Moved by I Odoom (CAL) **to table the discussion until a Studentcare representative can be present**, seconded by M Akinwumi (Math & Stat Sci). Motion opened to debate by F Wu (Speaker).

- C More (Physics) asked how quickly a decision needed to be made on a new provider and A Bernier replied that Studentcare required an answer sometime in July so she did not believe waiting to the next Council meeting would provide sufficient time. The Speaker added that implicit in this was the Studentcare representative's availability.
- N Andrews (VPAC) asked what further information Council would like to have.

- E Berry (Biochem) spoke against tabling this item because of the time constraint and suggested questions be forwarded to the GSA Board to pass along to Studentcare for answers. A Bernier added that any questions received would be passed along and that the GSA would move forward with due diligence related to Desjardins.
- N Adnan (VPSS) did not support a postponement because the presentation before Council did not include changes to current coverage, surveying, etc. but rather dealt only with changing the provider.
- Z Li (CAL) questioned what kind of benefits were received from Studentcare and if the cost to benefit ratio was good. The Speaker ruled this statement did not deal with the motion at hand.
- A Siddiqui (CAL) asked about the consequences of tabling this debate, noting that no decision was required of Council. A Bernier noted that this item was brought forward to Council for information and discussion; that the Board wanted Councillor input on its decision; there was no motion other than tabling the discussion; the Board will proceed with due diligence. She added that this was an important discussion so it was important to have a Studentcare representative present at Council to respond to questions.
- N Andrews (VPAC) spoke against the motion since most of the concerns in the room had been addressed adequately.

Call to vote made by T McIntyre (ECE), seconded by N Sinkov (Chem). No objections.

The MOTION was DEFEATED.

For: 11

Against: 17

Abstentions: 1 (A Sabzevari, Law)

Discussion on the item continued:

- I Odoom asked if questions could be forwarded to Studentcare. A Bernier added it was important to come up with a method to get Council's questions answered by Studentcare. The Speaker then suggested that the matter be referred to the committee of the whole.

Moved by R Agrawal (CRO) **to refer to Committee of the Whole**, seconded by A Bernier (Pres).

The MOTION was APPROVED.

The discussion then continued without formal speaking rules.

Moved by R Agrawal (CRO) **to move out of Committee of the Whole**, seconded by A Siddiqui (CAL).

The MOTION was APPROVED.

5. Councillor Announcements

There was no material before members. The following announcements were made:

- A Torres-Scott (CAL) reported that the Department of Political Science was running a centennial panel for the Canadian Political Science Association conference June 13-16. Panel discussions will be held in Tory and Business. All are welcome.
- A Boroomand (ECE) stated that the Engineering Symposium was on June 21. It was a free event to learn about graduate student research on campus. All are welcome.
- A Rathbone (CAL) advised, on behalf of student coop housing, that there will be orientation sessions about the project (84 units of housing for students at Station Pointe) on June 21 from 7 - 9 pm and June 24 from 2 - 4 pm. If interested contact him for directions to the sessions which will be held at Grandin Green. The Student Coop Housing Project is looking for more people to become involved and is currently involved in pushing to get funds for completion of the project.
- A Radomski (Psychiatry) noted that the Psychiatry Annual Research Day in Bernard Shell Hall will be held on June 26. This year's themes were decision making and addiction. A detailed itinerary was on the Psychiatry website.

Reports

6. President

i. President's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 7 June 2012. In addition, President A Bernier noted the following:

- With transition done, strategic planning & implementation of the strategic plan is next up for the GSA Board.
- The Umbrella Committee (TUC) was encouraging submissions.
- Update on progress of Alberta Graduate Council.
- Brief summary of items working related to H&D plan and U-Pass.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 7 June 2012. The report stands as submitted.

iii. Budget and Finance Committee

There was no need for BFC to meet until the audit is complete in late June.

iv. Governance Committee

The Governance Committee had met by email on editorial Bylaw matters.

v. Nominating Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 1 June 2012. A Bernier deferred to Nominating Committee Vice-chair V Kandalam, who provided an oral report:

- The GSA Nominating Committee report distributed and posted on 1 June stated that Councillors would receive a slate of nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officers on 8 June. However, several potential nominees reconsidered at the last minute, and the slate was not finalized in time.
- The GSA Nominating Committee will continue to evaluate nominees and distribute a slate to Councillors via the Council mailing list on or about 15 June. Nominees on that slate will be asked to record videos to be posted on the GSA website during the following week.
- Individuals who were not placed on the slate of nominees will be able to have a nomination submitted on their behalf by their Departmental Councillor or any Councillor-at-Large any time before noon on 29 June.
- The original slate of nominees and any additional nominations will be placed on a preferential emailed ballot, which will proceed immediately after the nomination deadline.

7. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 7 June 2012. In addition, VPAC N Andrews noted the following:

- Regarding the Grading and Assessment proposal, a win for the GSA was the key statement/"friendly amendment" requiring Faculty- and department-specific grading guidelines be brought to ASC for information; the GSA will keep an eye out on policy concerning the grievance process.
- On the Graduate Student Funding Task Force, currently working towards international graduate student awards (bursary, entrance

scholarship). Question put to Council: What do you think about an International Students Association and would it benefit graduate students? For international graduate student Councillors, did you feel welcomed and able to access services and programs at the U of A in your first year? Councillors were encouraged to contact him directly with input.

- He also directed attention to the notion of "internationalizing" the University to make Council aware of ongoing discussion in university governance on this topic.

8. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 7 June 2012. In addition, VPSS N Adnan noted the following:

- Approval of two new programs through FGSR Council (room for additional 10-15 graduate students per program). Also amendments to Graduate Program Manual (including no candidacy exams via teleconferencing).
- U-Pass entering discussions on new Agreement, with referendum early next year.
- GFC FDC including ICE building, Botanical Gardens facility and related issues.
- PAW update on project, noting there was ongoing discussion about the proposed community kitchen.
- In response to C More's (Physics) question on the rationale for removing teleconferencing for candidacy exams, N Adnan noted that faculty members suggested that it was because graduate students in general take their candidacy exam in the middle of their program when they are expected to be on campus whereas for the final oral, they may have relocated for post-grad work/research. The FGSR may approve cases under exceptional circumstances. A Bernier (Pres) added for clarification examiners may still teleconference in.
- In response to A Siddiqui's (CAL) query related to the PAW bike library and security considerations, N Adnan noted that the bike library existed currently in SUB; that this really was an SU initiative to relocate to a more visible location; however, this was not confirmed because the SU does not have funding; while it was still a long term goal it was currently not a priority.

ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice President Student Life)

The GSA Board continues to seek SAAC's advice by email on the PAW Centre community kitchen and the 89 Ave housing project.

9. Vice-President Student Life

i. Vice President Student Life's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 7 June 2012. In addition, Vice-President H Zhong noted the following:

- Residence Community Standards Review Committee (CSRC): review of the implementation process of Restorative Justice, reports expected in late June/early July.
- Festival of Ideas scheduled 14 - 18 November with a fantastic line up of speakers including a planned children's festival.
- Student Connect project under preparation; aimed to connect students with different functional departments based on our needs; first point of contact for students when they have questions; planned launch for start of next academic year.

ii. Awards Selection Committee

A review of GSA Awards under the President's direction with Hillary Sparkes, CAL, as lead, was occurring.

10. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 7 June 2012. In addition, VPL B Epperson noted the following:

- Seeking representation from all Faculties on Labour Relations Committee (LRC as think tank), emphasizing importance due to start of negotiations; would like to have at least six other departments as part of pilot: Labour Relation Liaisons have two key roles - providing labour information but also key point of contact with departmental GSAs.
- Noted that this is a key time in terms of advancing our collective agenda/strategic plan in the context of the provincial and national climate re: post-secondary education, and in the context of wanting to enter a dialogue with graduate student groups related to civic engagement. Request for input from Council in terms of how to increase graduate student engagement, and in the larger sense, what Council would like to see done.

ii. Negotiation Committee

There was currently no need for meetings, as the committee is being replenished.

iii. **Labour Relations Committee**

There was currently no need for meetings, as the committee is being replenished.

11. Senator

i. **Senator's Report**

There was no report this month.

12. Speaker

i. **Speaker's Report**

There was no report this month.

13. Chief Returning Officer

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on June 07. The report stands as submitted.

ii. **Elections and Referenda Committee**

ERC will meet over the summer to review Bylaws, and is currently being replenished.

14. GSA Management

i. **Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 1 June 2012. In addition, Executive Director E Schoeck noted the following:

- Ongoing satisfaction with the current state of the GSA in two years since coming on as a consultant (and now serving as ED).
- Governance 101 sessions will be held over the next few months. All new Councillors were welcome to contact her to arrange for one of these sessions.

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business

15. Action Items

i. **Council-elected Officers: Proposal for Bylaw Change (Second Reading):** moved by A Bernier (Pres), seconded by N Sinkov (Chem)

This was the second reading of an addition to a Motion approved in first reading at the April Council meeting and in second reading at the May Council meeting. Members had before them an Outline of Issue and a double-column document outlining the proposed changes, both of which had been distributed on 1 June 2012. Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION:**

GSA Council approves, in second reading, changes to Bylaw, Part IV Officers, item 3 Council-elected officers, as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and as set out in the middle column of the attached triple-column document.

Members were advised that GSA Bylaw, Part VII, item 2, provides that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws...”, and that this Motion had been approved in first reading at the 14 May 2012 GSA Council Meeting.

Members were advised that the GSA Board, upon reviewing the initial Motion just prior to the April Council meeting, raised the issue of whether the Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer should be voting or non-voting members of Council. The Board then considered this matter at its 18 April meeting. The Board unanimously recommended that these positions be non-voting and referred the matter to the Governance Committee, which also has supported the suggestion that these positions be non-voting. The Governance Committee voted by email on this matter and their recommendation is set out in section 3.2.4 of the attached comparative table, where the following sentence is added: “The Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer are non-voting members of Council.”

A Bernier (Pres) introduced the Motion, noting that this is a second reading of a motion Council approved at its last meeting.

The following is a summary of the debate on the Motion:

- V Kandalam spoke in favour of the Motion noting this is a completion of the process of establishing these positions, the date for their election, and their privileges in Council.
- I Odoom (CAL) asked if a Council member took one of these positions, what would happen to representation for that department. In response V Kandalam noted that the last paragraph addressed this point, that their vote as Councillor supersedes their position as DRO/Deputy Speaker in terms of voting.

The MOTION was APPROVED.

ii. Negotiations Committee: Proposal for Bylaw Change (Second Reading): moved by A Bernier (Pres), seconded by N Andrews (VPAC)

Members had before them an Outline of Issue and a double column document, both of which had been distributed on 1 June 2012. Members were advised that there was a typo on the Outline of Issues, and that “first reading” should read

“second reading” under “Suggested Motion”. Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION**:

That Council, in second reading, approve changes to GSA Bylaw concerning the Negotiation Committee, as set out in the right-hand column of the attached comparative table.

Members were advised that GSA Bylaw, Part VII Standing Committees, 2.2.1, states that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws...” The Governance Committee had approved this proposal in an email vote on 3 May 2012. In addition, the GSA Board, acting as the GSA’s “highest administrative authority” had endorsed this proposal and recommended it favourably to the Governance Committee (GASB, 2 May 2012).

It was noted for Members that if this proposal passes in second reading, the following changes to the Policy Manual would be made: Officer Portfolios, items 3 (VP Academic) and 6 (VP Student Services) – the VP Academic would sit on the NC as Vice-chair (and not the VPSS), as the academic portfolio is more closely aligned with CA issues than the services portfolio.

Members were advised that this motion also entails a number of editorial changes to the GSA Bylaws and Policy Manual, since all references to the “Negotiations Committee” must be changed to the “Negotiating Committee”.

It was noted for Members that both the Governance Committee and the Board see the matter as urgent as we are entering a negotiating year, and that GSA Labour Professional Heather Hogg has checked this proposal against the Collective Agreement. In the attached proposal you will see notes headed “rationale” that refer to requirements in the CA.

A Bernier (Pres) introduced the Motion, pointing out the various changes in the committee’s composition.

The MOTION was APPROVED.

- iii. **Spring/Summer 2012 U-Pass:** moved by N Adnan (VPSS), seconded by B Epperson (VPL)

Members had before them an Outline of Issue distributed on 7 June 2012.

Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION**:

GSA Council approves, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, that the Spring/Summer U-Pass program be extended to Spring/Summer 2013.

N Adnan (VPSS) introduced the Motion, noting that this was just an extension of the existing Agreement and that the Spring/Summer U-Pass fees for 2013

needed to be approved (same fees as previous Winter Term). He noted that negotiations for a new U-Pass Agreement will begin shortly.

The MOTION was APPROVED.

16. Elections

Members had before them a slate for GSA Standing Committees, which had been distributed by email only on 5 June 2012. Members were advised that GSA Policy concerning NoC requires that a slate of nominees be brought forward to Council and, further, that Council be advised that any Councillor may make an additional nomination(s). No additional nominations were received by the deadline of 12 noon on Friday, 8 June 2012. GSA Policy states that if there are no additional nominations the candidate(s) presented in this report are declared elected as of 12:00 pm on 8 June 2012. No motion by Council is necessary.

The following candidates have been elected:

GSA Board (GSAB): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL

1. Zhendong Li (Chemistry)
2. *Vijay Kandalm (Physiology) to substitute for Lacy Fleming until the end of August while she works for the summer

GSA Nominating Committee (NoC): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL

1. Zhendong Li (Chemistry)
2. *Vijay Kandalm (Physiology) to substitute for Lacy Fleming until the end of August while she works for the summer

GSA Governance Committee (GC): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL

1. Briana Ehnes (Library and Information Studies)

Budget and Finance Committee (BFC): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF THE GSA

1. Karen Vera Lyn Turpin (School of Public Health)

Labour Relations Committee (LRC): Vacancy SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GSA

1. Daniel Prins (Biochemistry)
2. Alexa DeGagne (Political Science)
3. Andrés Torres-Scott (Political Science)
4. Simarjit S. Bal (Political Science)

Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC): Vacancy THREE MEMBERS OF THE GSA

1. Tessa Hawkins (Art and Design)
2. Samuel David Cardozo D'Armas (Chemical Engineering)
3. Asif Siddiqui (Political Science)

Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC): Vacancy FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GSA

1. Virginia Pimmet (Cell Biology)
2. Hillary Sparkes (Anthropology)

3. Hamman Samuel (Computing Science)
4. Asif Siddiqui (Political Science)

Moved that **Council elect the listed nominees to the listed standing committees as presented in this slate**, seconded by A Bernier (Pres)

The MOTION was APPROVED.

17. Discussion Items (none to date)

There were no discussion items.

Question Period

18. Written Questions

There were no written questions.

19. Oral Questions

There were no oral questions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN

**COUNCIL ORIENTATION:
GET TO KNOW YOUR PLAN**

JULY 2012

Get to Know Your Plan

The GSA Health & Dental Plan serves over 7,000 grad students and is one of the largest and most complex services provided to GSA members. The Plan is managed by the GSA and is professionally administered by studentcare.net/works.

