

GSA Council Meeting - List of Reports Circulated
Monday, August 17, 2015
Cancelled

	Attached Numbered Pages
1. Minutes from the 20 July 2015 GSA Council Meeting <i>Attachments:</i>	
• Minutes from the 20 July 2015 GSA Council Meeting	1.0 - 1.11
2. President (Colin More, GSA President)	
i. President's Report	2.0 - 2.1
ii. GSA Board	2.2
iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (no meetings this reporting period)	
iv. GSA Governance Committee	2.3
a) GSA Nominating Committee	
i. GSA Nominating Committee Report (Michele DuVal, GSA Nominating Committee Administrative Chair)	2.4
3. Vice-President Academic (Harsh Thaker, GSA Vice-President Academic)	
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4. Vice-President External (Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External)	
i. Vice-President External's Report	4.0
ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (no meetings this reporting period; will resume meeting Fall 2015)	
5. Vice-President Labour (Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour)	
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6. Vice-President Student Services (Alireza Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services)	
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ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (Joint Chair: Vice-President External) (no meetings this reporting period)	
7. Senator (Leigh Spanner, GSA Senator)	
i. Senator's Report	7.0
8. Speaker (Sulya Fenichel, GSA Speaker)	
i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time)	
9. Chief Returning Officer (Virginia Pimmett, GSA Chief Returning Officer)	
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report	9.0
10. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)	
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**Meeting Minutes
20 July 2015
GSA Council Meeting**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Colin More (President)	Tharsini Sivananthajothy (Councillor-at-Large)	Amanda Radil (Ed Psychology)	Ines Zuna (Pharmacology)
Harsh Thaker (VP Academic)	Tania Shewring (AFNS)	Amanda Daignault (English & Film Studies)	Paul Showler (Philosophy)
Sarah Ficko (VP Labour)	Heather Leier (Art & Design)	James White (History & Classics)	Norbert Kanyo (Physical Ed & Recreation)
Alphonse Ndem Ahola (VP External)	Michele DuVal (Bio Sciences)	Rachel Osolen (Humanities Computing)	Ruijia Wang (Physics)
Ali Talaei (VP Student Services)	Syed Daniyal Israr (Business MBA)	Mahalakshmi Kumaran (Lab Med & Pathology)	Brayden Whitlock (Physiology)
Sulya Fenichel (Speaker)	Dasha Smirnow (Business PhD)	Jessica Peck (Library & Info Sciences)	Colin Reynolds (Public Health)
Roy Coulthard (Deputy Speaker)	Beth Richardson (Cell Biology)	Sourayon Chanda (Mech Eng)	Alison Murata (Renewable Resources)
Virginia Pimmett (CRO)	Elaheh Davari (Chem & Materials Engineering)	Elli Dehnavi (Modern Lang & Cultural Studies)	Ryan Stanfield (Renewable Resources)
Leigh Spanner (Senator/Councillor-at-Large)	Joseph Cheramy (Chemistry)	Grant Norman (Neuroscience)	Kerry Rose (Secondary Ed)
Pooran Appadu (Councillor-at-Large)	Firouz Khodayari (Civil & Enviro Engineering)	Sheena Moodie (Occupational Therapy)	Tasha Jayatunge (Sociology)
Megha Bajaj (Councillor-at-Large)	Kristy Wilson (Communication Sci & Disorders)	Laura Lee (Oncology)	Kelsi Barkway (Sociology)
Monty Bal (Councillor-at-Large)	Victor Guana (Comp Sci)	Ashley Bahry (Paediatrics)	Antonio Bruni (Surgery)
Jude Kong (Councillor-at-Large)	Hasriadi Masalam (Ed Policy Studies)		

GUESTS: None

Speaker Sulya Fenichel in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

1. Roll Call of Council Members in Attendance

Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of the 20 July, 2015 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 20 July 2015 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015.

C More **MOVED**. S Ficko **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Prepared by J Tanguay, F Robertson, and M Caldwell for the Council Meeting of 20 July 2015

Approval of Minutes**3. Minutes****i. Minutes from the 22 June 2015 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 22 June 2015 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 10 July 2015.

S Ficko **MOVED**. P Appadu **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Changes in Council Membership**4. Changes in Council Membership****i. Introduction of New Councillors**

This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors: I Zuna (Pharmacology); S Moodie (Occupational Therapy); and F Khodayari (Civil and Environmental Engineering).

ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors

No Councillors are departing at this time.

Presentations and Councillor Announcements**5. Councillor Announcements**

H Thaker announced that Let's Talk Science was looking for volunteers. Contact Itspp@ualberta.ca. No background in science is necessary.

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates**6. 2014-2015 GSA Audited Financial Statements**

Councillors had before them an Outline of Issue and the 2014-2015 GSA Audited Financial Statements, which had been previously distributed on 10 July 2015. Colin More (GSA President) presented the item and introduced the guest (Tom Gee, Collins Barrow LLP). Ellen Schoeck (GSA Executive Director), Shirley Ball (GSA Accountant), and Dorte Sheikh (GSA Financial Manager) were also available to answer questions.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the 2014-2015 GSA Audited Financial Statements.

C More stated that the Audit should show anything that might have changed significantly over the year. The GSA uses internal controls to protect itself. The GSA used the same auditor this year that is has been using for several years, Tom Gee, who has changed firms and now works for Collins Barrow LLP. The audited was reviewed by S Ficko and C More, and by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) and was approved by the GSA Board. D Smirow from the GSA BFC was present, as was S Ficko. C More invited T Gee to speak.

T Gee stated that he used to be an MBA representative on GSA Council, and the GSA VP Financial during his time as a graduate student at the U of A. He enjoys seeing the evolution of the GSA over time. T Gee highlighted the main points of the audit:

- Satisfied that the information presented complies with accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. There are competent people running the GSA's accounting;
- The GSA's financial position continues to be strong. Ratio of total current assets to total current liability is down a bit from the previous year, but is still fine. Current assets are a little bit higher than last year. The overall financial position of the GSA continues to be very good;

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- Operationally, the GSA is good. There is an operating surplus of \$180,000; last year there was an operating surplus of \$290,000. This swing is because of the Health and Dental Plan;
- Over the last two years, the GSA has set aside reserves. However, the financial stabilization fund could be built up a little more, and the legal defense fund is a little on the light side. Nevertheless, the GSA has worked over the last two years to build up their reserves;
- Overall, in a good, solid financial position. It has been a good year operationally, and the GSA should not let up. Four to five years ago, the GSA was bankrupt and in danger of shutting down. There have been significant changes since then, including new administration, new controls, and overall improved operations. As a result of these improvements, the GSA today is back in good shape. Maintain vigilance, it's easy to fall back.

