

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex



**A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm at 2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex.**

**Substantive material** is sent to all GSA Council members at least one week prior to the date of the meeting to give members abundant time to review (in accordance with the Standing Orders of Council). Any additional substantive material received after this mailing will be emailed as soon as possible.

**Reports** from committees, Directly-Elected Officers, and management are emailed the Friday before a Monday meeting so that the content is as current as possible.

**Speaker Sulya Fenichel in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 19 October 2015 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 21 September 2015 GSA Council Meeting  
*Attachments:*
  - Minutes from the 21 September 2015 GSA Council Meeting
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
  - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**Attached Numbered Pages**

**3.0-3.9**

**Presentations and Councillor Announcements**

5. University of Alberta Vice-President Academic and Provost  
**Colin More (GSA President) will present the item and introduce the guest.**  
  
**Guests:** Steven Dew (University of Alberta Vice-President Academic and Provost) and Philip Stack (Associate Vice-President, Risk Management Services)
6. Councillor Announcements

**Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates**

7. GSA Standing Committee Elections  
**Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.**  
  
*Attachments:*
  - Nominees for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board
  - Nominees for Councillor-at-Large
  - Nominees for the Dean of Engineering Selection Committee

**7.0 – 7.11**  
**7.12 – 7.13**  
**7.14 – 7.17**

Prepared by J Tanguay, C Thomas, and E Schoeck for the Council Meeting of October 19, 2015

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## For Information

8. Survey of Departmental Councillors on GSA Negotiated Services for Graduate Students  
**Colin More (GSA President) and Alireza Talaei (GSA Vice-President Student Services) will present the item.**

### *Attachments:*

- Survey of Departmental Councillors on GSA Negotiated Services for Graduate Students **8.0 – 8.2**

## Reports

9. President (**Colin More, GSA President**)
- i. President's Report **9.0 - 9.1**
  - ii. GSA Board **9.2**
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
  - iv. GSA Governance Committee **9.3**
10. GSA Nominating Committee
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report (**Michele DuVal, GSA Nominating Committee Administrative Chair**) **10.0 – 10.1**
  - ii. Election of GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Chair and Vice-Chair
- Attachments:
- Nominees for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Chair and Vice-Chair **10.2 – 10.3**
11. Vice-President Academic (**Harsh Thaker, GSA Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report **11.0 -11.1**
12. Vice-President External (**Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report **12.0 –12.1**
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee **12.2**
13. Vice-President Labour (**Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report **13.0 – 13.1**
  - ii. GSA Negotiating Committee **13.2**
  - iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee **13.3**
14. Vice-President Student Services (**Alireza Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **14.0**
  - ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (Joint Chair: Vice-President External) (**no meetings this reporting period**)
15. Senator (**Leigh Spanner, GSA Senator**)
- i. Senator's Report **15.0**
16. Speaker (**Sulya Fenichel, GSA Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
17. Chief Returning Officer (**Virginia Pimmitt, GSA Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **18.0**

Prepared by J Tanguay, C Thomas, and E Schoeck for the Council Meeting of October 19, 2015

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19. GSA Management (**Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director**)
  - i. Executive Director's Report

**19.0 – 19.7**

**Question Period**

20. Written Questions (**none at this time**)

21. Oral Questions

**Adjournment**

**Meeting Minutes  
21 September 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)	Maria Mora (Biomedical Eng)	Sumit Mandal (Human Ecology)	Ines Zuna (Pharmacology)
Harsh Thaker (VP Academic)	Syed Daniyal Israr (Business MBA)	Rachel Osolen (Humanities Computing)	Kathy Tang (Pharmacy & Pharm Sci)
Sarah Ficko (VP Labour)	Sarah Prendergast (Business MBA)	Muhammad Usama Arif (Internetworking)	Jay Worthy (Philosophy)
Alphonse Ndem Ahola (VP External)	Paola Ometto (Business PhD)	Jessica Peck (Library & Info Sciences)	Norbert Kanyo (Physical Ed & Recreation)
Ali Talaei (VP Student Services)	Beth Richardson (Cell Bio)	Claudia Heinrich (Linguistics)	Brooke Hanson (Physical Therapy)
Sulya Fenichel (Speaker)	Avinash Sheshachalam (Cell Bio)	Amir Nosrati (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Ruijia Wang (Physics)
Virginia Pimmett (CRO)	Elaheh Davari (Chem & Materials Engineering)	Vanessa Carias (Medical Genetics)	Jonathan Gotzmann (Physiology)
Leigh Spanner (Senator/Councillor-at-Large)	Hezhen Xie (Andrew) (Chemistry)	Colleen Reid (Med Microbiology & Immunology)	Margot Challborn (Poli Sci)
Pooran Appadu (Councillor-at-Large)	Firouz Khodayari (Civil & Enviro Engineering)	Melissa Silva (Medicine)	Joshua Yong (Psychology)
Susan Cake (Councillor-at-Large)	Jordan Bartlett (Communication Sci & Disorders)	Elli Dehnavi (Modern Lang & Cultural Studies)	Colin Reynolds (Public Health)
Jude Kong (Councillor-at-Large)	Victor Guana (Comp Sci)	David Parent (Native Studies)	Michael Gillingham (Religious Studies)
Hannah Madsen (Councillor-at-Large)	Shelby Sanders (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Grant Norman (Neuroscience)	Alison Murata (Renewable Resources)
Megha Bajaj (Councillor-at-Large)	Amanda Radil (Ed Psychology)	Upinder Singh (Nursing)	Stephen Bruce (REES)
Tania Shewring (AFNS)	Lorna Sutherland (Elem Education)	Sheena Moodie (Occupational Therapy)	Kerry Rose (Secondary Ed)
Kateryna Pashkovska (Anthropology)	Joanne Farmer (Elem Education)	Sheldon Burke (Oncology)	Tasha Jayatunge (Sociology)
Michael Woolley (Art & Design)	Amanda Daignault (English & Film Studies)	Radim Barta (Oncology)	Kelsi Barkway (Sociology)
Michele DuVal (Bio Sciences)	Neil Prather (History & Classics)	Ashley Bahry (Pediatrics)	Nasser Abualhassan (Surgery)
Alex Clifford (Bio Sciences)			

**GUESTS:** Brent Epperson (Graduate Ombudsperson); Devin Siebold (New GSA staff member)

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 21 September, 2015 Consolidated Agenda**

Prepared by J. Tanguay and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 21 September 2015

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Members had before them the 21 September, 2015 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015.

S Fenichel **MOVED**; S Ficko **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**3. Minutes**

**i. Minutes from the 20 July, 2015 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 20 July, 2015 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 11 September, 2015.

S Fenichel **MOVED**; L Spanner **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: K Pashkovska (Anthropology); L Sutherland and Joanne Farmer (Elementary Education); A Sheshachalam (Cell Biology); C Heinrich (Linguistics); M Silva (Medicine); B Hanson (Physical Therapy); J Gotzmann (Physiology); J Yong (Psychology); E Dehnavi (MLCS); N Prather (History & Classics); D Parent (Native Studies); M U Arif (Internetworking); N Abualhassan (Surgery); S Burke and R Barta (Oncology); M Mora (Biomedical Eng); S Prendergast (MBA, alternate); M Challborn (Poli Sci).

**ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors**

This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: A Daignault (English & Film Studies).