Established by student referendums (1994, 2003), the Health and Dental Plan is designed to provide all GSA members with accessible and affordable extended health and dental care. The Plan is designed specifically for GSA members to complement the coverage provided by Alberta Health Care (AHCIP) and other provincial health care programs.

Why do we have a Health & Dental Plan?

A growing number of important health care services are not covered by provincial health care. For many students, paying for these services can lead to financial hardship, while others simply cannot afford them at all. The Plan is specifically designed for your members to pick up where provincial health care and other private health coverage ends, helping students pay for the services they need. The Plan has evolved over time in response to students' claims experience and changes to provincial health care.

Covered by Alberta Health Care (AHCIP):

Visit to a doctor's office
Hospital

Covered by your Student Plan:

Health practitioners
Dental check-ups

Why a group Plan?

As a result, individual health and dental plans aren't a real solution. Experience shows that only group insurance programs can meet students' health and dental needs at a reasonable cost. A student health and dental plan is a collective investment to ensure a minimum standard of health care for the student body.

Who is Studentcare?

studentcare.net/works was founded by students in 1996. Frustrated with outdated approaches to student health care and the offerings of traditional insurance brokers, we did what keener students do best – we took matters into our own hands and built our organization around the health-care needs of students.

The result? An organization uniquely oriented and suited to working with and for students. Serving 65 student associations in five provinces, we have extensive experience with student organizations of all shapes and sizes, from 500 members to more than 50,000.

The student-oriented mindset remains with the organization to this day. The majority of our management team consists of former student leaders, which makes us a fun yet dedicated bunch. We've infused our organization with the values and principles that we ourselves developed while working for students: integrity, respect, and trustworthiness, with a bit of creativeness and energy thrown in for good measure.

What do we do for you?

studentcare.net/works works for the GSA in two important ways.

First, as the program consultant, studentcare.net/works provides professional consulting and brokerage services, including:

- Ongoing negotiation with insurers to obtain the best deal for GSA members, using the combined purchasing power of 500,000 students
- Program set-up with University of Alberta administration, including integration with strict privacy standards and legislation
- Creation and execution of an annual communication strategy
- Transparent, accountable measurement and reporting of Plan performance

studentcare.net/works also works for the GSA as the Plan administrator, providing complete Plan management and administrative services, including:

- Front-line services through our full-service office on campus (located in Lower Level SUB)
- Professional communications strategies to ensure optimum Plan awareness
- Full-service Call Centre to help students via telephone, email, or regular mail
- Processing of all opt outs and enrolments, manually and through our exclusive web system
- Online Plan administration and service through **www.ihaveaplan.ca**
- Management of enrolment data lists with insurer

In both roles, studentcare.net/works is proud to provide the support and resources of the leading provider of student health-care programs in Canada.

How do we work together?

As key decision makers, student association staff, executives and committee members need reliable, timely, and accurate information about their Health & Dental Plan. We provide the GSA with monthly claims information and detailed quarterly reports. In addition, annual Plan utilization reports are used to provide strategic overview and guidance.

Our team meets regularly with the GSA Board to provide updates on all elements of the Plan, and to tackle all operational, service and coverage issues. Our team is also available throughout the year to make presentations to GSA Council (as needed), and to respond to any concerns or requests regarding the Plan.

In addition to regular reporting, studentcare.net/works conducts a bi-annual survey—professionally designed and executed by our research team—of GSA members to evaluate students' needs. The surveys are used to measure service and satisfaction targets and are an extremely effective planning tool. The surveys are also a great opportunity for the GSA to gather feedback on other issues by 'piggy-backing' additional questions onto the survey.

Reaching Out to Students

As the Plan administrator, studentcare.net/works partners with the GSA, as well as campus stakeholders, to ensure a high level of awareness of the Health & Dental Plan. studentcare.net/works coordinates an annual communication strategy drawing on a wide range of campus publications and media. The list of current communications includes over 40 separate initiatives ranging from print (brochures, posters, flyers) to campus media (student

calendar and newspapers, student society handbooks), web-based communication (custom website, email notifications), and direct interaction with GSA members through a bi-annual survey. This list and the overall communication strategy are reviewed by studentcare.net/works and the GSA each year; we love hearing your input on how to improve our communication efforts.

Network-ing: The Best Deal in Town

studentcare.net/works provides Plan members with additional complementary coverage through our Provider Networks. This coverage functions as a direct discount to students and can be used by visiting a Network provider. U of A students have access to over 50 Network providers in Alberta and over 700 providers nationwide.

Most recent analysis of the dental claims by the dental provider shows that approximately 60 percent of all dental claims are being made through a participating Network dental office. This translates into savings of over \$130,000 annually for GSA members. The total estimated value of the Health Practitioners Network – in terms of savings for the GSA – is in excess of \$27,000 annually. That's right, Networks save GSA members over \$157,000 dollars a year!

Studentcare Health Practitioners Network

The Health Practitioners Network includes over 30 chiropractors, massage therapists and physiotherapists in Alberta. Practitioners provide member students with the following discounts:

- Reduction on the first visit to a chiropractor and physiotherapist
- No more than \$25 per chiropractor visit from the second visit onwards
- No more than \$30 per physiotherapy visit from the second visit onwards
- No more than \$30 for a 30-minute treatment and \$55 for a 60-minute treatment with a Registered Massage Therapist

Studentcare Vision Network

The Alberta Vision Network includes an exclusive network of independent specialists – optometrists and opticians – who provide Health Plan members with preferred prices on eye exams, prescription eyeglasses, and contact lenses.

- An additional 25% reduction on eye exams
- \$75 off prescription eyeglasses purchases over \$250 or 30% off purchases under \$250
- Up to 25% off regularly priced contact lenses
- \$150 off laser eye surgery with LASIK MD





Studentcare Dental Network

The Dental Network is comprised of more than 500 dentists throughout Canada, including over 10 in Alberta. These dentists provide member students with the following discounts:

- 20% off all dental services
- Most offer Pay-Direct-Service

Your Quick Guide to Plan Basics

The Plan policy year runs from September 1 to August 31 and provides the following benefits:

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Health |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prescription drugs, vaccinations, health practitioners (chiropractor, registered dietician, physiotherapist), travel health coverage, medical equipment, orthotics, and more |
| Vision |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eye exams, contact lenses and/or prescription eyeglasses, laser eye surgery |
| Dental |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleanings, check-ups, fillings, root canals, gum treatments, etc. |
| Travel |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • covered up to 120 days per trip and up to a maximum of \$5,000,000 per incident |

Who is enrolled?

All graduate students enrolled in a minimum of 9 credits, and paying GSA membership fees, in the Fall Term are automatically enrolled in the GSA Health & Dental Plan. This includes full-time on-campus, off-campus and international students.

The fee is collected and paid as part of tuition and student fees. Students have the opportunity to opt out during the Change-of-Coverage Period (generally the first 2 weeks of September). Students may enrol their spouses (including same-sex spouses) and dependants for an additional fee.

Part-time students and new full-time and part-time students starting in the Winter Term are not automatically enrolled in the Plan by the university, but have the opportunity to enrol themselves, their spouse and dependants during the January Change-of-Coverage Period for a pro-rated fee (pro-rated for 8 months of coverage from January 1 – August 31).

GSA and the insurer: Desjardins Financial Security

The insurance policies that underlie the GSA Health & Dental Plan are one-year contracts that must be renewed each September for the subsequent policy year. The policy renewal process generally begins in March and is concluded by mid-to-late May in order to set the Plan fee, as well as the premiums and benefits for the following school year.