K Rose asked why the Health and Dental Plan cost so much and T Gee replied that it swings from year to year. In terms of money that came in, less came in than last year, and expenditures increased significantly, going from a \$112,000 surplus last year to a \$100,000 deficit this year. This is difficult to predict from year to year. A Daignault stated that a few months ago there was a vote not to increase fees and to draw down from the reserve fund. S Ball confirmed that the \$100,000 deficit was a drawn down that GSA Council agreed to.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the 2014-2015 GSA Audited Financial Statements. C More **MOVED**. S Ficko **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

7. GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report
Councillors had before them a Cover Letter from the GSA President, an Outline of Issue, and the GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report, including narratives, which had been previously distributed on 10 July 2015. Colin More (GSA President) presented the item. Ellen Schoeck (GSA Executive Director), Shirley Ball (GSA Accountant), and Dorte Sheikh (GSA Financial Manager) were also available to answer questions.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report.

C More stated that the Audit was about last year's finances; this item is about this year's quarterly expenditure report. The idea is to show GSA Council four times per year how the GSA functions financially, and to be accountable. Main points from the cover letter include:

- Graduate student numbers are decreasing, so the GSA is collecting less in fess. This is an ongoing concern for the GSA;
- Regarding the Unitized Endowment Fund - this is a U of A investment pool, which the GSA has had money in. Our investment can no longer be part of the pool. The GSA has gotten reasonably good returns, however will have to go lower risk if the GSA invests it itself;
- The Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council is now official. The fee will be higher than what was paid in the past, and there is reserve money to cover the cost until there is a plan for how to fund it in the future;
- The GSA has ongoing partnerships with TDIMM and Studentcare, who give the GSA money. The GSA will also be receiving revenue from the Chopped Leaf location in PAW.

M Bajaj asked if there were plans for the new money, such as events for graduate students. C More replied that the Studentcare money is for student wellness and mental health stuff. The TDIMM amount is ongoing, not new. And there are no firm plans for the Chopped Leaf money yet.

P Appadu asked why the GSA is getting money from Studentcare and TDIMM. C More stated that E Schoeck asked them for it when negotiating/re negotiating contracts. E Schoeck added that the GSA has had relationship with

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TDIMM for some time, and the money is for things like Orientation and Awards Night. When the GSA renegotiated with Studentcare, the GSA asked for money and they agreed if it was used for wellness, broadly defined. The GSA also receives money from the Dean of Students and from FGSR.

P Appadu asked why there is a disparity between the President's salary and those of the Vice-Presidents. C More replied that GSA Council approves the salaries in the budget every year and issues with the salaries can be brought up at that time by Councillors. C More also stated that having been a Vice-President, he can confirm that the President's job is larger. K Rose asked if salaries are benchmarked, and E Schoeck responded that the differentials came from herself and the original financial manager. They felt that the President put in more hours and is a member of the U of A Board of Governors; the difference in job descriptions accounted to differences in salaries. The salaries are not benchmarked because Alberta is different because of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*. To benchmark against other GSAs wouldn't be a good idea as they don't sit on the Board of Governors or negotiate a CA. Two previous vice-presidents did request that salaries be looked at and this was a matter for the GSA BFC.

H Thaker asked the GSA BFC to consider an increase to the operating/contingency fund increase for next year, if possible.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report. C More **MOVED**. P Appadu **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

8. GSA Standing Committee Elections

Councillors had before them the Nominees for the GSA Governance Committee and the Nominees for the GSA Labour Relations Committee which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item.

M DuVal stated that Councillors are asked to vote to fill a position on the GSA Governance Committee. There are two nominees; since only one nominee is present they will not be asked to answer questions. The bios and resumes of both nominees are included in the package and Councillors were asked to read them before voting.

Ballots were distributed to Councillors.

Elections results are provided following Item 14 below, which was the point in the Meeting at which they were announced.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council receive the report of the GSA Nominating Committee and **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected members of the GSA Labour Relations Committee.

M DuVal also noted that the number of people serving on the GSA Labour Relations Committee will increase. The deadline was extended to solicit more applications. The GSA Nominating Committee forwarded eight nominations, and no additional nominations were received in the second call for nominations from Council. The eight nominees have been declared elected.

MOTION: That the GSA Council receive the report of the GSA Nominating Committee and **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected members of the GSA Labour Relations Committee. M DuVal **MOVED**. S Ficko **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

9. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (and Associated Bylaw and Policy on Discipline, Elections, Referenda, and the GSA Judicial Committee): Proposed Changes and Additions to GSA Policy (Only Reading) and Change to GSA Bylaw (First Reading)

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Councillors had before them a Cover Letter from the Chairs of the GSA ERC and the GSA GC, an Outline of Issue, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (and Associated Policies on Discipline, Elections, and the GSA Judicial Committee): Proposed Changes and Additions to GSA Policy and Change to GSA Bylaw which had been previously distributed on 10 July 2015. Colin More and Sarah Ficko (Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee), Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee), and Virginia Pimmitt (recent former Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.

MOTION 1 BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Governance Committee and effective immediately, the replacement of the following sections of GSA Policy with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB): a) Judicial Committee; b) Discipline; c) policy that allows the GSA NoC Administrative Chair and the Speaker to hear complaints and appeals concerning disrespectful treatment of the CRO; and d) policy that allows the Speaker to hear elections and referenda appeals (appeals of CRO decisions).

V Pimmitt presented the item and read the motion before GSA Council. She explained that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) will replace the GSA Judicial Committee (GSA JC) and GSA Policy, Discipline. The GSA JC and the Discipline Policy are not compliant with rules for quasi-judicial tribunals. The GSA ACB proposal adds elements of procedural fairness, which are absent in the current policy, such as right to be heard (orally or in writing) by an unbiased board, reasonable notice of hearing date, right to an advisor and witnesses, written reasons, and reasonable delay. The proposed GSA ACB Policy was based on the General Faculties Council Academic Appeals Committee, which functions quite nicely. V Pimmitt also noted that the GSA's lawyers reviewed and support the proposal.

V Pimmitt then explained more thoroughly the structure of the proposed GSA ACB. She noted that the proposal provides for administrative support and training in decision making for GSA ACB members, which would allow the GSA ACB members to be ready if the needs arise. The proposed GSA ACB is separated in two branches. The first role is to hear appeals of the CRO's decisions, currently appeals of the CRO's decisions are heard by the Speaker (appeals of CRO's decisions on the written record), and the second role is to hear complaints about the GSA Officers.

V Pimmitt noted that the proposed GSA ACB has undergone eighteen months of hard work. She also stated some of the things that the GSA Election and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) and GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) discussed during these eighteen months, such as composition (who should be on the GSA ACB), concerns to preserve anonymity and privacy legislation, the idea of informal resolution, and suspension of DEOs subject to a GSA ACB hearing. V Pimmitt concluded her presentation by asking GSA Council if there were any questions.