**Presentations and Councillor Announcements**

**5. University of Alberta Graduate Ombudservice**

**Colin More introduced the guest, Brent Epperson (Graduate Ombudsperson)**

B Epperson introduced the Ombudservice to GSA Council. He wanted Council to know what the Ombudservice is, the services on offer, and what individuals can do to help reduce conflicts in their departments. The Ombudservice is free and confidential. The Ombudservice is also independent; for ombudspeople to do their job well, they need to be independent from all departments, faculties, and student or staff associations. The Ombudservice advocates for fairness within the system; they uphold procedural fairness. B Epperson differentiated between substantive fairness (fairness of the decision itself) and relational fairness (fair treatment of each individual involved). In some cases, all of the rules are followed but the outcome is unfair for one individual. In some cases, individuals are treated unfairly or bullied.

The Ombudservice increased the number of orientations and conflict resolution presentations to improve awareness of their services. B Epperson offered a brief history of the concept of the ombudsperson and detailed the model of service they employ in their office. He emphasized again that Ombudspeople are distinguished by their independence from the powers that be and clarified that they have no arbitration power and therefore cannot impose their solutions.

The graduate student proportion of case work at the Ombudservice office is relatively small and the cases are often supervisor conflicts. These cases often involve dozens of hours of input to reach outcomes. Work style differences are the easiest cases to fix and are largely the result of poor communication. These disputes are often resolved informally. Authorship disputes are similarly a result of a lack of communication and could often be mitigated from the outset. Conflicts often arise in TA/RA-Supervisor relationships. Alleged harassment or bullying

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requires following many existing university procedures. In these categories, we can do better if we ensure that new students talk with their supervisors in the beginning. Most cases occur in two faculties: Engineering and Medicine & Dentistry. However, there are cases across all faculties. Learning good communication strategies can solve many of these issues.

C More asked if some of these issues are the result of language barriers. B Epperson responded that this comes up often and that there is miscommunication and offense taken where none was intended. If a student comes to the Ombudservice for help, they can work on communication strategies; no one else needs to know about this and since the aim is for better communication with the supervisor, the case need not be escalated.

If these strategies do not work, the next step is to seek assistance from the graduate chair. The student can do this independently or the Ombudservice will work with them. This often results in informal resolution. If the case escalates, the next step is to refer the case to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. There is a hierarchical advantage at this point. Cases that reach this point are also the most difficult and few cases escalate this far. Unresolved cases are most often a result of students approaching Ombudservice too late. 6-9% of cases result in formal grievances, which the Ombudservice regards as a failure. When students withdraw or change from a PhD to a Masters, Ombudservice also considers this a failure.

The Ombudservice offers tips to reduce conflict: deal with things early and access the right resources early. Do not let conflict go on longer than necessary and do not escalate needlessly. Talk to your supervisor directly and openly; do not assume the other party knows when you have a problem. Act professionally even if/when the other party does not; maintain your clean record. Preserve your relationship with your supervisor whenever possible, it's not as easy to change supervisors as you might think. Empower yourself with the knowledge about which resources to access and when. Share this information with your peers. Encourage direct communication and early action.

P Appadu asked for a copy of the Powerpoint slides to distribute to his department.

A Nosrati shared a negative experience with a supervisor in his department. The Graduate Chair was not able to do anything and other professors did not want to supervise the students. A Nosrati suggested that his experience was so negative, if you have a problem, do not talk to anyone. B Epperson respectfully disagreed. An Ombudsperson by nature has no power and is therefore not a threat. The Graduate Chair and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research do have power; there are differences between faculties as to the amount of influence the Chair has over supervisors. The rank of professors within their department certainly plays a role but the university is a hierarchical structure. An assistant professor who is a bad supervisor is vulnerable. The Ombudservice often sees better results when dealing with junior faculty. Outcomes are not universal and there is certainly a problem with hierarchies in academy. However, going it alone is not the best course. The Ombudservice sees many students who tried to solve issues by themselves because of advice like this and they rarely accomplish anything.

S Bruce also cited a situation where a supervisor was unresponsive on an issue until it was too late. B Epperson explained that results are typically better when someone else is helping you to resolve the issue advising you in the proper process.

S Cake thanked B Epperson for the presentation and asked, on behalf of a graduate student she knew, if the Ombudservice is able to help with navigating University structures. B Epperson responded that he could meet the student and do some research on the individual case but it would likely result in a referral.

### **6. Councillor Announcements**

None at this time

### **Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates**

#### **7. GSA Standing Committee Elections**

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**Michele DuVal will present the items.**

**MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee and effective immediately, the newly-elected members of the GSA Awards Selection Committee.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee and effective immediately, the newly-elected members of the GSA Awards Selection Committee. M DuVal **MOVED**. M Bajaj **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

**MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee and effective immediately, the newly-elected members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee and effective immediately, the newly-elected members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. M DuVal **MOVED**. M Bajaj **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

8. Judicial Committee and GSA Appeals and Complaints Board: Change to Name in GSA Bylaw (Second Reading)  
**Colin More (Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.**

**MOTION 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 re-titling of GSA Bylaw, Part V, Standing Committee, Section 1.3.10, "GSA Appeals and Complaints Board," from the current "Judicial Committee".

**MOTION:** That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Governance Committee and effective immediately, the re-titling of GSA Bylaw, Part V, Standing Committee, Section 1.3.10, "GSA Appeals and Complaints Board," from the current "Judicial Committee". L Spanner **MOVED**. A Talaei **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED unanimously**

9. Performance and Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Conflict of Commitment: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Movement to GSA Policy (Second Reading)  
**Colin More (Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Leigh Spanner (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 immediately, the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and its movement to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

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

**Motion PASSED. 1 Abstention**

### For Information

- 10. GSA Negotiated Services for Graduate Students**  
**Colin More (GSA President), Alireza Talaei (GSA Vice-President Student Services), and Ellen Schoeck (GSA Executive Director) presented the item.**

S Fenichel suggested GSA Departmental Councillors share information of the following presentation on services with students in their department.

A Talaei specified that at the next GSA Council meeting there will be a survey on GSA negotiated services. A Talaei kindly requested Departmental Councillors to survey the students in their department about GSA negotiated services and the use they make of them. On Health and Dental, A Talaei noted that all full time students are automatically registered, and that part-time students can ask to be added to the Plan. He also noted that the Plan offers additional services to what Alberta Health offered. On U-Pass, he noted that the U-Pass allows students to use transit services in and around Edmonton for a quarter of the regular fee. On Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF), A Talaei indicated that during the negotiation for the Collective Agreement, the GSA Negotiating Committee also negotiates a lump sum of money to give directly back to graduate students. A Talaei proceeded to highlight what the GSA offered with this money: Professional Development Awards (can apply up to six weeks before the event; \$500 for master students, and \$1000 for PhD students with a maximum of \$500 per fiscal year), Child Care Grant (\$1000 per child under twelve per year), Emergency Bursaries (financial support for unforeseen costs), Academically-Related Student Group Awards (for registered student group to help support academic events), and Recognition Awards (around twenty awards from the GSA are given during a soiree to reward, for example, TAs, RAs, etc). On the agreement that the GSA has with TD, A Talaei specified that graduate students can access a discount rate when buying insurance. On the Graduate Students Assistance Program (GSAP), A Talaei noted some of their services (including life development, legal consultation, financial consultation, career counseling). All these services have been approved by GSA Council.

E Schoeck specified that there were some pamphlets about the services at the front and that the GSA Council summary would include the slides.

P Appadu asked if it was possible to add more information to the slides and to add links to the website. A Talaei agreed to amend the slides circulated with the summary.

S Bruce asked for some specific information about the Health and Dental Plan. A Talaei reinforced the idea that the GSA negotiates the Plan but doesn't administer it. C More also specified that contractually the GSA is not allowed to provide information about the Plan. S Fenichel added that the ihaveaplan website is very comprehensive. M Bejaj noted that their office was located in SUB 6-14.