In addition to the policy renewal process, the GSA also periodically conducts a competitive quotation process of insurers called a Request for Proposals (RFQ). This is done in order to ensure competitiveness of the existing cost structure and insurer arrangements. In 2003 and again in 2009, Sun Life Financial was selected through this bidding process to underwrite the GSA Health and Dental Plan. However, to ensure the best costs and value for GSA members, and to maintain the long-term stability of the Plan, the decision was made by the Board this year to switch underwriters to Desjardins Financial Security (Desjardins).

Changes to Plan Coverage and Fees

Plan premiums are the amounts remitted by the GSA to studentcare.net/works and the insurer, as required to fund all benefits and services associated with the Plan.

Plan fees are the amounts assessed to eligible students by the University, and approved each year by GSA Council and the appropriate University departments. The Plan fees may be set higher than the required premium to allow for long-term planning through the collection of an internal reserve fund held by the GSA, or to add new benefits.

The Board may choose to make changes to their benefits for the following policy year based on the student concerns and claims experience the review throughout the year. As the committee receives input from students about the coverage they want, the Plan evolves with students' changing needs, resulting in a customized plan for the graduate student body at the U of A.

Looking Ahead

With 85% of the University of Alberta graduate students enrolled in the Plan, claims per enrolled unit (i.e. each insured person) have been steadily increasing, which means that more students are utilizing and benefiting from the GSA Health and Dental Plan.

This past spring, the Board and GSA Council finalized the Plan fee for the 2012-2013 policy year. Students enrolled in the GSA Plan at the University of Alberta will pay **\$396.90** for health and dental benefits that will cover them from September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013. Alternatively, students can opt to enrol in either the health or dental benefits for **\$226.01** or **\$170.89**, respectively.

The Board typically finalizes any decisions impacting the GSA Reserve Fund by the end of April each year. However, due to the RFQ process this was pushed back to June. As a result the difference between the Fee and the Premium, \$ 20.75, will be added to the GSA reserve fund. These funds can be used by the GSA to fund future benefit additions or offset future cost increases.

I Have a Plan. These are the details.

My Key Contacts

Amanda Smytaniuk, Program Manager
Western Canada
amanda@studentcare.net
1-866-789-8720

Kristin Foster, Pacific Director
kristin@studentcare.net
1 877 847 2226

My Campus Office

0-28 Lower Level SUB
University of Alberta
8900 114th Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7
Office: 1 780 433 4369

My Policy Year

September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013

My Change of Coverage Period

Fall: August 28 – September 18, 2012

Winter: January 3 – January 18, 2013

My Fees

Health / Dental/ H & D
\$226.01/ \$170.89/ \$396.90

\$150.67/ \$113.93/ \$264.60

My Opt-Out Process: online www.ihaveaplan.ca

My Recent Plan Changes

2012-2013: Changed Insurer: from SunLife to Desjardins

2009-2010: Opening of the Studentcare Health & Dental Plan office in SUB

Launch of Continuum: allowing graduating students to continue their benefits on an individual, optional basis

No benefit changes since 2008-09 policy year.

**GSA President
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues
From: Ashlyn Bernier
Date: July 2, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you are all enjoying the summer. Usually, graduate students take advantage of the summer months to get deep into research, write papers, and catch up on reading. It's important to take advantage of this lull on campus for academic pursuits, but try to take time for a vacation, even a weekend away, with no work. Its important and energizing just to forget about all your responsibilities for a while.

Some notes from the last month:

HUB Mall tragedy

Friday June 15, 2012 is a day that will be remembered at this campus for a long time. As a community, we mourn both the loss of life and of our sense of invincibility here at the University of Alberta. It was an extremely difficult day for our students and staff, but I feel that the situation was handled as best as possible under the circumstances. The University's policies on crisis and emergency management will be reviewed, and if necessary, modified, as a result of this unexpected tragedy. I encourage you all, if you feel it at all necessary, to take advantage of the many counseling services available on campus; please do not hesitate to contact the GSA office for more details on these services. In addition, we have invited Frank Robinson, the Dean of Students, to this next Council to talk about the events of that day and to answer any questions grad reps might have.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors met June 15, 2012. The Annual Report of the University of Alberta was approved for submission to the Government of Alberta. There was a presentation on a recent trip to China by Provost Carl Amrhein where Chinese artist Fan Zeng received an honorary doctorate. He will be coming here in 2013 to teach a class and give an art exhibit. The event received wide media coverage in China – the U of A is now known by hundreds of millions of Chinese.

Strategic planning

The team at the GSA has begun strategic planning for the year. We plan to conduct a stakeholder analysis, redefine the mission and vision of the GSA, outline our short-term and long-term goals for the organization, and begin to develop strategies that we can focus on in the

next year to make progress on reaching them. We will be providing Council with updates on our strategic plan as it develops and we begin to take action on it.

U-Pass

We have begun preliminary discussions with stakeholders in preparation for the U-Pass negotiations with ETS. We will update Council with reports and/or presentations when negotiations begin.

Canada-China Academic Forum

I have been invited by UofA International and the China Scholarship Council to attend a conference in August in Chengdu, China. University of Alberta administration will also be in attendance, and I have been asked to deliver a short presentation on professional and career development for graduate students. I am very honored and excited to be part of the conference, and look forward to telling Council about my experiences upon my return.

Sincerely,
Ashlyn Bernier

June 4	Special Meeting of the Board of Governors
June 6	Meeting with Mary Paul, (Facilities and Operations)
	GSA Board
	New Provost Welcome
	Meeting with the GSA Elected Officials
June 7	Meeting with Provost Fellow Dr. Krogman re: Graduate Supervision
	TD Lunch and Learn
June 8	Meeting with GSA BFC Member
June 11	Weekly meeting with the EA and ED
	GSA Council
June 12	Meeting with the Office of the President Chief of Staff Marcia Lang
	GSA/ SU Meet and Greet
	Master's Convocation
June 13	Meeting with SU GM re: North Power Plant and Ombudservice
	GSA Nominating Committee
	Chancellor Installation
June 14	Meeting with the office re: graduate student groups and

	departmental orientation
	Meeting with Doug Dawson re: Residence Budget Advisory Committee
June 15	Board of Governors
	Meeting with office re: Strategic Planning
	Teleconference meeting with Studentcare Network
June 29	Meeting with ED
July 3	Weekly meeting with the EA and ED
	General Alberta Graduate Council Meeting
July 4	Meeting with University Health Centre Associate Director
	LRC pre- meeting and meeting
	GSA Board
July 5	Meeting with Minister Horne
	Strategic Plan prep meeting
	FGSR Market Modifier pre-meeting
	Meeting with Dean Shirvani
	Dinner with Associate Vice-President Bart Becker
July 6	Strategic Planning day
July 9	Special Teleconference Meeting of the Board of Governors
	Meeting with Studentcare Network
	GSA Council

**GSA Board
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues
From: Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board
Date: 04 July 2012

The Board reports regularly to Council by listing its agenda items, motions/agreements and main items of discussion. Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. The President, Vice-Presidents, Director of Operations, Financial Manager and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the Council meeting.

June 06, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING

Main Agenda Items: AGC and AGC website; The Umbrella Committee; Meeting with Dr. Shirvani; Selection Advisory Committee for Vice-Provost and University Registrar; Residence Halls Association; Council Chambers; Health and Dental Provider; U-Pass; GFC Nominating Committee; Attributes and Competencies; Academic Policy and Process Review Task Force

Motions and/or Agreements:

MOVED by BE that the GSA move forward with due diligence changing health and dental insurance providers to Desjardins, making sure that they have programs and capabilities in place to handle the needs of GSA members. **Seconded** by NsA. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by NsA that the motion to Council read as follows: GSA Council approves, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, that the Spring/Summer U-Pass program be extended to Spring/Summer 2013. **Seconded** by NA. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

June 13, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING

Main Agenda Items: Welcoming new Provost; Meeting with Dr. Krogman regarding Graduate Supervision; GSA Council; Studentcare; Meeting with Marcia Lang (President's Chief of Staff); Success on Alternate Routes; AISSC, other technology committees, and clarification; Welcome Centre Advisory Committee; Festival of Ideas planning meeting; GFC FDC; PAW Kitchen and Power Plant; fiduciary duty; strategic planning and restructuring; and quorum and bylaw change.