D Smirnow had a procedural question with respect to the number of readings necessary for this change to be approved and effective. C More answered that it is one reading for the GSA ACB Policy to be approved, but two readings to change the committee name from GSA JC to GSA ACB in GSA Bylaw, Part V, Standing Committees.

D Smirnow also asked if there was any part of the proposal that the lawyers were uncomfortable with. V Pimmitt responded that she had been part of all the conversations with the lawyers, and that they approved everything.

D Smirnow lastly asked how the GSA ACB members would be selected. S Ficko asked D Smirnow to clarify if she meant the GSA ACB members or the GSA ACB Hearing Committee members. D Smirnow answered by the latter. V Pimmitt explained that the GSA ACB members would be contacted according to an established list and asked if they are available, moving down the list until the required numbers of members is reached. V Pimmitt and S Ficko also explained that reserve members are backup members for if something unexpected happens to one of the GSA ACB members.

A Daignault asked about the thought process in keeping alternate and former Councillors in the composition of the GSA ACB, taking into account that a question to that effect was raised at GSA Council last month. V Pimmatt answered that it increases the pool of Councillors and makes it easier to fill the GSA ACB.

H Thaker asked what the intention with the Appendix A is if it is not to be included in GSA Policy. E Schoeck answered that when the GSA ACB was created, members of the new committee will look at the Appendix A, as it is part of the day to day business of the GSA ACB. H Thaker specified that he would like the Appendix A to be easily accessible for respondent and complainant. E Schoeck explained that it is possible to attach the Appendix A to GSA Policy but in the event the GSA ACB makes changes to the Appendix A, there will only be an after the fact report to GSA Council. V Pimmatt proposed to put it up on the website. S Ficko raised the point that she wasn't sure an amendment to add Appendix A to Policy would be the most effective way of handling it and that it could potentially create more problems than it resolved. E Schoeck added that if there was an hearing the Appendix A would be the first thing the GSA ACB members would look at and that the GSA ACB Chair would send it to anyone involved as soon as possible. She also added that putting it up on the website implied finality and permanence.

R Coulthard advised GSA Council that this possible amendment fell outside of the motion before GSA Council but it was possible to address as a new motion. D Smirnow suggested adding "Procedures of the GSA ACB are available upon request" to Section 10.6. S Fenichel asked present GSA ERC and GSA GC members if this was a friendly amendment, and asked H Thaker if he was happy with the suggestion. E Schoeck reformulated the language and read it out for everyone: "Contact the GSA Office if you would like a sample of the procedures". L Spanner stated that she did not want to run the risk of formalizing too firmly a certain version of the procedures. R Coulthard expressed that the easiest way to proceed would be to refer this piece back to the committees and ask them to report to GSA Council the discussion that took place and any decisions that ensued. S Fenichel asked if H Thaker would be comfortable with his question regarding Appendix A: GSA ACB Hearing Committee, Sample Procedures for Hearings being referred back to the committees; H Thaker agreed.

H Thaker asked if it would be possible to add a definition of informal resolution and read one located in UAPPOL as an example: Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy: "Informal resolutions are those that achieve remedies agreeable to complainants and respondents, but do not invoke formal resolution procedures. Informal resolutions involve the relevant parties, and may include coaching, counseling, supporting, mediating, or otherwise facilitating the resolution of the complaint". H Thaker noted that he felt that adding a similar definition of informal resolution would strengthen the proposal. S Fenichel asked H Thaker if he would like to refer this, as well, to both committees. Members of both committees were asked if it was a friendly amendment. J Kong added that it was important to have words that define informal resolution. S Fenichel thanked J Kong for his comment, specified that his point had extensively been made by H Thaker, and asked if there were any fresh points. There was discussion as to whether the definition read aloud should be displayed for GSA Council members and whether a definition should be drafted on the floor. Following this a new motion was brought to the floor. R Coulthard made a Point of Order specifying that the following vote was to approve, or not approve, the addition of a definition of informal resolution in the GSA ACB proposal.

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE** the inclusion in the GSA ACB proposal of a definition of informal resolution as it exists in UAPPOL Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy.

R Coulthard expressed that he felt it was unnecessary to include a definition of informal resolution as it already encompassed everything that is not formal. He also added that it was not the role of the GSA Council to rehash the work of the committees. H Thaker explained his position further by saying that having a definition of informal resolution would help the parties decide if they want to pursue informal resolution. B Richardson asked that if the motion doesn't pass, would it mean that the inclusion of a definition of informal resolution would not be revisited. V Pimmatt answered that no, the issue could be referred back to the committees, in order to leave committees members time to think about the issue. This was followed by some additional discussion surrounding the issue.

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE** the inclusion in the GSA ACB proposal of a definition of informal resolution as it exists in UAPPOL Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy. H Thaker **MOVED**. P Appadu **SECONDED**.

Motion NOT CARRIED. 13 in favor; 27 opposed; 1 abstention (J White).

S Fenichel asked GSA Council members if they were ready to vote on the original motion.

MOTION 1: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Governance Committee and effective immediately, the replacement of the following sections of GSA Policy with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB): a) Judicial Committee; b) Discipline; c) policy that allows the GSA NoC Administrative Chair and the Speaker to hear complaints and appeals concerning disrespectful treatment of the CRO; and d) policy that allows the Speaker to hear elections and referenda appeals (appeals of CRO decisions) and referred back to the committees with respect to what to do with the Appendix A and a definition of informal resolution. S Ficko **MOVED**. P Appadu **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED. 4 abstentions.

MOTION 2 BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Governance Committee and effective upon the second reading, the re-titling of GSA Bylaw, Part V, Standing Committee, Section 1.3.10, "GSA Appeals and Complaints Board," from the current "Judicial Committee".

V Pimmitt specified this was the first reading of two, to rename the section to accord GSA Bylaw to the new GSA Policy. There were no questions.

MOTION 2: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Governance Committee and effective upon the second reading, the re-titling of GSA Bylaw, Part V, Standing Committee, Section 1.3.10, "GSA Appeals and Complaints Board," from the current "Judicial Committee". V Pimmitt **MOVED**. S Ficko **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED. 1 abstention.

- 10. Timeline for the CRO to Reach Decisions on Alleged Breaches and Information Provided Anonymously: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy (Only Reading)**
Councillors had before them a Cover Letter from the Chairs of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC, an Outline of Issue, and the Timeline for the CRO to Reach Decisions on Alleged Breaches and Information Provided Anonymously: Double Column of Proposed Changes to GSA Policy which had been previously distributed on 10 July 2015. Colin More and Sarah Ficko (Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee), Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee), and Virginia Pimmitt (recent former Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and effective upon approval, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

L Spanner presented the item and read the motion before GSA Council. L Spanner explained that this proposal extended the timeline for the CRO to make a decision and alleviates the pressure of making a decision in a very small 24-hour window. The proposal also describes how to deal with information provided anonymously. V Pimmitt added that with a 24-hour timeline you can run into problematic deadlines, for example, as it occurred in the 2013 appeals, a deadline of 2:00 AM, which was not very functional.