- 11. GSA Councillors-at-Large**  
**Colin More (Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.**

C More did a short history of GSA Council composition; specifying that in the past there was proportional representation however since the records are incomplete we don't really know why we moved to one councillor per department. C More also indicated that when this change happened big departments were losing a lot so, as a political move, GSA Council introduced Councillors-at-Large (CALs) thinking that they would mostly be from larger departments. The question of CALs has never been re-examined after that. C More noted that Hamman Samuel, GSA Chief Returning Officer 2014-2015, brought forward the issue of CALs being elected in the General Election after the 2015 General Election, to which there were more questions than answers for example on the election process, their mandate, and the accountability and recall mechanism. L Spanner noted that right now CAL positions are a governance issue. She indicated that the positions haven't functioned as intended; CALs come from various departments including small ones. She mentioned other concerns with CALs such as the fact that they are

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supposed to represent all graduate students, but right now in Policy there is no accountability mechanism and the lack of a platform to deliver any election promises. L Spanner noted that the GSA Election and Referenda Committee and the GSA Governance Committee examined these questions, and that herself and C More met with current CALs to discuss these issues. C More invited GSA Councillors to give feedback on what the future of CALs should be and to deal with the limitations presented above.

R Barta asked about the process for the election of the CALs. C More answered that CALs are elected in the General Election at the same time as the Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), and GSA Council elects any remaining positions; once a CAL is elected they basically have the same rights and responsibilities as Departmental Councillors. They are supposed to represent all graduate students but that is unfeasible.

C Reynolds noted that he thought that CALs were important; there is not a lot of people who get involved and CAL positions allow people who are interested to be involved on a functional basis.

S Cake asked how a graduate student would hold a CAL accountable. C More replied that the only mechanism for a CAL to lose their seat is the attendance policy but at the moment we don't really have an accountability mechanism or a recall mechanism. S Cake then asked if adding these mechanisms would fix issues with the CAL positions. E Schoeck specified that Departmental Councillors can be recalled by their department, nothing like that existed for CALs. She also added that she was not sure how to connect all graduate students with the CALs. C More also added that using the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) to recall CALs would be sidestepping the student body. S Fenichel gave a short explanation of the GSA ACB. R Barta asked if only GSA Councillors can make a complaint to the GSA ACB or any graduate student. M DuVal replied that anyone can access the GSA ACB.

S Sanders pointed out that, going back to the original intent of CALs, we could think of having the CALs accountable to their department. C More replied that having them elected by all the graduate students but having them recalled by their department seem improper.

M Bejaj suggested defining CALs' responsibilities (for example active participation in GSA Council, helping with events) and making them accountable to GSA Council.

Following a question by H Thaker there was a discussion of past candidatures for CAL positions, C More indicated that, in his knowledge, CALs candidature numbers have been low and most positions for DEOs have been uncontested. S Cake specified that when she ran for a DEO position, DEO positions were contested, and so were the CAL positions.

H Thaker underlined the fact that it will be nice to know more about the history of the CALs positions to make a decision for the future. E Schoeck gave more background about the CAL positions. She specified that the piece about the CALs being responsible to all graduate students was added because there was nothing else, that GSA Council made a decision on how the remaining positions of CAL were filled after the General Election; which are now filled by GSA Council, and lastly that the participation for CAL positions has been pretty low except for the 2014 General Election.

G Norman suggested having a CAL for each Faculty. N Prather agreed with this idea. C More replied that that was an interesting idea that the committees have not considered but they will.

A Daignault mentioned that however we decide to move forward with CALs, there was a need to put in place a mechanism for the students that they represent to be able to reach them. If not it becomes an empty position. S Cake suggested having a list of the CALs on the GSA website to make them more accessible to graduate students.

S Cake also raised the question that DEOs also vote in GSA Council on behalf of all graduate students, and wondered if there were any concerns about their accountability. L Spanner reminded that for DEOs there are other mechanisms to hold them accountable; they have a portfolio that itemized their responsibilities and they report to GSA Council.

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J Worthy asked if GSA Council could not go back to a proportional representation. C More answered that reforming GSA Council is a much bigger discussion.

J Kong specified that as of right now CALs don't have a clear mandate and that his suggestion is to remove them. G Norman pointed out that with proportional representation and clear guidelines it could eliminate a lot of problems.

After J Kong's comment S Fenichel, for the benefit of new GSA Departmental Councillors pointed out that J Kong, M Bejaj, S Cake, and P Appadu are CALs.

K Barkway mentioned that CALs can provide an extra voice for departments that don't have representation.

N Prather mentioned that as a member of the executive of a departmental GSA he has to report back, maybe that process should be standardized.

**12. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update**  
**Colin More (GSA President) presented the item.**

C More offered an update on the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. The PAW centre has been a GSA priority for the past few years. Our space in the building is done; we have an agreement with Chopped Leaf. There is a cheat sheet for the Collective Agreement that we can offer to grad chairs or students. We try to educate as much as we can on the details. The Prayer and Meditation Space has been worked on for the past decade, more space on campus for religious purposes. We are trying to get the money to build the space and we are still working on it. Our Fall Professional Development event is full. We will have another event in the winter. For social engagement, we will have 12 coffee dates, on different days and times, in Triffo Hall or over in the PAW grad lounge. Come and socialize over coffee. In terms of Advocacy, ab-GPAC is working on engaging the Alberta Government; tuition fee regulation and bringing international students in under that regulation. We have some supervision initiative under way with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Brent Epperson. We have engaged University of Alberta International to make progress with Permanent Residence assistance. Some of these things we will never fully complete because they require sustained engagement over time. We have been in good discussions with the University about structures around MNIFs and CoSSS, and the Athletics and Recreation fee. Historically, this money has always gone into a black hole without specific distribution. We need more accountability and transparency. Increased funding will always be an ongoing issue because we always want more funding. We are in a negotiating year and are going to try new tactics for bargaining with the Board of Governors. Increased funding for Graduate Student Support Fund is something we are constantly negotiating for but it is ongoing.

P Appadu asked about the Graduate Student Support Fund. C More explained that we receive \$690,000 from the Provost and it is split up among our awards and distributed to students that way. P Appadu asked what the proposals are for increased funding. C More responded that in the past the approach has been to emphasize that grad students live close to the poverty line. We think the Board of Governors will respond to the idea of return on investment; they want the University to be great. We will argue that increased salaries will bring quality in grad students.

P Appadu also asked what is being done to connect with graduate student groups. C More stated that the idea is to meet with as many student groups as we can and to hear from the average grad student to find out what the issues are for different departments. A Ndem Ahola added that we did more orientations than ever this year – more than 40. The more orientations we do, the more involvement we will have.

**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 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More stated:

- The Professional Development event is full but there will be another event in the winter. The Coffee Breaks for Unwind Your Mind will take place over the fall and winter.
- Falling Walls is at the same time as our Professional Development event, in CCIS 1-440. This is listed in the FGSR newsletter, go to the FGSR Website for more information.
- M Bajaj asked for a list of guests who will attend the Professional Development event.

#### **ii. GSA Board**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted.

#### **iii. Budget and Finance Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted.

#### **iv. Governance Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted.

S Cake asked since when the Chair and Vice-Chair approve editorial changes, when did this happen? C More replied that it happened about two years ago.

#### **a) Nominating Committee**

##### **Presented by M DuVal, Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M DuVal stated:

- The Appeals and Complaints Board is still in need of nominations from Councillors to serve on that Board. If anyone is interested, please email gsanomco@ualberta.ca. E Schoeck clarified that nominees can be Councillors or alternates.

### **15. Vice-President Academic**

#### **i. Vice-President Academic's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Thaker stated:

- A few months ago, H Thaker brought the Professional Development requirements from Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to Council; these new policies will apply to new students starting in 2016 only. Current students are exempt unless they are so interested.
- Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council has 11 vacancies. It is very exciting and GSA holds a caucus meeting beforehand. If you are interested, please contact Julie (Tanguay). See you all on Friday at Green & Gold day.