Motions and/or Agreements:

Board members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION.**
Board members discussed studentcare.net and benefits.
Board members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION.**

Board members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION.**
Board members discussed fiduciary duty.
Board members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION.**

Board members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION.**

Board members discussed strategic planning and restructuring.
Board members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

Board members **AGREED** that in the absence of 3 elected officials, the June 27th GSAB meeting would be CANCELLED unless urgent matters arose.

June 20, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING

Main Agenda Items: MBAC; stress on Counselling Resources due to Hub Mall; LRC; collaboration with Su regarding press release; attributes and competencies; Certificate Working Group; PAW plans for grad lounge; Terry Fox foundation; PDG Appeal Email; website correction; Departmental Liaison Program; graduate student representatives on Faculty Councils

Motions and/or Agreements:

Board members **AGREED** to move into CLOSED SESSION.

Board members discussed MBAC.

Board members **AGREED** to move out of CLOSED SESSION.

Board members **AGREED** to request a correction to include GSAP on the list of counselling services available to graduate students in response to the shooting.

Board members **AGREED** that they are strongly in support of initiatives to increase engagement with departmental student groups, including the current plan.

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)
REPORT TO COUNCIL for July 9, 2012 Council Meeting**

To: Council Colleagues
From: Vijay Kandalam (Vice-Chair)
Date: June 26, 2012

Dear Council Members,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee is a summary of any discussion/decisions the NoC has made since its last report together with a list of any vacancies filled. **A slate of nominees for the GSA Labour Relations Committee as an Elections Item is distributed in this mailing as a separate item.**

The By-law governing the NoC is in Part VII, #11. Policy governing NoC begins on page 26 of the GSA Policy Manual.

As provided for in its terms of reference, the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC) has been conducting business via e-mail and also held an in-person meeting on June 13, 2012.

GSA SPEAKER, CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER (AND THEIR DEPUTIES) AND SENATOR

The GSA Nominating Committee sent the final slate to Council on June 25, 2012. Additional nominations were received until the June 25, 2012 12 pm noon deadline. One additional nomination for the position of Deputy Speaker was received after the GSA NoC presented its slate of nominees to Council on June 11, 2012. Council was provided with the biographies and resumes of all candidates, which were also posted on the GSA website. As Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee, I facilitated the videos that were taken of each candidate and posted on the GSA website. At the time this report is being written, voting is scheduled to open on **Wednesday June 27 at noon and will close on Friday June 29th at 3:00 pm.**

GSA COMMITTEES

A slate of nominees for GSA Labour Relations Committee been prepared as a separate elections item for GSA Council (**distributed separately in this mailing of Council**). There are four nominees for GSA Labour Relations Committee. As there is no set composition for this committee yet, at the request of the VP Labour, this committee will be comprised of eight to ten members of the GSA with at least one being a member of Council. According to GSA Policy Part IV 3.1.4: "The Nominating Committee will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to Council except that the Nominating Committee may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated Nominating Committee process allows for Councillors to make additional nominations." **NOTICE OF**

THIS HAS BEEN SENT OUT IN THE FIRST MAILING TO COUNCIL IN THE SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR LRC (ELECTIONS ITEM).

BODIES EXTERNAL TO THE GSA

Council has delegated to the NoC the responsibility of filling positions on all committees external to the GSA. Normally, all vacancies are advertised. According to the Policy Manual, “advertising may be waived in instances where, in the NoC’s view, it is urgent to fill a vacancy.”

Provost’s Selection Advisory Committee for Vice-Provost and University Registrar:

The GSA received a request on May 31, 2012 for a graduate student representative for this selection committee. A representative was required by June 27, 2012. At its June 13, 2012 meeting the NoC waived advertizing due to urgency. The NoC selected Brent Epperson, the GSA VP Labour, to serve on this committee.

Vice-President of University Relations’ Community Connection Awards Selection Committee:

The NoC was approached to select a representative as soon as possible for the newly struck Community Connection Awards Selection Committee. These three new awards will be under the Office of the Vice President of University Relations. They will recognize contributions of faculty and staff to the community and the contributions of community members to the University. The committee will create the criteria for the awards and will serve as the selection committee for the inaugural awards. The NoC will be selecting a GSA VP to serve on this committee.

Undergraduate Research Initiative Advisory Committee, a Committee Responsible to the Provost:

The GSA was approached June 13 to select a GSA representative to serve on this committee. The GSA NoC is in the process of reviewing the terms of reference and composition of this committee to determine whether the best fit for this committee would be a GSA VP or delegate, or a graduate student-at-large.

General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (APC):

On May 15, 2012 the recently appointed GFC APC graduate student representative informed the NoC they are no longer able to serve in this position. None of the previous applicants who were approached were able to fill this position, so the NoC re-advertised for this position on June 13. The NoC’s deadline for applications was June 20, 2012. No applications were received. The NoC is continuing to work on filling this vacancy.

FGSR Council:

The minimum period of appointment of members of this committee is two years. 5-6 current FGSR Councillors expressed interest in continuing on this committee. The NoC advertised for the remaining 13 Council positions and 20 Alternate positions on May 31, 2012. The NoC’s original deadline for applications was June 15, 2012 at 12 noon. Four

(4) applications were received. The NoC will make a decision about how to move forward finding additional applicants for this committee.

University Animal Policy and Welfare Committee, Responsible to the Vice-President (Research):

The NoC advertised a vacancy for this committee through the GSA Newsletter. The NoC's deadline for applications was June 15, 2012 at noon. Five applications were received. The NoC will be reviewing these applications closely, in order to select a representative(s).

Animal Care and Use Committee: Health Sciences, Overseen by the University Animal Policy and Welfare Committee and Responsible to the Vice-President (Research): *Representatives for this committee must be a current animal user on an approved protocol associated with the respective ACUC (ACUC: Health Sciences).* The NoC is working to fill these vacancies and on May 30, 2012 with the assistance of Heather Hogg drafted an email to GPAC representatives and administrators associated with the Health Sciences Council, asking for their assistance in advertising and identifying candidates for these positions. **No applications have been received to date.** The GSA NoC with Heather's assistance is now directly approaching professors who might know of suitable representatives. Filling these vacancies is time sensitive as this committee conducts work over the summer.

University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee, Standing Committee of the Provost and Vice President (Academic):

The NoC advertised a vacancy on this committee through the GSA Newsletter. The NoC's deadline for applications was June 15, 2012 at noon. Three applications were received and reviewed by the NoC. Through an electronic vote the NoC elected Maryna Chernyavska to serve on the University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee.

Arts Faculty Library Committee:

The current graduate student representative for this committee is unable to serve another term. The NoC will be drafting an advertisement for this vacancy, which will be sent through the GSA Newsletter shortly.

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council
From: Nathan Andrews
Date: July 3, 2012

Dear Councillors,

Since the June Council meeting, I have attended a number of meetings some of which I did on behalf of other elected officials who were away either for vacation or research/academic related trips. Yet still, I did find some time to enjoy some summer festivities; I can't wait for Capital-Ex this July!