H Thaker asked if there was intention to consult the GSA ERC in Section 7.1.a. V Pimmitt answered that Section 7.1.a is under Section 7.1 which states that the GSA ERC shall be consulted. H Thaker noted that they shall be consulted when reasonable, and also asked if informal resolution could be a reason to extend the deadline. E

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Schoeck explained that the intention was to have the 72 hours deadline starts as soon as the CRO becomes aware of a breach. C More reminded GSA Council that the GSA ERC and GSA GC would review this new GSA Policy in a year. H Thaker asked if there was a way to make sure that informal resolution could be a reason to extend the 72 hours deadline. E Schoeck answered that it would be easy enough. The issue was referred back the GSA ERC and GSA GC for consideration, and the matter will be brought back to GSA Council.

MOTION: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and effective upon approval, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document with the understanding that the GSA ERC will revise the language so that informal resolution will clearly be included in the 72 hours deadline. L Spanner **MOVED**. Alphonse Ndem Ahola **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

- 11. Performance and Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Conflict of Commitment: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (First Reading) and Movement to GSA Policy (For Information)**
Councillors had before them a Cover Letter from the Chairs of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC, an Outline of Issue, and the Performance and Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Conflict of Commitment: Double Column of Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Movement to GSA Policy which had been previously distributed on 10 July 2015. Colin More and Sarah Ficko (Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee), Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee), and Virginia Pimmitt (recent former Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and effective upon the second reading, the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and its movement to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

S Ficko presented the item and read the motion before GSA Council. S Ficko specified that this proposal was to move parts of GSA Bylaw to GSA Policy and therefore needs two readings to be effective. S Ficko explained that the main changes are to 1) address the lack of conflict of commitment and 2) include a positive statement concerning the expectations of GSA Officers. Lastly S Ficko specified that this proposal was supported by the GSA's lawyers.

H Thaker asked what the rationale behind the new wording of section 2.2 was, specifically why impartiality was removed and integrity became the main pillar. K Rose answered that it is hard to be impartial as everyone is partial. H Thaker noted that impartiality was something to strive for.

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and effective upon the second reading, the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and its movement to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document. S Ficko **MOVED**. L Spanner **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

- 12. Actions of the Speaker Regarding Officers' Attendance AND Consultation with the Deputy Speaker and ED: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy (Only Reading).**
Councillors had before them an Outline of Issue and the Actions of Speaker Regarding Officers' Attendance and Consultation with the Deputy Speaker and ED: Double Column of Proposed Changes to GSA Policy which had been previously distributed on 10 July 2015. Colin More and Sarah Ficko (Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee), Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee), and Virginia Pimmitt (recent former Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and effective upon approval, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

C More presented the item and read the motion before GSA Council. C More noted that in May, GSA Council approved some changes that offered some guidance on the actions to be taken if GSA Council members don't come to GSA Council meetings. For GSA Officers, the intention was to go to the GSA ACB, however in May the GSA ACB was not established, now that the GSA ACB exists, the proposed changes reflect the initial intention. C More further explained that initiating discussion with GSA Council could potentially bias the Departmental Councillors that serve on the GSA ACB.

There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and effective upon approval, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document. C More **MOVED**. S Ficko **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED. ONE Abstention.

13. Special Business (none at this time)

Reports

14. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More stated that the Directly-Elected Officers had their first "official contact" when they met with the Provost, Steven Dew, and would be meeting with Heather Zwicker, the new Dean of FGSR, soon to establish a positive working relationship.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted.

iii. Budget and Finance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More noted that the major work had been done with the review of the Audit. There are little things to improve for next year, but the GSA was doing well.

iv. Governance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More noted that GSA Council had just spent one and a half hours dealing with the output of this committee's work.

At this point, S Fenichel announced the result of the election for a new member of the GSA Governance Committee:

J Peck - 28 votes
S Gumfekar - 14 votes
None of the Candidates - 1 Vote
Spoiled Ballots - 1

J Peck was elected to serve on the GSA Governance Committee.

Prepared by J Tanguay, F Robertson, and M Caldwell for the Council Meeting of 20 July 2015

a) Nominating Committee

i. Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M DuVal asked Councillors to consider colleagues or any other graduate students suitable as potential members to fill the new GSA ACB. The ad will be circulated soon. M DuVal noted, for students in the Faculty of Arts, the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) is still looking to fill two seats on the Faculty of Arts Council; email the GSA NoC if you are interested. M DuVal also noted that the GSA NoC was still looking to fill two seats on the GSA ERC; Council has just seen some of the work that they do. Send the GSA NoC bios and resumes if interested in serving.

15. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Thaker stated that graduate students now have access to mygradskills.ca, so Councillors should sign up and go through the modules - it takes only five minutes to sign up.

P Appadu raised an issue with the Directly-Elected Officer reports, specifically his feeling that they lacked background information. He asked if GSA Council could receive background information to preface the statements made at meetings. S Fenichel asked P Appadu to hold this request for Oral Questions at the end of the meeting.

16. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Ndem Ahola stated that ab-GPAC is still working on its financial and communication policies; the next meeting will look at the budget. There will be an orientation meeting with the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education on August 4, 2015, which will be reported on next month. A Ndem Ahola also provided an updated on the Prayer and Meditation Space in HUB Mall. The GSA and SU have been asked to raise money for the renovation; it was a complex process, and GSA Council will be updated as the GSA proceeds.

ii. Awards Selection Committee

No written report was required at this time; committee will resume meeting in Fall 2015.

17. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Ficko stated that she was looking forward to the GSA LRC beginning its work with its eight new members. She will also begin working with the GSA Negotiating Committee on the collective bargaining opening position.

ii. Negotiating Committee

No meetings this reporting period; committee will resume meeting in Fall 2015.

iii. Labour Relations Committee

No meetings this reporting period; committee will meet 23 July 2015.

18. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Talaei stated that he has been working with the SU on the North Power Plant and the Campus Food Bank. He also noted that Mentor Up is a platform for graduate students to build their

networks for professional development. A Talaei noted that the FGSR Communication Meeting was an internal meeting for GSA Management that he did not attend, and which was listed by mistake on his report.

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

No meetings this reporting period.

19. Senator

i. Senator's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, L Spanner encouraged Councillors to stop by the new Office of the Chancellor, located in the Arts Convocation Hall.

20. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

21. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, V Pimmatt congratulated L Spanner on her election as Chair of the GSA ERC, and J Bell on her election as Vice-Chair.