### **16. Vice-President External**

#### **i. Vice-President External's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Ndem Ahola stated:

- At our last Council meeting an international Student came to us wondering about fees and tuition. International tuition is not covered by the Post Secondary Learning Act. We discussed this with other

universities in August in Winnipeg. Most other universities are also trying to do something on this issue for their international students. We are still working on the ongoing issue.

- Permanent Residence is changing and international students are confused. This also came up in Winnipeg. We are not qualified to advise anyone about Permanent Residence, only a lawyer can do that. Some universities hire lawyers for this purpose.
- There will be changes in Residence Services; rents are increasing according to CPI. There will be a new “All You Care To Eat” meal plan for 2016.
- S Cake expressed concerns for set check-in times for residences. When some international students land and it is their first time in Canada they arrive outside of these set check-in times and have nowhere else to go. Residence Services should have something in place to help students in these situations. A Ndem Ahola thanked S Cake for bringing up this issue.

#### 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 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Ficko stated:

- We are in a Negotiating year – the GSA Board just passed the four members on the GSA Negotiating Committee with S Ficko – C More, D Smirnow, M Bal, and H Thaker.
- S Ficko is sitting on the Installation Ceremony committee for the new President. They are making a Welcome video. They need about 20 students to talk about their experiences. If anyone is interested, please let S Ficko know.
- K Barkway asked about the process for negotiations and reporting to Council. S Ficko responded that the Collective Agreement is for Academically-Employed Graduate Students, and negotiated with the Board of Governors. The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) meets through August to bring issues forward to be dealt with in the next agreement. The Graduate Student Support Fund is also a big part of these negotiations. We also want to focus on compliance this year. K Barkway asked how Councillors can bring information back to their departments. S Ficko stated that negotiations are sensitive so we need to keep some information confidential. S Ficko will report back to next Council. C More expressed that the Negotiating Committee will share as much as it is able to.
- S Cake asked if Council could get the Collective Agreement further in advance than last year, when it was circulated three days before Council. C More stated that the three days turnaround was not typical or ideal. They will strive for a normal cycle this year. S Ficko stated that the committee is making an effort to get ahead of these things so that Council can have the information early.

#### ii. Negotiating Committee

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

#### iii. Labour Relations Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

### 18. Vice-President Student Services

#### i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Talaei stated:

- C More previously updated Council on the graduate student lounge in PAW but A Talaei added that the HVAC issues are fixed so the temperature should be OK. Phys Ed has promised to provide a TV and microwave and next summer we hope to have a patio.
- The Office of Sustainability has a new internship of 3-4 months with the City of Edmonton. They are going to offer 12-20 positions for this summer. There is also a survey on their website, go fill it out.

- M Silva asked where the graduate student lounge in PAW is located. A Talaei explained the location, inside the doors across from SUB, to the right.

**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 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted.

**20. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**21. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

- GSA ERC is meeting tomorrow (Sept 22, 2015) to set timelines for elections this year. Keep your eyes open for the finalized version.

**22. Elections and Referenda Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 September, 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 18 September, 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Schoeck stated:

- E Schoeck offered an update on the GSA staff and management. Julie is the Nominating and Elections Specialist; Fiona is the guiding hand behind events and grants; Megan is support for Board, Council, and ab-GPAC. Megan is moving to Camrose and Julie is training for her position. Devin is here tonight to train for Julie's position. Heather was assistant Dean of FGSR for many years and is now on our side of the table. Courtney is back from vacation tomorrow; she holds a PhD from Yale and previously worked for University Governance. E Schoeck was director of the University Secretariat, reporting to 4 presidents.

**Question Period**

**24. Written Questions**

**None at this time**

**25. Oral Questions**

- none

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)

**GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (12 POSITIONS: 4 positions for GSA Departmental Councillors,  
Alternates or Recent Former Departmental Councillor, and 8 positions for Graduate Students)  
NOMINEES**

GSA Council approved the creation of GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) at the July Council meeting, since then the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) has worked to populate the GSA ACB. The GSA NoC advertised these positions to all graduate students through the GSA Newsletter on August 28 and September 4, 2015, and on the GSA website. The deadline to receive nominations was September 11, 2015, at 12:00 PM (Noon). Thirteen (13) nominations were received by the deadline and two (2) candidates subsequently withdrew their nominations. The remaining eleven (11) candidates were interviewed by the GSA NoC in September. Ten (10) nominations were forwarded to GSA Council, along with a call for additional nominations. The deadline for additional nominations was October 7, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Three (3) additional nominations were received. On October 14, 2015, the GSA NoC interviewed these three (3) nominees.

As set out in GSA Policy, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section 5.4:

"The GSA NoC will interview all nominees to the GSA ACB, including those who are additional nominations from GSA Council, and forward selected nominees to GSA Council."

During the interview process, the GSA NoC evaluated the nominees on their demonstrated ability to be neutral, their capacity of acting impartially, their capacity for reserving judgment until all parties have been heard, and their independent thinking.

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the October 21, 2015 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the October 21, 2015, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday April 20, 2015, in order to cast your vote in advance of the Council meeting.*

**GSA ACB Election by Council: GSA Nominating Committee Procedures**

**The Ballot**

- There will be one ballot with all candidates on the ballot, listed in reverse alphabetical order.
- For each candidate, there will be a "yes" box and a "no" box.

**Voting**

- The voter ticks one box per candidate, or abstains by not voting for a particular candidate (both boxes are left empty).

**Counting**

- If a candidate has more "no" votes than "yes" votes, the candidate is eliminated.
- If after the elimination round, there are **fewer candidate(s) or an equal number of candidates as there are positions**, the candidate(s) with at least one "yes" vote is/are successful.
- If after the elimination round, there are **more** candidates than positions, the candidates with the highest number of "yes" votes, equivalent to the number of positions, are the successful candidates.
- If after the elimination round, there is a **tie for last place** in the number of "yes" votes, the candidate with the

fewest number of “no” vote is successful. If the tied vote has the same number of both “yes” and “no” votes, the Speaker will draw one name from a hat.

**Please note**, if all five (5) nominees who are Departmental Councillors, alternates or recent former Departmental Councillors receive more “yes” votes than the other nominees (who are not Departmental Councillors, alternates or recent former Departmental Councillors) they will all be elected. This is because the composition of the GSA ACB also includes eight (8) graduate students who are not necessarily Departmental Councillors, alternates or recent former Departmental Councillors (GSA Policy, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section 3.1), and Departmental Councillors, alternates or recent former Departmental Councillors are also graduate students.

**The names and biographies received (thirteen (13) nominees) are BELOW on pages 7.1 – 7.11. Biographies are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

### **Biographies and Resumes of Nominees (Nominees will be listed in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot)**

#### **Graduate Students (8 Nominees)**

##### **1. Hajar Amidian**

##### **Hajar Amidian’s Bio:**

My life has mostly involved a lot of traveling from one province to another in Iran, where I was born, or to other countries. This has given me the opportunity to meet and socialize with people from diverse backgrounds and pick up on their languages, like Farsi, English, and some French and Arabic.

I’ve been always astonished by meeting people from around the world and seeing the common threat that relates us all together. This led me to become actively involved with the United Nations through the 6th UNESCO youth program in Paris as an elected representative, where I presented a summary of articles on youth and social media and helped achieve a comprehensive report of the conference for the Secretary General. Later I became involved with the UNESCO office in Tehran where as a member of a youth group we tried to establish a youth desk. Also, here at the UofA I volunteered at the International Center and assisted in tutoring programs and other activities like the long night against procrastination for students. I have also been a member of the FGSR Academic Appeals Committee since 2012.