To the serious aspect of my report, let me start with the **CLE Sub-committee on Attributes and Competencies** which has been on the radar even before I took office in May. The co-chairs meeting with Dustin (SU VPA) and Dr. Steve Dew (the other co-chair for the sub-committee) did yield some good dividends. We have arrived at 10 attributes that may appeal to both graduate and undergraduate students. Next step, we'll convene a meeting with the larger committee in late August to discuss this list and prepare a draft document for CLE in Fall. This is a great achievement because for more than a year since the subcommittee was established, there has not been enough consensus on its direction, focus and target – much more having such a list to begin discussions. The reason why I remain keen on the issue of attributes and competencies is that it reflects the University's commitment towards "articulating and supporting the development of core sets of skills, attributes, and values to be incorporated into graduate and undergraduate programs..." (The University of Alberta's Academic Plan, Dare to Deliver 2011-2015). It is therefore imperative that we find practical ways of consolidating this commitment. This also includes finding Alternative Routes of Success for graduate students, a conversation which the GSA has just begun with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). More details will be provided as progress is made.

I will also like to place some emphasis on the **Standing Advisory Council on International Engagement (SACIE)** meeting I attended on June 26. Internationalization has become the priority of all growing and forward-thinking institutions, and the UofA is one of them. Dr. Carl Amrhein (Provost and Vice President Academic) is therefore using his one-year leave period starting July 1 to travel to China, Germany, among others both to teach and learn about where other leading institutions are headed so we can get there first!

Another angle to this discussion is student engagement overseas. The SACIE **Education Abroad Subcommittee** gave a report which showed that while study abroad programs are being patronised, it has been difficult trying to keep the numbers high. The Director of the China Institute, Prof. Gordon Houlden, did make this same remark during the institute's Board meeting on July 25 citing the example of Albertans not wanting to leave the province except to travel to Mexico and perhaps London. But the report seemed to emphasise undergraduate students' involvement to the neglect of graduate students. The question I asked was with regard to the 'fairness' in adjudicating graduate students' applications for

study abroad programs (I know a few cases). I feel the University can do better in funding grad students for international experience, and Britta Baron (Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International)) agrees with me on this. I will therefore like to know if Councillors have any cases of 'unfairness' regarding decisions made on applications or know anyone who has experienced this.

Internationalization will remain on the table for a while so these examples will really help the GSA to push for a more comprehensive and representative approach to dealing with these issues. Please let me know your thoughts!

I hope we have a wonderful and engaging Council as we did in June. Please see below the list of meetings I attended from June 6 to July 2.

Cheers,
Nathan Andrews
GSA VP Academic

The following is a list of meetings I attended between June 04 and July 09:

June 4	GFC Executive
	Meeting with University Governance and SU VP Academic
June 5	Attributes and Competencies meeting
June 6	University Writing Committee
	GSA Board
	GFC Committee on the Learning Environment
	Meeting with the GSA Elected Officials
June 7	Meeting with Dr. Krogman re: graduate supervision
	TD Lunch and Learn
June 11	Meeting with Andy Rathbone re: Graduate Student SOAR Report
	GSA Council
June 12	GSA/ SU Meet and Greet
June 13	GFC Replenishment Committee
	GSA Board
	Chancellor Installation Ceremony
June 14	Attributes and Competencies meeting
June 18	Meeting with office re: Strategic Plan
June 20	GSA Board
	Community Standards Review Committee
June 21	Academic Standards Committee
June 22	Attributes and Competencies
June 25	China Institute Board of Directors meeting
June 26	Health Promotion Advisory Committee

	Standing Advisory Committee on International Engagement
June 27	GFC Academic Planning Committee
June 28	Attributes and Competencies Meeting
July 4	LRC pre-meeting
	GSA Board
	GSA LRC meeting
July 5	FGSR Market Modifier Proposal pre-meeting
July 6	Strategic Plan
July 9	GSA Council

**Vice-President Student Services
Report to Council**

To: Council colleagues
From: Naseeb Adnan, VP Student Services
Date: July 3, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the season along with your grad studies! I was away from the GSA office for two weeks since last Council to attend a conference and for a short vacation. I attended a number of meetings and would like to update you about some of those in this month's Council.

Currently GSA Elected Officials and office staff are working on a **strategic plan**. I had a meeting with Janelle Morin last month for preliminary discussions on this. I would appreciate any suggestions from Councillors related to student services for possible inclusion in the strategic planning.

Last month GSA/SU elected officials had a **meet and greet event**. It was a good occasion to get to know each other, share ideas and thoughts, and discuss in an informal way.

In the **MBAC** meeting, the main agenda was the Bears and Pandas Legacy Fund. There is a MOU between SU and the Phys Ed Faculty about the fund and how would it be used to support teams. In the meeting it was agreed that the MOU requires revision for several reasons. It was also agreed to complete a review of the MOU by December.

The **89th Ave Student Housing** project will be a design and build project and is expected to be completed before fall 2013. Currently work is going on to shortlist three contractors and to remove selected homes and hazardous materials from the site area. All materials related to the project are available on the community relations website.

The U Pass agreement between the University and transit operators will end next year and needs a new negotiation. Currently discussions are at a very preliminary stage. This will be a long process and I will update the Council from time to time.

Sincerely,

Naseeb Adnan

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between June 05 and July 09:

June 5	Green and Gold Application meeting
June 6	GSA Board Meeting
	Meeting with the GSA Elected Officials
June 7	TD Lunch and Learn
	GFC Facilities Development Committee
June 11	GSA Council
June 12	GSA/ SU meet and greet
June 13	GSA Board
	Chancellor Installation Ceremony
June 18	Certificate Working group
June 19	Pre-MBAC meeting
	MBAC meeting
	Meeting with office re: Strategic Plan
June 20	Terry Fox Run Conference Call
	GSA Board
June 21	U-Pass Admin
June 22	ECV Meeting with Doug Dawson
July 6	Strategic Plan day
July 9	Meeting with Studentcare Network
	GSA Council

**GSA Vice-President Student Life
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues
From: Huimin Zhong
Date: July 2, 2012

Dear Council Members,

I am writing this month's report in my hometown in China, in the high temperature of 38 centigrades. Firstly, I would like to express my apology for missing the Council meeting in July. However, if you have any question regarding the issues about student life, please always feel free to contact me through email.

I have a few items to bring to your attention since last council report.

Firstly, the university is planning to launch a **"student connect" project**, which aims to provide the first connecting point for students and various university functional departments. Whenever students have problems, questions, or seek for help, "student connect" would provide advice or suggestions for students regarding whom they can turn to for help. This project is expected to be launched by September 2013. Currently, the Office of the Registrar is working on the plan for this project. I believe this would be a beneficial project for students. I will keep close attention to it and if there is any update, I will keep you informed.

Secondly, there is a **complaint about Residence Services** for the Graduate Residence this month. I have already talked to Ancillary Services about these issues and they have been working on it. If you have any concern about the residence, please let me know.

Thirdly, I am also working on the strategic **plan for the student life portfolio**. My main emphasis would be on graduate students' **professional development and networking** in various activities. I hope by strengthening the cooperation with different University associations and raising graduate students' awareness of career planning, more professional development opportunities can be created for graduate students. If you have any suggestions about this, you're welcome to contact me.

Lastly, I apologize again for missing the Council meeting and I will see you next month.