22. Elections and Referenda Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted.

23. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 July 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Schoeck stated that the money in the Unitized Endowment Pool (UEP) mentioned by C More during the quarterly expenditures presentation came when the old GSA bar in Dewey's went bankrupt. The GSA sold the equipment and invested the money with the UEP. The rules have changed and the U of A can only invest their own money in the UEP now. The GSA's money will be invested in short-term GICs until the GSA BFC makes a decision about investment opportunities. The amount received back from the UEP upon cash out was \$437,000; it was a good time to cash out.

E Schoeck hopes that Councillors will pass along the information on page 23.1 of her report to their departmental student groups. It is the best list of all funding sources for graduate student groups, and some for individuals, for events. The Alumni Association money is new.

K Rose asked if the funding list could be attached to the summary circulated to GSA Council, and to put it on the website.

E Schoeck finished by noting she hopes that GSA Council will be in the new Council Chambers in University Hall by September.

Question Period

24. Written Questions

None at this time.

25. Oral Questions

Prepared by J Tanguay, F Robertson, and M Caldwell for the Council Meeting of 20 July 2015

P Appadu repeated his earlier question regarding his feeling that some of the statements in the Directly-Elected Officers' reports are vague, and there is not enough background, and asked if this can be addressed. C More asked for examples, and P Appadu gave ab-GPAC as an example. P Appadu also stated that the Directly-Elected Officers often attend more than one meeting, but GSA Council only gets highlights from some of them. H Thaker asked if there was a specific meeting P Appadu would like a report on. C More stated concern that it would take too long to report on every meeting at GSA Council. P Appadu asked what the rationale was for reporting on only some of them. S Ficko stated that there are meeting reports for them all, as well as reports given to the GSA Board, but some are confidential. A Ndem Ahola noted that at the end of the reports, there is a list of the meetings the Directly-Elected Officer attended; important things are highlighted in the reports, but if you want more specifics on something, you should ask. R Coulthard addressed the Speaker, and asked if she would agree that it is in the GSA's best interest to strike the balance between filling out reports and Directly-Elected Officers doing their jobs. Speaker clarified that while we do want the reporters to be clearer about the terms they are using, and what they mean, the second idea is about accountability and the Directly-Elected Officers doing what they are paid to do. Every meeting they attend is listed, and Councillors are allowed to ask questions about whatever they list. C More added that non-confidential reports are available upon request.

P Appadu then cautioned Speaker to try to remain impartial and adopt a neutral tone when addressing members of GSA Council. P Appadu made reference to a perceived negative tone directed toward J Kong. Speaker apologized and explained she was not conscious of such a tone at the time and noted that GSA Council should be a collegial atmosphere.

P Appadu thanked the GSA staff for the funding list.

Adjournment

Speaker reminded Councillors that the August meeting of GSA Council would be cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
 From: Colin More
 Date: August 14, 2015

Hello everyone!

Speaking for myself, I am sad that summer is ending so soon. I haven't been to the mountains nearly enough yet!

A surprising amount has happened since our last Council meeting. Probably the biggest one from the standpoint of how the university is run was the announcement several weeks ago that the current Chair of the Board of Governors, Doug Goss, will be stepping down effective September 1, 2015. We wish him only the best in his future endeavors. Until a new Chair is appointed through an as-yet-undecided process, current Vice-Chair Dick Wilson will serve as the Acting Chair.

Slightly closer to home, both the Students' Union and the GSA have reopened talks with the university administration on how Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs) can be handled more equitably and transparently. Beginning in early September, representatives from both groups will begin meeting with a small group of administrators to work towards a solution. Assuming the discussions are successful, it will bring to a close a bone of contention the student groups have had for at least six years.

I also should touch on some recent events at the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. First, in what may seem a dry sort of operational change, the post of Vice-Dean has been abolished and replaced with a third Associate Dean. Associate Deans have many responsibilities, but one of the most crucial from a student's perspective is that they are among the most powerful advisers and arbiters a student has access to if difficulties arise in their program. Having good, fair-minded people in the positions is critical. Those individuals are now Paul Melancon (Cell Biology), Suzanne Kresta (Chemical & Materials Engineering), and Bryan Hogeveen (Sociology). I have had personal dealings with the first two, and hold them in very high regard. Having recently met Bryan, he seems to be of a similar caliber. As the Vice-President Labour Sarah Ficko reports, we recently had a great meeting with these individuals.

Second, the new Interim Dean, Heather Zwicker, seems extremely supportive of graduate students. There are plans to hold a number of graduate-student-specific events in the early fall, not least of which is a GSA-hosted, FGSR-sponsored professional development panel and mixer. We are extremely excited by this new relationship, and hope it continues well into the future!

Finally, as the Vice-Presidents report, we met with Dr. Steven Dew, the new Provost and Vice-President Academic. The meeting was positive, and we look forward to working with him over the rest of our terms.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with me about any concerns. And with that, I certainly hope you enjoy the rest of this glorious summer!

Cheers,

Colin More, GSA 2015-2016 President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 20, 2015 to August 14, 2015.

July 21	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Meeting
July 21	Meeting with Dean of Students

2.1

July 21	Board of Governors
July 21	Meeting with Provost
July 23	Faculty of Graduate Studies Meeting (Heather Zwicker)
July 23	GSA Labour Relations Committee
July 27	Meeting with Bob Teskey
July 27	GSA Nominating Committee
July 27	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee - Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Budget Advisory Committee
July 28	Meeting with Students' Union Board of Governors Rep
July 29	Special Board of Governors Meeting
July 31	Physical Therapy Orientation
August 4	Government Orientation
August 6	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Dean and Vice-Deans
August 7	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Phone Meeting
August 10	Joint GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and GSA Governance Committee Meeting
August 11	GSA Labour Relations Committee
August 13	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Phone Meeting

**GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
 From: Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; and Courtney Thomas, Director of Services and Governance
 Date: August 14, 2015

The GSA Board reports regularly to GSA 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. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, Director of Operations, Director of Services and Governance, Financial Manager, and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports in Item 23 (Executive Director's Report to Council) on pages 23.2 - 23.4.

22 July 2015 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Transition Wrap-Up

Motions and Agreements:

None at this time

29 July 2015 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Retroactive Approval of President's Research Leave: GSA Board Policy on Absences of Directly-Elected Officers for Vacation, Compassionate Leave, and Research-Related Leave; Actual Expenses for Attendance at GU15, April 5-8, 2015, in Calgary, AB: External Relations Travel Expenses; Actual Expenses for Attendance at an ab-GPAC Meeting, May 1-3, 2015, in Edmonton, AB: External Relations Travel Expenses; Actual Expenses for Attendance at the Studentcare Stakeholders Meeting, June 17-19, 2015, in Montreal, QC: External Relations Travel Expenses

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION BEFORE THE GSA BOARD: That the GSA Board **APPROVE**, retroactively, the President's research leave for the period June 13-June 30, 2015. AT **MOVED**. SF Seconded. **CARRIED**.