##### **Hajar Amidian’s Resume:**

I am a PhD candidate in political science in the areas of international relations and Canadian politics at the University of Alberta. The working title of my thesis is: “Rentier State and Authoritarianism: A Critical Study of Post-Revolutionary Iran”, which attempts to advance the understanding of the correlation between authoritarianism and rentier theory in post-revolutionary Iran. I hold a M.A in North American Studies and a B.A in English Language and Literature from the University of Tehran. I have extensive teaching and research experience in the areas of international relations, international organizations, Canadian politics, North American Studies, and energy policies. I have full professional proficiency of English and Farsi, a limited working proficiency of French, and elementary proficiency of Arabic.

I am interested to become a member of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, because I want to step beyond the mere academic experience that I can gain by completing a program at the UofA and learn what makes this University maintain the high standing that it does. In addition, while I experienced sitting in at an appeal’s meeting as a graduate

student representative, I realized that the process involved in decision makings is somewhat related to what I do in my field of study. Hence I want to learn more about this process.

I am currently focusing on completing my PhD thesis. Therefore, I am on campus and available most days of the week and have a very flexible schedule.

It would an honor for me to get a chance for an interview so I can discuss my qualifications in detail and express my enthusiasm for this position in person.

**Hajar Amidian currently serves on the following committees:**

FGSR Academic Appeals Committee

**2. Suresh Chandra Bairwa**

**Suresh Chandra Bairwa's Bio:**

I was born and raised in India. I am fluent in English. After a BPharmacy degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences in India (2010), I came to Canada to study at the University of Western Ontario and attained an MSc (2014). While studying at the UWO I volunteered with International and Exchange Student Center. I helped many international students to settle and I guided them on how to survive in Canadian environment. Here at the U of A, I acted as judge and volunteered at the Lets Talk Science 2015, Heart and Stroke Foundation Appreciation Day 2015. I am currently volunteering for a non-profit organization at Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization at Edmonton area.

**Suresh Chandra Bairwa's Resume:**

I am a first year PhD student in the Department of Medicine studying the effects of Adipose tissue on the Heart. I work in Dr Jason's lab with both national and international team. In my MSc, I studied in Physiology and Pharmacology department where I pursued on the cardiovascular project. I was teaching assistant for the first year Physiology course and I volunteer at International and Exchange Student Center at UWO.

I am interested in the GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD **position** because this will give me an opportunity to show independent thinking, being neutral on hearing and deciding appeals of GSA Chief Returning Officer decisions and complaints about GSA Officers. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a busy committee.

**Suresh Chandra Bairwa currently serves on the following committees:** None

**3. Tim Buckland**

**Tim Buckland's Bio:**

I am a proud Albertan born and raised. I spent my childhood in a town near Edmonton called Stony Plain. I received two degrees from the U of A; a Bachelor of Science double major in biological and physical sciences and a Master of Science in Biochemistry. I worked as a TA for the 2.5 years I was in my MSc. and really enjoyed this experience. I love public speaking and spent the previous three years working at the Canadian Cancer Society doing just that. I am also a sponsored golfer and when I'm not working or at school will be on the course.

**Tim Buckland's Resume:**

I am in my first year of my second Masters, this time in Business Administration. In my past degree I studied the cellular effects of a BCL-2 protein (BAD) and its role in breast cancer proliferation. I decided once I completed this degree that my strengths are more suited for helping people and spent three years as a Revenue Development Coordinator at the



Canadian Cancer Society. I am interested in the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board as it pertains to the new direction of my life. I want to get some governance experience as this is currently lacking from my background. I believe this board gives me a great opportunity to be impartial and support my fellow students.

**Tim Buckland currently serves on the following committees:** None

#### 4. Christopher Chen

##### **Christopher Chen's Bio:**

I was born and raised in Edmonton and completed all my post-secondary education at the University of Alberta. I started in 2008 in the Faculty of Science, transferred to the Faculty of Pharmacy in 2010 and after completing my pharmacy degree in 2014, I started a MSc. in the School of Public Health. When I'm not working on my thesis I'm either playing with my dog or playing soccer with friends.

##### **Christopher Chen's Resume:**

Throughout my seven years at the University of Alberta I've become familiar with some aspects of governance. In 2012 I represented the Faculty of Pharmacy on the General Faculties Council and most recently sat on the GSA Elections and Referendum Committee. In 2012 I was also a campaign manager in the undergraduate Students' Union Executive elections, working on one of the Vice-President Academic campaigns. From 2013 to 2014 I was a volunteer on various Students' Union campaigns, eventually helping past Vice-President Operations and Finance and Vice-President Student Life candidates win their elections. On these campaigns I completed anything from posting posters to writing platforms. With 3 years of campaigning experience and seven years on campus, I've seen or been apart of many DIE board hearings. Thus I understand the qualities of a strong committee. For example impartiality, informed decision making and ensuring both sides have equal opportunity to present their case.

##### **Christopher Chen currently serves on the following committees:**

GSA Elections and Referendum Committee

#### 5. Sebastian Dietrich

##### **Sebastian Dietrich's Bio and Resume:**

Sebastian Dietrich is an international graduate student at the University of Alberta and currently enrolled in the Environmental Soil Science PhD program and is a participant of the LRIGS program. As a graduate student, he is working as research assistant (RA) / teaching assistant (TA) in Prof. MacKenzie's lab. Sebastian is married and has a 2 year old daughter. He received his BSc (Forest Sciences) and MSc (Natural Resource Management) from the Dresden University of Technology in Germany, and was involved in regional politics during the period of studies in Germany. Besides this, he was employed as TA and RA and equally worked for DHL. Post graduation Sebastian was working in British Columbia and afterward at the University of Alberta in line with the International Experience Canada program. He has experience as consultant in the environmental field in Germany. Currently he is the President of the Renewable Resources Graduate Students' Association.

When I started my graduate studies program at the University of Alberta in 2014, I was not aware of the fact that a majority of graduate students in our department are not involved in student activities. I realized that a greater number us is not even aware of what for example the GSA is doing for the graduate students, and I figured that we are facing a communication problem between the GSA and graduate students.

For the future I would like to work towards establishing new regulations for the assignment and employment of graduate students and hope to find support for this. Rising costs of living indicate that an establishment of new minimum payments for graduate students needs to be established campus wide, which also account for higher costs for international students and dependent children of students.

**Sebastian Dietrich currently serves on the following committees:** President RenR GSA

## **6. Stepan Lavrinenko**

### **Stepan Lavrinenko's Bio:**

I finished a BSc with Specialization in Geophysics from University of Alberta in 2013. I have worked on-and-off in seismic and microseismic service companies until April 2015, after which I enrolled in the IPG MSc. During my work for Reservoir Imaging, I had to write my own software to accommodate client needs, and had to design my own workflows in order to make my work more efficient. During field work, I came across a serious flaw in the most important structure of the project. I was not trained to look for these types of flaws and have never seen one, even as an example. However, using my education and training, I deduced only one possible reason and reported it to the client company, saving a lot of money and possible casualties. I have made this decision in a stressful situation- while working a 12hr night shift, while constantly having to perform multiple unrelated tasks, and understanding that a mistake will cost the client company a lot of money. As a result of my analysis, my company got three more contracts from the client company.

During my BSc, I worked as a research assistant in my area of interest. I was hired to manually identify certain waveforms in a massive amount of data repetitive, ineffective work that would take many months to complete. Instead, I persuaded my supervisor to give me some time to write a code to automatize the workflow, and after careful research, produced such a method. It saved a lot of time, as well as packing more science in each identified waveform, as it was more complexly analyzed now. I know that my code was still used after I left the project (due to the increased time I needed for studying during the last year of the degree).