Sincerely,

Huimin Zhong

The following is a list of meetings I attended between June 04 and June 15:

June 4	Residence Community Standards Review Committee
June 5	GFC Academic Standards Committee Subcommittee on Standards
June 6	Meeting with office re: GSA events
	Welcome Centre Advisory Committee
	Festival of Ideas Planning meeting
	Meeting with Elected Officials
June 11	GSA Council meeting
June 12	GSA/ SU meet and greet
June 13	Meeting with student re: Graduate Residence
	GSA Board
	Chancellor Installation Ceremony
June 14	Volunteering for President Appreciation Picnic
	Meeting with Doug Dawson
June 15	Meeting with office re: Strat Plan

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council Colleagues
From: Brent Epperson, VP Labour
Date: June 4, 2012

Dear Councillors,

I attended several committee meetings in June and July.

(1) At **AISSC** on June 7, AISSC members discussed the following issues in open session (*notes amalgamated with Casey Germain's*):

- IT Governance Model for Peoplesoft
- How to increase funding for IT
- Looking at overall IT Plan and Long-term strategy
- Printer consolidation
- Electronic student evaluation

(2) At **MBAC** on June 19 with VP Adnan, on behalf of President Bernier:

- the sudden demotion of the women's field hockey team from team to club
- the need to revive the University Athletics Board, which should be consulted in such cases
- the need for a new consultative process and a new memorandum of understanding between the SU and the University regarding the Legacy Fund

(3) At the **Festival of Ideas Planning Meeting** on June 20th:

- the possibility of a partnership with Word Fest of Calgary
- Proposal to approach China Institute
- cooperation with the Edmonton Journal and CBC
- Kids Festival, one of 16 events in FOI, for kids 6-17, may have a "Ted Talk" aspect with 4 speakers

(4) At the **U-Pass** meeting with Heather Hogg on June 26:

- New contract must be renegotiated, to begin September 2013;
- First negotiation spear-headed by Don Iveson, more of a political negotiation centred on how much students here willing to pay (cost-benefit analysis). At the time, \$75.00 was considered a tipping point to get students on board, university and ETS both provided subsidy of \$15 (notional on the part of ETS, actual on the part of U of A), to get student price down to \$75.00;
- New negotiations must conclude by December 2012, allowing GSA and SU to prepare for referenda
- Other considerations, besides rate, is category of exempt students and legitimate grounds

(5) At a **meeting with Robert Munro and Adam Conway** (Office of Emergency Management and the Department of the Environment) on June 26:

- Robert and Adam wanted feedback on the tragic events of June 15th;
- I explained that I would be meeting with the Dean of Students on Thursday to discuss increasing counselling resources in the aftermath of tragic events;
- I also mentioned that that website's original list of available counselling services was incomplete, but corrected quickly when we brought it to the attention of the administration.

(6) At the **Joint-U Pass Advisory Committee Meeting** with Heather Hogg, SU colleagues, Grant Mac, and NAIT representatives, on behalf of VP Adnan:

- Extension of night bus service is in the hands of city council, still under discussion;
- ETS placed advertising in student handbooks, will do print ads in the student newspapers in September;
- Presentation on the UPass:
 - Pilot program began 2007, \$90 approved by student referendum, but revenue neutral amount for ETS was \$120; thus, 15% subsidy offered by U of A;
 - 32% of transit users are students;
 - Cost neutral price point for U Pass now \$184.50 according to ETS cost analysis;
 - Tax payers are subsidizing roughly 70% of transit costs, so the notion of "full cash recovery"—the cash fare—is misleading and does not come close to covering full cost;

(7) At the **meeting with the Dean of Students, Frank Robinson, and Robin Everall, Provost Fellow**, about Counselling Services' resources on July 3rd :

- 2 years ago, intense discussion led by Roy and Nima regarding counselling services and graduate students not being seen;
- Options for funding to improve counselling services considered;
- Provost allocated more funding for an additional counsellor in February, who started today;
- Health Centre and Student Success Centre each also hired a social worker;
- Mental health is the weakest link we have en route to student success.

Other VPL Duties:

Several students contacted Heather Hogg, Director of Operations, and me regarding what they believed to be labour concerns. After initial consultation, some of these graduate students were redirected to the proper channels to address their academic and legal issues. Heather and I continue to assist some of these students with their labour concerns. I will continue to assist these graduate students as appropriate vis-à-vis any supervisory disputes, contract, and collective bargaining questions that arise.

Best regards,

Brent Epperson

The following is a list of meetings I attended between June 06 and July 09:

June 6	Meeting with the GSA Elected Officials
	AISSC meeting
	Meeting with Dr. Krogman re: graduate supervision
	TD Lunch and Learn
June 11	GSA Council
June 13	GSA Board
June 19	Pre-Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Budget Advisory Meeting
	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Budget Advisory Meeting
	Meeting with SU VP Academic re: Ombudservice
	Meeting with office re: Strategic Plan
June 20	GSA Board
	Festival of Ideas Planning Meeting
June 21	U-Pass Admin Meeting
June 26	U-Pass Meeting
	Meeting with Office of Emergency Management and the Dept of Environment Health and Safety
June 27	U-Pass Advisory Group
July 3	Meeting with Dean of Students re: Counselling Services
	Meeting with GSA LRC member
July 4	Pre-LRC meeting
	GSA Board Meeting
	Festival of Ideas Planning Meeting
	LRC meeting
July 6	Strategic Planning Day
July 9	GSA Council Meeting

**Labour Relations Committee
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues
From: Brent Epperson, Vice-President Labour and Chair of LRC
Date: 09 May, 2012

The Labour Relations Committee met on July 4th from 4-6 pm and eleven members were present. This was an initial, face-to-face getting-to-know meeting, and most subsequent business will be done by email.

The committee discussed the following main points:

- backgrounder on the LRC, provided by J.D. Crookshanks
- role and mandate of the LRC
- upcoming negotiations
- labour liaison program

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an email at gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca.

Best,

Brent

GSA Chief Returning Officer

Report to Council

To: Council Colleagues

From: Rahul Agrawal

Date: July 09, 2012

Dear Council Colleagues,

ERC committee has been replenished for the coming year. A few of the past year ERC members retired due to the completion of their respective graduate programs. The new ERC will soon review the by-laws of general elections. In addition, the CRO and DRO (Deputy Returning Officer) for the next year have recently been appointed.

Chief Returning Officer: Daniel Prins

Deputy Returning Officer: Esther Ekpe Adewuyi

We welcome the new ERC members and Returning Officers and expect to see some good interaction with them in the coming year.

Best,

Rahul Agrawal

Chief Returning Officer

Management Report to Council

To: Council colleagues
From: Ellen Schoeck (ED), Heather Hogg (DO and Labour Professional), Shirley Ball (CA) and Dorte Sheikh (FM)
Date: June 4, 2012

Dear Council,

This report focuses on one item each month, with the weekly (detailed) management reports to the GSA Board attached. This month we **focus on audit. Audit deals with the financial state of an organization in accord with generally accepted principles, but also touches on the overall health of an organization.**

The GSA is created by the province's *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)* as a corporation separate from the University of Alberta. The Students' Union is also a separate corporation under the *PSLA*. **The SU and GSA, which are both fees-driven, not-for-profit entities, are required by the PSLA to provide the Board of Governors with audited financial statements annually.**

When I came to the GSA as a consultant **in June 2010, the GSA infrastructure was virtually non-existent**, a fact not lost on our auditor, Tom Gee. He described the GSA as a house with no plumbing and electricity. Tom and I discussed the state of the GSA that summer and together with the GSA President, **mapped out a recovery plan:** a modernized budget; a strong and stable staff; a strategic plan; clear line between professional management/fiduciary duties of elected officials including advocacy "at the table" on behalf of graduate students; professional advice on labour problems; a revived committee structure; proactive search for president and vice-presidents; training and transition plans for elected officials; review of bylaw and policy; establishment of office infrastructure (eg a filing system); review of all legal and corporate documents. The GSA has raised fees to a level consistent with peers (eg U of C and McGill) and is running a series of deficit budgets to achieve these aims. We plan to be out of deficit budgets in 2014. **When you see the audited financial statements in September, I expect there to be a statement on our progress and perhaps a caution to remain on the pathway to recovery.**

The GSA now has a \$1M+ budget. One of my decisions this past year was to hire a chartered accountant one day a week to establish proper budgeting procedures (eg cash flow, internal controls). **Our accountant is Shirley Ball, a highly-experienced CA recommended to us by our auditor.** Shirley is supported by a part-time Financial Manager, Dorte Sheikh.