5 August 2015 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

GSA "Coffee Breaks": Unwind Your Mind Grant Programming Update

Motions and Agreements:

None at this time

12 August 2015 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Reports Only

Motions and Agreements:

None at this time

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Colin More
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) met jointly with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) on August 10, 2015. At this meeting we discussed three main items: how best to communicate Appendix A of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) policy (seen by GSA Council, for information, at their last meeting) to interested parties; whether a definition of "informal resolution" was needed in the GSA ACB policy; and the roles of Councillors-at-Large and the composition of GSA Council.

With respect to the appendices to the GSA ACB, it was agreed that they would be made available on the GSA website once the GSA ACB is populated, preceded by a note that the procedures they lay out may differ according to the circumstances of any particular case.

The committees jointly discussed whether defining "informal resolution" was necessary. After an hour, they unanimously agreed that including a separate definition was not necessary as the elements that constitute informal resolution are already developed or clearly implied in the GSA ACB policy.

With respect to the definition of "informal resolution" that was read to GSA Council at the last meeting, the definition, rather than being generic and applicable to all of the University, was attached to a specific policy on discrimination and harassment. Additionally, the GSA Executive Director spoke with the Ombuds Service, who regularly engages in informal resolution, and inquired after the definition they use. As it turns out, they have no definition. Both committees did, however, agree that the topic of informal resolution will be discussed in future All Candidates Meetings.

Finally, you may recall that GSA Council approved several additions and changes to the GSA Bylaw and Policies last month. Following that meeting, several editorial changes of factually incorrect information in the new policies were found to be needed. These changes focused on a) references to now non-existent policies on Discipline and the GSA Judicial Committee and b) references to the Speaker or Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee hearing appeals. Acting under delegated authority from the GSA GC to amend such factual inaccuracies, the Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee (Sarah Ficko) and myself approved the changes noted above.

In addition, changes to remedy the following factual inaccuracies and one grammatical error in GSA Elections Policy were approved by the Vice-Chair and myself:

- GSA Policy, Elections, Section 6.1.e.xiii makes reference to Section 6.9. The correct reference is Section 5.7.
- GSA Policy, Elections, Section 8.1 makes a reference to Section 3.1. The correct reference is Section 4.1.
- In GSA Policy, Elections, Section 7.2, there is a bracket missing. This error is also present in the parallel section in the Referenda policy (GSA Policy, Referenda, Section 9.2).

I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,
Colin More, GSA President and Chair, GSA Governance Committee

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Michele DuVal
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) is a summary of discussions/decisions the GSA NoC has made since its last report, together with a list of all vacancies filled.

The Bylaw governing the GSA NoC is located in Part V (Standing Committees). Policy governing the GSA NoC is found in the sections titled "Nominating" and "Standing Committees." As provided for in its terms of reference, the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Michele DuVal, Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board

The GSA NoC met on Monday, July 27, 2015, to discuss the GSA Newsletter advertisement and the interview process to fill the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board. An advertisement will be circulated through the GSA Newsletter in the upcoming weeks and GSA Council will be asked to elect the members at the October meeting of GSA Council.

Bodies External to the GSA

GSA Council has delegated to the GSA NoC the responsibility of filling positions on all committees external to the GSA. Normally, all vacancies are advertised. According to Policy, "advertising may be waived in instances where, in the GSA NoC's view, it is urgent to fill a vacancy" (GSA Policy, Nominating, 5.2).

1) Protective Services Commission (1 position)

This position was advertised to all graduate students through the GSA Newsletter on July 5, 2015. The deadline was Friday, July 17, 2015 at 12:00 PM. Two (2) nominations were received. The GSA NoC elected **Alicia Cappello (Humanities Computing/MLIS)** to serve on the Protective Services Commission.

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Harsh Thaker
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Given that the August Council meeting has been cancelled, I have decided to change up the format of my report for this month. The City of Edmonton offers a number of festivals throughout the month of August that are a lot of fun including the world famous Edmonton International Fringe Festival. If you can spare some time away from your academic commitments, I would highly encourage going to see a show.

Recurring meetings

Every Monday morning I usually meet with Fahim Rahman (SU VP Academic) to discuss meetings we attended in the past week and share any relevant information gleaned from these meetings that would be important for both student groups, GSA and SU, to be aware of. There are quite a few university governance meetings that fall under the Vice-President Academic portfolio and this kind of debrief is a good way to ensure important items are not overlooked, especially once the academic year begins in September. I intend to set up similar recurring meetings with the Vice-Provosts (on a biweekly schedule, perhaps) who are responsible for academic programs, instruction and the teaching & learning environment. This effectively will allow for ongoing communication between the GSA and the Provost's Office keeping us in the loop with respect to any changes coming down the pipeline.

Filters for refilling water stations on campus

At the last GFC Facilities Development Committee meeting, a question was raised regarding the filters in the newer refilling stations that display either a green, yellow or red light indicating filter status. These stations are unfortunately not hooked up to a central alarm tracking system so if you happen to notice one in your building/area, please contact the maintenance desk at (780) 492-4833 so they can put in a work order request.

Upcoming Campus Event: Green & Gold Day

On Friday, September 25, the University will be holding Green & Gold Day, which will be kicked off by a parade through campus ending up in the Quad. There will be a BBQ set up, the second annual sock fight, loud music and a few remarks from U of A President Dr. Turpin. This is a free event and if you have a few moments to spare on a Friday afternoon I encourage you all to attend (and spread the word to your colleagues).

As always, I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding these items or about any of the other meetings I attended this past month.

Thanks,

Harsh Thaker, GSA Vice-President Academic

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 20, 2015 to August 14, 2015. I am away on personal leave from August 13 to August 24, 2015.

July 21	Meeting with Provost
July 22	Green and Gold Day Planning Committee
July 23	FGSR Meeting (Heather Zwicker)
July 27	SU VP Academic
July 27	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee - Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Budget Advisory Committee

3.1

July 30	GFC Facilities Development Committee
August 4	Global Academic Leadership Program Welcome Reception
August 10	SU VP Academic
August 10	Meeting with Vice-Provost Nat Kav

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the rest of the summer. During this month of August I was mostly busy with office work, preparing for the GU 15 Conference (graduate student associations from the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities) at Winnipeg, and with phone calls with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) directors on pending matters. I reported last month that we were still setting up ab-GPAC policies. We are almost done with that. We also discussed a budget submission that is to be sent to the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education. The idea is to have that budget submission posted on each GSA's website so that graduate students can use it as a starting point for advocacy purposes when submitting feedback to the provincial government on the budget. The budget submission will also be sent directly to the provincial government. On the part of structuring ab-GPAC, we are about to hire an auditor and a bookkeeper. Next week I will be attending the GU 15 Conference, along with GSA President Colin More. Some of you pointed out difficulties that international students are facing with regard to the Permanent Residency process. I will discuss this with delegates from other schools and provinces to know what is being done in their area. I hope to set it with them as one of our advocacy priorities. Also regarding international tuition fees, we are discussing this now within ab-GPAC. What I want to set forth is predictable, fair, tuition increases for all students - domestic and international.