I have also worked as a security guard in the Northgate mall during my BSc. People who are related to crime prevention will know that this is one of the higher-criminal rate areas, with a police officer serving in the school across them all. On the backdrop of serious crimes such as murders, possession of illegal drugs and firearms, sex abuse, etc., smaller crimes like thefts have to be solidly proven. When I was working there, the mall was using quite outdated video systems, that constantly froze, were difficult to check the recordings of, and so on. I managed to record jewelry and merchandise thefts from different cameras for the police, and with the help of the witnesses, successfully being able to narrow down and identify the suspects. I also was able to help keep our ranks clean- when myself and another security guard were able to prove that our Shift Supervisor was stealing merchandise and food from kiosks as well. The two of us caught a sex pervert once as well. I also received an appreciation letter from an elderly lady that had a heart surgery a day before and had postsurgical complications a day after, while visiting the mall. We provided the required first aid and applied the defibrillator until the paramedics arrived. During high school, I attended Air Cadets, worked in the greenshack program and volunteered in the Clean Water Day and as an Observatory assistant.

### **Stepan Lavrinenko's Resume:**

#### **SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES :**

- Experienced in Microseismic and Seismic processing and analysis
- Designed new techniques in applied microseismics
- Strong work ethics. Has been spending personal time on research review in order to get to the bottom of things
- Real-time processing experience, ability to make decisions under stressful circumstances
- Like working in teams, but not afraid of doing individual projects

## WORK EXPERIENCES :

## PROCESSING GEOPHYSICIST JUNE 2014- MAY 2015 (Reservoir Imaging Ltd.)

- Performed MS analysis, and interpretation
- Performing various error analyses, geobody density, volumetrics, event magnitude distributions
- Inventing new techniques, writing supplementary codes
- Coming up with new ways to visualize dependencies and errors
- Organized the workflow to make it more automatized (with scripts and excel formulas) and efficient
- Real-time MS processing experience on 3 projects in US oilfields, including coordinating calibration shots, ensuring well integrity, helping the frack crew calibrate the location, amount and volume of the stages.
- Mentoring colleagues in MS processing and analysis

## SEISMIC DRILLING SPRING 2014 (Terroza Exploration Services Inc.)

- Saw the side of the industry invisible from an office chair
- Got to know how poor survey planning can affect data acquisition and how mistakes in the field translate to poor quality seismic data
- Got a unique chance to see the “bigger picture” of the Oil & Gas industry

## SEISMIC PROCESSOR SUMMER 2013 (Earth Signal Processing Ltd.)

- ESP is an international seismic processing company, mostly known for 3D Merges (largest merge of 117 separate 3D's)
- Undergone extensive training with ESP's proprietary software (which is structured similar to other industry standards) Started off with technician's training (filling decks, preparing 2D/3D geometries, first-break picks), and moved into processing (from velocity analysis to stacks to post-stack processing on 2D and 3D datasets)
- Successfully completed a project focused on strengths and weaknesses of different 3D geometries and on 5D seismic interpolation

## FULL/PART-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT 2012 (University of Alberta)

- Research under Dr. van der Baan and Amna Feroz (PhD), as a part of Microseismic Industry Consortium. Main focus is on hydraulic fracturing.
- Devised techniques to accelerate oil exploration workflow by 7-8 times (Shell project). Currently applying this methodology to EOG data. Collaborated on shale gas exploration project (ConocoPhillips).
- Invented a new semi-automatic S-wave picking/ quality control interactive method using N.Magotra's formulae as a basis

## GARDA SECURITY GUARD 2010-2011 (Londonderry mall )

- Achieved First Aid and CPR level C certification
- Received an Appreciation letter for preventing a post-surgical heart failure of an elderly lady

## JUNIOR ANALYST 2008-2010 (Maxxam Analytics)

- Performed various analyses on oil-containing sands, bitumen, liquid oil and Gas
- Completed H2S certification
- Completed proper hazard safety training and solidified it upon encountering an actual emergency situation

## FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE :

## GEOPHYSICS 436 (APEGA REQUIREMENT AFTER 2014) 2012 Near Milkriver, Alberta

- Conducted a variety of surveys in order to explore the subsurface: Gravity and Magnetics analyses, Ground Penetrating Radar, EM sounding, Electrical Resistivity Tomography, Differential GPS plus GIS mapping, Reflection Seismic Profiling, Refraction Seismic Profiling (P and S wave), Vertical Seismic Profiling, Geophysical Well Logging
- Processed and interpreted the raw data in order to demonstrate the correlation of different techniques and uncover possible causes of anomalies and errors

#### EDUCATION:

Currently in the IPG MSc program (2015-2016)

Achieved a BSc, Specialization in Geophysics May 2013

University of Alberta

- G.P.A. for the last year: 3.7
- Developed a throughout understanding of major geophysical exploration and interpretation techniques including gravity, MT, radar, resistivity, well logging, sounding, refraction and reflection as well as remote sensing techniques.
- Excelled in vital Petrophysics, Geological structures, mapping and mineralogy courses.
- Achieved a FACULTY OF SCIENCE HONOR ROLL(s), JASON LANG SCHOLARSHIP(s) and APEGA FUND IN GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS after undergoing a difficult program change.

#### LANGUAGES:

Fluent in English and Russian, can understand Ukrainian, learning Arabic

#### VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCES:

OBSERVATORY ASSISTANT 2004-2005

1. Telus World of Science, Edmonton, AB
2. South observatory in MacMillan Space Centre, Vancouver, BC.

**Stepan Lavrinenko currently serves on the following committees:** None

## 7. Justin Leifso

### Justin Leifso's Bio:

I was born and raised in Southern Saskatchewan. I received my BA Honours in Political Science (2006) from the University of Regina, after which I began a career in the Saskatchewan public service. I spent 2007/08 teaching English in Korea, received my MA in Political Science at the University of Alberta (2011) and, in 2013, returned to Edmonton to pursue my PhD. I have served on the board of the Saskatchewan Festival of Words, the executive of the Political Science Graduate Student Union, and volunteered with a number of organizations including the Edmonton Christmas Bureau. I have served the GSA as a member of the Dean of Arts Review Committee and member of the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC), and currently sit on the General Faculties Council (GFC).

### Justin Leifso's Resume:

I am now a third year PhD student in the Department of Political Science, currently developing my dissertation proposal. Before moving to Edmonton to pursue my PhD, I was a Manager of Performance Audits in the Office of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan and a Senior Policy Analyst in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health. The Appeals and Complaints Board (ACB) will serve as a crucial piece of the GSA's governance structure and, as a new board, will require members with experience in procedural fairness and high-pressure situations. I believe my experience, both academic and professional, makes me a suitable candidate for the position.

## 8. Matthew R. Semaka

12 PAGES



Edmonton, AB

University of Alberta

2013 – Present

- ☑ MBA in Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment; Golden Key International Honor Society acceptance.
- ☑ Bachelor of Commerce with Major in Accounting, 2009.

Edmonton, AB Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta 2009 – 2011

- ☑ Chartered Accountant designation.

## VOLUNTEER WORK &amp; EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Ronald MacDonald House

- ☑ Facilitator of Home for Dinner Program

Junior Achievement

- ☑ Student development; classroom presentations to students with emphasis on benefits education and financial literacy.

MBA Part-time Committee

- ☑ Represent part-time MBA students; organize networking and social events.

MBA Outreach Committee

- ☑ Publicize and promote Alberta MBA within industry and community; collaboration with Dean's Forum Committee on specific initiatives; conduct information sessions regarding various certifications and designations.