Over the past several months, Shirley has prepared **template financial statements** which capture the annual flow of our revenue and our expenditures. The GSA Board, the Budget and Finance Committee and Council will receive **quarterly financial reports** beginning with the audited financial statements, which we expect to have in July. These reports are **supported by a narrative** prepared by Dorte Sheikh.

Auditor Karen Gibson attended at the GSA offices in June to examine our financial and other records and to ask on-the-spot questions. She asked for a number of documents (eg the PAW Agreement and our new lease). **Prior to this visit, Shirley and Dorte worked hard to get the GSA “audit ready.” Shirley prepared an audit binder and draft financial statements. All our records were in excellent order and Karen was in and out of our office in record time.**

Best,

Ellen Schoeck (ED) and Heather Hogg (DO and Labour Professional)
Shirley Ball (CA) and Dorte Sheikh (FM)

GSA Management – Reports to the GSA Board

ED REPORT TO THE GSA BOARD 6 JUNE 2012

Dear All,

Follow-up Items

Further information has come through about the Spring/Summer 2013 **U-Pass**. Agreements with the University and with the three transit systems (Edmonton, Strathcona, and St Albert) are already in place to provide for a Spring/Summer 2013 U-Pass program and fee. Re **H&D** update, Jo is waiting to hear back from the SU re its proposed move to another insurance provider (Desjardins) and the SU's official decision/process.

Office

Shirley and Dorte continue to work on reconciliation matters in preparation for the GSA's June **audit**. An update to the outstanding account from many year ago from the **CRA**: Ellen prepared a letter to the CRA's Fairness Committee which was subsequently reviewed and forwarded on by our auditor. We're hoping this will clear up the matter. Expected **GSA funding** has come in, including the \$514k AEGS funding for 2012-13 (which means we can release PDG cheques we had been holding back); a cheque for a little over \$12k, which is the GSA share from the UofA's Unitized Endowment fund, and \$363k as the first of the GSA Fees advance for this year. All funds coming from the UofA are now done through direct deposit.

A final reminder was sent out in the GSA bulletin late last week regarding the June 1 deadline for a payroll advance in preparation for the July change to a semi-monthly pay. HR reports that 109 graduate students signed up for the advance – they were expecting that this number would have been higher.

We have been transitioning Janelle back into life here at the GSA. Katie, Lisa, Janelle, and Ellen met to discuss ongoing **student group** work. Janelle has been delving deep into the wiki and will be meeting with Ashlyn to start the **strategic planning process**.

Katie has been working on various aspects relating to GSA event planning, graduate student groups, and the GSA handbook. She will be working closely with Huimin as **Fall Orientation** planning will get into full swing this month (June). We have acquired over \$7,000 in **handbook** ads to date, are reviewing content, and are hoping to have the 2012-2013 handbook in graduate student hands mid-August.

Work continues on Grants administration and Casey is developing for our new website an **archive** of the Council minutes and newsletters/bulletins, for improved reference. We have also been busy preparing and getting out material for the upcoming **Council** meeting.

HH (Ellen away)

ED REPORT TO THE GSA BOARD 13 JUNE 2012

Dear All,

Follow-up Items

Further information has come through about the Spring/Summer 2013 **U-Pass**. Agreements with the University and with the three transit systems (Edmonton, Strathcona, and St Albert) are already in place to provide for a Spring/Summer 2013 U-Pass program and fee. Re **H&D** update, Jo is waiting to hear back from the SU re its proposed move to another insurance provider (Desjardins) and the SU's official decision/process.

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HH (Ellen away)

ED Report to GSA Board for June 20, 2012

Financial and Human Resources

Audit occurs on June 20 and we are ready.

Dorte is preparing a financial workplan so we all know in advance when to invoice various offices and when significant financial milestones such as audit occur.

Shirley and Dorte will prepare financial statements for the first two months of this fiscal year for Board and BFC. Dorte reported at the staff meeting today that all is on track.

Janelle is interviewing Shirley and Dorte about their jobs and drafting job descriptions. With recent shifting of duties, all staff are re-drafting their job descriptions.

Heather will finalize retroactive cost of living for our NASA-represented staff and the new CA will be filed with the Labour Relations Board as required.

Nominating

It has been a hugely busy time with multiple nominations for many positions.

As part of the nominating process we are drafting a number of proposals for policy change, eg to the FGSR requirement for 40 graduate students from different departments to sit on FGSR Council (20 regular and 20 alternate).

Office

Katie and I reviewed handbook content, timing, donations and costs today. We are on track.

Welcome letters are being prepared for new Councillors.

We have arranged for a graduate student who was hit by a car while cycling to receive personalized attention from Studentcare.

At today's staff meeting we discussed a wide range of matters including: PAW kitchen, PAW lease principles, fillable AEGS forms and direct deposit, Dewey's \$10K profit, cooperating with the SU on communications, committee reform, the departmental liaison initiative, the EB and ASC reviews, changes in the Provost's office, strategic planning, portfolio review.

I purchased a scratch and dent frig (\$500) and a new dishwasher returned from a show home (\$280) from the company where I have purchased many appliances – so they were cooperative in finding deals for us. These prices are far lower than anywhere else we have looked.

We now have a GSA garden, located between the back door of Triffo and Cameron Library. Everything was donated or reused, ie no cost to the GSA. The garden is organic, mostly green and gold, and most plants will take little water once established.

Best,

Ellen and Heather

LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE SLATE OF NOMINEES

**PREPARED BY THE GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)
JULY 2012 COUNCIL**

GSA Policy concerning NoC requires that a slate of nominees be brought forward to Council and, further, that Council be advised that any Councillor may make an additional nomination(s). If you wish to do so, additional nominations must be RECEIVED by **12 noon on Friday July 6, 2012** by emailing Lisa Hareuther and Dyan Semple, Coordinators of the NoC at gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca. If there are no additional nominations the candidate(s) presented in this report will be declared elected as of the July 9, 2012 GSA Council meeting. Nominations are not accepted from the floor at the Council meeting. If there are additional nominations made by Council, in writing, by **July 16 at noon**, there will be a written ballot provided at Council (GSA Policy Manual, Nominating Policy 6.6)

Labour Relations Committee (LRC): Vacancy FIVE MEMBERS OF THE GSA (INCLUDES FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME GRADUATE STUDENTS), INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL

No set composition yet. At the request of the VP Labour, this committee will be comprised of eight to ten members of the GSA with at least one being a member of Council.

Continuing Member on this Committee: Michelle Borowitz (Anthropology)

New Members Elected at the June 11 2012 Council Meeting: Daniel Prins (Biochemistry; Biochemistry Alternate Councillor), Alexa DeGagne (Political Science), Andrés Torres Scott (Political Science; Councillor-at-Large), Simarjit S. Bal (Political Science; Councillor-at-Large)

Slate of Nominees:

1. Colin More (Geophysics; Physics Councillor)
2. Amir Reshef (MBA)
3. Ahmad Billal Sultani (Chemical and Materials Engineering and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology; Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Alternate Councillor)
4. Md Shirajum Munir (Electrical and Computer Engineering; Councillor-at-Large)