As the President and other Vice-Presidents report, we had a good meeting with the new Provost and Vice-President Academic Dr. Steven Dew. Regarding Prayer and Meditation Space, we discussed it with Dr. Dew, and he agreed to talk to the Vice-President of Facilities and Operations Don Hickey about coming up with the extra funds, rather than offloading it to the student associations to raise the funds.

All the best for the rest of the summer,

Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 20, 2015 to August 14, 2015.

July 21	Meeting with Provost
July 23	Granting Committee Meeting
July 23	GSA Labour Relations Committee
July 28	Prayer and Meditation Space
August 7	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Phone Meeting
August 11	GSA Labour Relations Committee
August 13	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Phone Meeting
August 14	GFC Facilities Development Committee - Tour of St. Joseph's Women's Residence
August 16-19	GU15 (Winnipeg)

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sarah Ficko
Date: August 14, 2015

Hello Everyone!

The past month has been busy for me with my own research as I have spent a few weeks staring into a microscope counting roots on hundreds of cuttings as I try to determine treatments to improve revegetation options for northern plant species. Thanks to the many people who have helped or been supportive while I was taking on this momentous task! I am now writing this report from the airport as I prepare to leave for field work in the Northwest Territories for a few weeks. I am looking forward to seeing my lichen plots and the tundra again 😊

On the side of the GSA, my main focus has been setting up and meeting with the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) ahead of entering into Collective Bargaining this fall to renew our Collective Agreement for the 2016-17 school year. Before I started my term as an elected official, I heard from a student in a small department saying they felt that nobody cared about them or their needs. Since then I have been cognizant of wanting to balance all student needs rather than just those from a few departments. As such, when we were setting up the GSA LRC I requested to have a larger committee as I wanted to hear multiple perspectives about the needs of graduate students. The GSA LRC has now had three productive meetings discussing issues with the Collective Agreement, compliance, and what we feel are important requests in the GSA's Opening Position, which we submit to the University's negotiating team as a prelude to negotiations. I am looking forward to a joint meeting of the GSA LRC and the GSA Negotiating Committee in September.

I would like to highlight that we had the opportunity to meet with the new Provost and Vice-President Academic, Dr. Steven Dew, in late July where we discussed the main issues from our Strategic Work Plan that our executive team is focusing on this year. We all enjoyed the meeting and were impressed with his understanding and appreciation of student needs and concerns. A few weeks ago Colin and I also had a beneficial meeting with the new Interim Dean of FGSR, Dr. Heather Zwicker, and three of the associate deans, as well as Brent Epperson and Natalie Sharp from the Ombuds office to discuss how to best meet the needs of students in conflict or crisis. It was an important meeting to establish a positive working relationship between key parties at the start of terms for many people.

Finally, please feel free to contact us with any issues related to your RA/TAship, so we can help you sort it out.

Ciao from the north!

Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 20, 2015 to August 14, 2015. I am away on academic leave from August 13 to August 25, 2015.

July 21	Meeting with Provost
July 22	Meeting with a Student
July 23	GSA Labour Relations Committee
July 28	Prayer and Meditation Space
July 29	ACCESS Project Working Group Meeting
August 4	GSA Labour Relations Committee
August 6	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Dean and Vice-Deans
August 10	Joint GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and GSA Governance Committee

5.1

	Meeting
August 11	GSA Labour Relations Committee
August 11	Meeting with a Student

**GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sarah Ficko
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) met on July 23, August 4, and August 11 to provide feedback on the Collective Agreement governing Academically Employed Graduate Students and consider elements to include in the GSA's Opening Position for the upcoming round of collective bargaining, which will begin in the fall.

I am very pleased with the work of the GSA LRC and look forward to upcoming joint meetings with the GSA Negotiating Committee.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,
Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour and Chair, GSA Labour Relations Committee

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Ali Talaei
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am currently away on personal leave, but would like to report on a few meetings I attended in the last month.

Along with the President and other Vice-Presidents, I met with the new Provost and Vice-President Academic Dr. Steven Dew.

I presented, with Executive Director Ellen Schoeck, to a group of delegates from Chinese Universities on the structure of the GSA and the supports that we offer for international students.

At the U-Pass Advisory Group Meeting, we received a brief update on the Metro Line, discussed SmartFare (on hold until ETS knows if they will receive provincial funding), and talked about replacement U-Pass costs. The pilot project on pro-rated replacement costs will be continuing in the Fall term, after which we hope to make it permanent.

Sincerely,

Ali Talaei, Vice-President Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 20, 2015 to August 17, 2015. I was away on personal leave from August 4 to August 19, 2015.

July 21	Meeting with Provost
July 23	International Students Presentation
July 29	U-Pass Advisory Group Meeting

GSA Senator
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I have not had any Senate related meetings since our last Council meeting, in July. I am waiting to receive draft reports from the Senate Task Force on Community engagement, as I have offered to do some editing prior to their distribution to Senate in the fall.

Leigh Spanner, GSA Senator

**GSA Chief Returning Officer
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Virginia Pimmett
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I attended the joint meeting of GSA ERC and GSA GC on August 10, 2015, and I encourage you to read the reports of both these committees. I will soon start to look at the timeline for the next GSA General Elections.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Virginia Pimmett, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

At the July GSA Council meeting, members approved proposed changes to the timeline for the CRO to reach a decision on alleged breaches with the understanding that the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) would revise the language so that attempting informal resolution would clearly be included in the 72 hour deadline. GSA ERC agreed to move the statement "The CRO will normally reach a decision on alleged breaches within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO shall consult with the GSA Elections Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) regarding extensions" to the beginning of the Section detailing the CRO's Decision on Penalties, Remedial Action, and Referrals. GSA Policy has been updated accordingly.

Secondly, the GSA ERC met jointly with the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) on August 10, 2015. At this meeting we discussed the roles of Councillors-at-Large and the composition of GSA Council, whether a definition of informal resolution was needed, and the appendices to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) policy, which GSA Council had before them, for information, at the last meeting.

As reported in the GSA GC report the following decisions were made: with respect to whether a definition of informal resolution was necessary, GSA GC and GSA ERC members discussed the matter for an hour and unanimously agreed not to include a separate definition (more information is can be found in the GSA GC report to GSA Council), however, the topic of informal resolution will be discussed in future All Candidates Meetings potentially with the participation of the Ombuds Service and, with respect to the appendices to the GSA ACB, it was agreed that they would be made available on the GSA website once the GSA ACB is populated.