University of Alberta Alumni Ambassador &amp; CAPS Career Centre

- ☑ Participation in campus volunteer opportunities; Job Shadow Host; Mentor a Student.

University of Alberta Business Alumni Association

- ☑ Mentor for the BAA Alumni Mentorship Program

**Matthew R. Semaka currently serves on the following committees: None****Councillors, Alternates, and/or recent former Councillors (3 Nominees):****1. Radim Barta****Radim Barta's Bio:**

I was born in Czech Republic. My family moved to Canada when I was 5, but we speak Czech at home and have gone back to visit so I am fluent in spoken and written Czech. I completed a combined honours degree in Physics and Mathematics at the University of British Columbia in 2014. At UBC I served on the Physsoc (Physics undergraduate society) council. I was also a part of the group that helped organize several Physics Olympics events for high schools to compete in. While at UBC I enjoyed participating in several rec leagues including floor hockey.

**12 PAGES**

Currently I am working on my master's degree in Medical Physics, looking towards a career as a medical physicist. I am excited to get more involved at the University of Alberta by serving on the GSA council as an alternate from the Department of Oncology.

**Radim Barta's Resume:**

I am a medical physics graduate student in the department of Oncology. My research involves the development of radio-frequency (RF)-coils for the linac-mr (linear accelerator in combination with an MRI) project being conducted by Dr. Gino Fallone and his team at the Cross Cancer Institute.

I am interested in serving on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board. I believe I can be an impartial judge and a good listener. I believe in determining the facts as best as possible before making any decisions and I believe that all situations must be viewed from all positions to fully appreciate them. I have served as a judge for the Edmonton Regional Science Fair and I believe that that experience will help me quickly become an able board member. I have a flexible schedule without very many firm appointments, so I believe I should be able to meet quickly if necessary.

**Radim Barta currently serves on the following committees:**

GSA Council as alternate for the Department of Oncology

**2. Antonio Bruni**

**Antonio Bruni's Bio:**

As a resident of Northern Ontario, I completed my undergraduate studies at Lake Superior State University, where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry (2006---*Cum Laude*). While attending LSSU, I served as a tutor at the school's Learning Center, as well as a Supplemental Instructor for the first year Biology course. In my final two years of study, I served as Co-President of the Pre-Professional Society and was a member of the Student's Council Finance Committee. Within the community of Sault Ste. Marie, I volunteered with numerous organizations including Program Read, a non-profit organization aimed to improve literacy in adults within the community, and was an active mentor with Big Brothers Sault Ste. Marie for two years. In 2007, I relocated to London, Ontario. While in London, I was actively involved with the Boys and Girls Club where I served as a tutor and mentor in the after-school My Action Plan for Success program. As an employee of Sernova Corp, I spearheaded the company's corporate volunteer involvement in the Telus Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk for the Cure as Fundraiser Team Captain for two consecutive years. In September 2013, I moved to Edmonton to initiate Graduate studies at the University of Alberta. Aside from serving as the Department of Surgery's GSA Councilor, I have also become involved with various academic and community programs, including the Department of Surgery's Research Committee (Graduate Student Representative), the FGSR Graduate Student Professional Development. Committee, a member of StemCellTalks Edmonton Organizing Committee, as well as a member of NextGen Edmonton's IGNITE Organizing Committee.

**Antonio Bruni's Resume:**

As a Graduate student within the Department of Surgery, I have the privilege of pursuing diabetes and islet transplantation research in Dr. James Shapiro's laboratory. My passion for diabetes research was ignited in my previous career opportunity with Sernova Corp in London, Ontario. It was there that I became involved in the preclinical development of the Cell Pouch™, a medical device that would serve as an alternative site for islet

transplantation. As an effective member of Sernova's Research & Development team, I had the unique opportunity to immerse myself in an innovative research environment that fostered strong scientific, communication and project management skills, paramount in transitioning the Cell Pouch to a Health Canada---approved clinical trial at the University of Alberta.

Subsequent to my endeavours in industry, I secured the Alberta Diabetes Institute (ADI) Graduate Studentship to initiate my studies in the Shapiro Laboratory undertaking research aimed to improve islet transplantation outcomes in diabetic recipients. Thus far, I have secured numerous studentships and travel awards and have had the privilege of sharing my research at local, provincial, National and International conferences. In February 2014, I became an inaugural Academic Trainee in the Canadian National Transplant Research Program, and recently transferred into the PhD stream after securing a PhD Recruitment Scholarship on behalf of the Department of Surgery.

I believe my previous and current experiences immensely contribute to my growth as an individual. As a young scientist, I have developed transferable skills to think critically and independently, and to utilize knowledge acquired to make impartial, informed decisions. These skills are imperative when serving on a committee such as the Appeals and Complaints Board. I hope that this opportunity provides me with another opportunity to grow as an individual while serving the Graduate student body here at the University of Alberta.

**Antonio Bruni currently serves on the following committees:**

- Department of Surgery Graduate Research Committee
- FGSR Graduate Student Professional Development Committee
- GSA Department of Surgery Councilor
- NextGen IGNITE Committee (external To UofA)

**3. Elaheh Davari**

**Elaheh Davari's Bio:**

My name is Elaheh. I was born and raised in East-Azerbaijan (Iran) so I am fluent in Farsi, Azeri, and English. I obtained my BSc in Material Engineering at the Iran University of Science and Technology. My final thesis was on glass-ceramics for biomedical applications. I received my MEng degree from the University of Windsor in August 2012. I love travelling and doing outdoor activities.

**Elaheh Davari's Resume:**

I am now a third-year PhD student in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering (CME). I am conducting research in the field of energy storage technologies. My research includes selection of non-precious materials as an alternative for Pt-based catalysts applied in metal-air batteries. I have served as a teaching assistant (TA) for Materials Science II course for five semesters. Here at the U of A, I served as VP-external in Chemical and Materials Engineering Graduate Student Association (CMEGSA) as well as VP-communication of ABCampus student group. I am serving as the president ABCampus since July 2015. I have also served as my department's representative in GSA council more than year. I am interested in joining GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) because I want to contribute more to the GSA. I believe GSA is the heart of graduate student community and it would be a great opportunity to still be involved in GSA and make a positive impact.

**Elaheh Davari currently serves on the following committees:**

GSA Labor Relation Committee



#### 4. Sarah Prendergast

##### Sarah Prendergast's Bio:

I am from central Alberta and moved to Edmonton three years ago. I finished my BSc in Biological Sciences and Economics and returned this year as a graduate student at the Alberta School of Business. I have volunteer experience working primarily with Immigrant Associations such as CAIWA (Central Alberta Women's Immigrant Association) in Red Deer and EISA (Edmonton Immigrant Services Association) in Edmonton. I was also involved with the Neighborhood Place community charity in Blackfalds, Alberta and central Alberta Adopt a Family program.

##### Sarah Prendergast's Resume:

I am a first year Masters student at the Alberta School of Business. Previously I worked in the Cell Biology Department at the University of Alberta in Dr. Simmonds lab studying changes in gene expression in common breast cancer pathways. Prior to returning to full time studies in University I was involved in a variety of different workplaces and have earned an array of practical skill sets. Notably, I have extensive experience in sales and management, as well as training in motivation, objection handling, and leadership skills. I am interested in the Appeals and Complaints Board because conflict resolution is of considerable interest to me. It is an excellent opportunity for additional training and practice to hone skills particularly useful for in conflict resolution from a public policy or governance perspective. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate training requirements and potential issues that may require the committees attention.