I would be happy to report further orally and/or answer any questions.

Respectfully,
Leigh Spanner, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled August 17, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Ellen Schoeck
Date: August 14, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Now that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) has been approved, five of us from the GSA office went to Brownlee LLP, the GSA law firm, for a training session on fair process.

For Heather and me, it was a good refresher as we have extensive experience in administering quasi judicial tribunals. It was a good introduction for everyone else.

All of us appreciated the presentation and found it be really straightforward, intelligible, and concise. We are now working out how we will provide training for the CRO, DRO, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and GSA ACB.

The GSA Nominating Committee soon will be advertising positions on the GSA ACB through the GSA Newsletter. As a reminder the composition of the new GSA ACB is eight (8) graduate students and four (4) Departmental Councillors, alternates, or recent former Departmental Councillors. Keep an eye out for the advertisement, and if you are interested in serving on this Board. Please submit your nomination.

The detailed management reports submitted weekly to the Board are attached. As always, Courtney, Heather and I welcome your questions and feedback.

Best,
Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, July 22, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on July 15, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** GSA Council preparation, planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations (22 booked so far – training session set for August 26), meeting with FGSR to discuss FGSR sponsorship for GSA events, GSA website overhaul, development of an information package for new Councillors, preparing for an upcoming meeting of the GSA LRC, thinking with respect to DLI, election of a MINT rep to GSA Council.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial:** A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a “definitions” section; and **Substantive:** thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial and Policy and Board Policy associated with travel, is ongoing.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to renew the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, create an alcohol liability waiver (upcoming discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment), ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, connecting effectively with constituents.

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media:** Facebook = 589 likes (up 3 from July 15). Our Facebook posts reached 124 users this week, up 31 from July 15. Twitter = 412 followers (up 3 from July 15).
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook** preparation – going to the printer next week.
- Planning for **Orientation and Departmental Orientations (22 scheduled so far – training session set for August 26).**
- **Grants processing** (period runs July 1 to September 30, period is 22% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	\$117,261.67	\$76,337.58	14	81 (16 pending processing)
CCG	\$73,297.81	\$297.81 CLOSED	0	49 (4 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$3,017.50	0	1 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$149,362.80 *(no periods)	\$114,603.37	0	10 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (Protective Services Commissions, etc).
- **Grants processing** and planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.
- Assisting the **election of a GSA Councillor in MINT.**
- Assistance with **preparations for GSA Council.**
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook preparation.**

Management Report to the GSA Board, July 29, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on July 22, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** GSA LRC meeting, PAW graduate student lounge heating and patio concerns, PAW subleases, GSA event planning, filling the GSA ACB, planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations (28 booked so far – training session set for August 26), GSA website overhaul, development of an information package for new Councillors, thinking with respect to DLI, election of an ALES rep to GSA Council.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial:** A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a “definitions” section; and **Substantive:** thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial and Policy and Board Policy associated with travel, is ongoing.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to renew the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, create an alcohol liability waiver (upcoming discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment), ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, connecting effectively with constituents.

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media:** Facebook = 595 likes (up 6 from July 22). Our Facebook posts reached 324 users this week, up 200 from July 22. Twitter = 414 followers (up 2 from July 22).
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook** preparation – going to the printer next week.
- Planning for **Orientation and Departmental Orientations (28 scheduled so far – training session set for August 26).**
- **Grants processing** (period runs July 1 to September 30, period is 29% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	\$117,261.67	\$68,337.58	16	97 (16 pending processing)
CCG	\$73,297.81	\$297.81 CLOSED	0	49 (1 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$17.50 CLOSED	2	3 (2 pending processing)
EB	\$149,362.80 *(no periods)	\$114,603.37	0	10 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees.**
- **Grants processing** and planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.
- Assisting the **election of a GSA Councillor in ALES.**
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook preparation.**

Management Report to the GSA Board, August 5, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on July 29, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** GSA LRC meeting, training in fair process, PAW subleases, GSA event planning, filling the GSA ACB, Unwind Your Mind event planning, planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations (30 booked so far – training session set for August 26), GSA website overhaul, development of an information package for new Councillors, thinking with respect to DLI, election of an ALES rep to GSA Council.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial:** A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a “definitions” section; and **Substantive:** thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial and Policy and Board Policy associated with travel, is ongoing.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to renew the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, create an alcohol liability waiver (upcoming discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment), ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, connecting effectively with constituents.

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media:** Facebook = 603 likes (up 8 from July 29). Our Facebook posts reached 76 users this week, down 248 from July 29. Twitter = 413 followers (down 1 from July 29).
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook** preparation.
- Planning for **Orientation and Departmental Orientations (30 scheduled so far – training session set for August 26).**
- **Grants processing** (period runs July 1 to September 30, period is 37% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	\$117,261.67	\$66,353.58	4	101 (4 pending processing)
CCG	\$73,297.81	\$297.81 CLOSED	0	49 (1 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$17.50 CLOSED	0	3 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$149,362.80 *(no periods)	\$109,483.37	1	11 (1 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Supporting the work of the GSA NoC.**
- **Grants processing** and planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.
- Assisting the **election of a GSA Councillor in ALES.**
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook** preparation.
- **Assistance with even planning.**

Management Report to the GSA Board, August 12, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on August 5, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Joint GSA ERC/GSA GC meeting, GSA LRC meeting, training in fair process, PAW subleases, filling the GSA ACB, ALES GSA election, strategic thinking on the GSA’s Opening Position for Collective Agreement negotiations, GSA website overhaul, preparing a handbook for new GSA Council members
- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial:** A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a “definitions” section; and **Substantive:** thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial and Policy and Board Policy associated with travel and GSA awards, is ongoing.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Creation of an alcohol liability waiver (upcoming discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment) and several other matters on the backburner.

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media:** Facebook = 605 likes (up 2 from August 5). Our Facebook posts reached 173 users this week, up 97 from August 5. Twitter = 412 followers (down 1 from August 5).
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook** preparation.
- **PD event planning and Unwind Your Mind event planning**
- Planning for **Orientation and Departmental Orientations (33 scheduled so far – training session set for August 26).**
- **Grants processing** (period runs July 1 to September 30, period is 45% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	\$117,261.67	\$63,353.58	5	107 (10 pending processing)
CCG	\$73,297.81	\$297.81 CLOSED	0	49 (1 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$17.50 CLOSED	0	3 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$149,362.80 *(no periods)	\$109,483.37	0	11 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Supporting the work of the GSA NoC, the GSA ERC, and the GSA GC.**
- **Grants processing** and planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.
- Assisting the **ALES GSA election.**
- **GSA Agenda/Handbook** preparation.
- **Assistance with event planning.**