#### 5. Dasha Smirnow

##### Dasha Smirnow's Bio:

I was born in Ukraine and moved to Vancouver with my family in my early teens. I received a Bachelor of Business Administration with a minor in Psychology from Simon Fraser University (2011), and a Masters of Professional Accounting from the University of Saskatchewan (2012). I love to travel and all things outdoors. While completing my undergrad degree, I travelled extensively in Western and Eastern Europe; and during my grad school, I've travelled throughout Western Canada and the US. Currently, I serve as a grad rep for my department, and I also serve on the Budget and Finance Committee.

##### Dasha Smirnow's Resume:

I'm currently entering the third year of my PhD in Accounting. My research is in the area of corporate social responsibility reporting and judgment and decision-making. During my undergrad, I worked as a clerk for the BC Public Service in the areas of accounting, finance, and legal services. During my masters I also worked as a research assistant. During the summer term of 2015, I worked as a primary instructor for the ACCTG424 course.

I'm interested in joining the GSA ACB committee because I would like to contribute more to the GSA and, upon completion of my coursework, my schedule has opened up to allow for greater involvement. I believe that a fair judicial process is one of the cornerstones of any successful organization, and I would be honoured to contribute to its development within the GSA.

##### Dasha Smirnow currently serves on the following committees:

GSA Budget and Finance Committee, GSA Labour Relations Committee, GSA Negotiation Committee

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)  
**GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election (ONE POSITION)**  
**NOMINEES**

Following the resignation of one of the Councillor-at-Large (CAL), there is currently one (1) vacancy for a CAL on GSA Council. This vacancy was advertised in the September 25, 2015 GSA Newsletter. The deadline to receive nominations was October 2, 2015, at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA NoC received two (2) nominations. On October 8, 2015 the GSA NoC forwarded these two (2) nominations to GSA Council with a call for additional nominations. Additional nominations were accepted until Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 12:00 PM (Noon). No additional nominations were received.

As set out in GSA Policy, Elections, By-Elections, Section 11.3 :

"In the event that any **CAL positions** are not filled by the end of the General Election, [...] GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs. When electing any remaining CALs, the GSA Council will aim to elect graduate students from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one or more names to GSA Council for consideration, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process allows for Councillors to make additional nominations. If the matter is urgent, GSA Council can hold this election electronically."

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the October 19, 2015 GSA Council meeting for the Councillor-at-Large position.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the October 19, 2015, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday October 19, 2015, in order to cast your vote in advance of the Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Hasib Rahman (Mechanical Engineering)**
- 2. Robert Reklow (Physiology)**

The names and biographies received (two nominees) are BELOW. Biographies are presented as received (i.e. not edited).

**Biographies and Resumes of Nominees in the Order in Which they were Received**  
**(Nominees will be listed in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot)**

**1. Hasib Rahman**

**Hasib Rahman's Bio:**

I am an international student doing my MSc. in Mechanical Engineering Department at UofA started on Fall 2014. I am Bangladeshi by born and my whole family lives permanently in my country. I have completed my Bachelor degree in my home country in same field of engineering. After graduation, I had worked for a multi-national company back home for about three years as a Project Engineer until I start my study here. I was involved in organizing different programs like

**TWO PAGES**

Engineering Expo, Job Fair, and Cultural festival in my undergraduate university. I also served as a volunteer in several events both in my undergraduate and graduate career. I am voluntarily serving as a vice president of BSAUA which is UofA registered international student group. I am also participating in ISAC as an executive member to help in various aspects of international students' life.

**Hasib Rahman's Resume:**

I am in second year of my masters program and hoping to complete next year. I am working on the area of Solid Mechanics with Dr. Tian Tang. We are trying to solve some mechanics problem to find the analytical solutions for complex and large systems. My group members are from different countries and we have a very good communication with each other while helping in individual's research. I am currently involved with two non-profit committees for the betterment of students of UofA. As a graduate student I am closely related with GSA from the very beginning of my academic life here. I have attended many events organized by GSA and now I feel that it is time for me to contribute for the graduate students through working as a GSA Councillor-at-Large. I have also gained some experience while dealing with international students in BSAUA and ISAC where graduate students share their experiences. I have done all of my course works for my degree requirement. So at present I have some free time to adjust with the schedule of this busy committee. Moreover, the Terms of Reference of this committee comply with my own vision as a graduate student.

**Hasib Rahman currently serves on the following committees:**

1. VP-Entertainment of Bangladeshi Student Association at University of Alberta (BSAUA)
2. Member of International Student Advisory Council (ISAC)

**2. Robert Reklow**

**Robert Reklow's bio:**

I was born and raised in Edmonton and completed my B.Sc. in Physiology this past June at the University of Alberta. Throughout my undergraduate studies, I was involved with various community and campus groups, including Science Mentors, St. John Ambulance, U of A First Aid Responders, and the local Golden Key chapter. My involvement on executive councils includes two terms as Co-President of the Golden Key chapter, two terms as Treasurer for the First-Aid Responders, and my current role as the Volunteer and Event coordinator for the First-Aid Responders. Additionally, I have undertaken substantial roles with the Leadership Consultant Council of Golden Key (present) and the Medical First Responder program facilitated by St. John Ambulance (2011-2014). With St. John Ambulance, I served as Team Lead at numerous events and as the Operating Liaison for the Bike Patrol in 2013. In summary, each of these roles have refined my leadership skill set that includes strong communication and delegating capabilities to effectively progress the mandate of each group I am involved with.

**Robert Reklow's resume:**

I am currently in the first year of my M.Sc. in Physiology, in which I study modulation of the rhythmic breathing center of the mammalian brainstem. I work in Dr. Greg Funk's lab, which is part of a larger, highly interactive group of labs that collaborate on a daily basis. In 2010, I began my journey in research as a summer student in the Department of Physical Therapy, through the Heritage Youth Researcher Summer (HYRS) program. Next, I worked as an undergraduate student in the Department of Laboratory Medicine in 2013 and 2014. In September 2014, I moved to Dr. Funk's lab and completed my undergraduate thesis. I am very interested in serving as a GSA Councillor-at-Large and bringing my experience and ideas to the association. I want to contribute to the administration and policies affecting all graduate students therefore I am committed to becoming an active member of the GSA Council within this role. With my experience on various student group executives and committees, I bring a unique leadership and social skill set that will favourably progress the mandate of the Council. In addition, my schedule is flexible and can accommodate the commitment for a GSA Councillor-at-Large.

**Robert Reklow currently serves on the following committees:** None.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)  
**DEAN OF ENGINEERING SELECTION COMMITTEE (ONE POSITION)**  
**NOMINEES**

On September 10, 2015, the **Faculty of Engineering advertised this position to all departments and extra-departmental units in the Faculty of Engineering.** This position is for one (1) graduate student to serve on the Dean of Engineering Selection Committee. The GSA received **four (4) nominations (one (1) from the Department of Chemical & Materials Engineering, one (1) from the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, one (1) from the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, and one (1) from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.** As set out in U of A policies and procedures:

“The graduate student representative(s) shall be selected through the following mechanism. Each Departmental Graduate Student Association shall forward a name to the Graduate Students’ Association and the representative will be elected by the Graduate Students’ Association Council. If no Departmental Graduate Student Association exists or if no names are forwarded by the existing associations, the Graduate Students’ Association shall be responsible for forwarding a name to the Graduate Students’ Association Council for ratification.”

(<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Procedures/Selection-of-Faculty-Deans-Procedure-Appendix-A-%20Dean-Selection-Committees-for-Individual-Faculties.pdf>).

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the October 19, 2015 GSA Council meeting for the Engineering Graduate Student Position on the Dean of Engineering Selection Committee.**

*If you or your alternate are unable to attend the October 19, 2015 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday October 19, 2015 in order to cast your vote in advance of the Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot. ‘None of the Candidates’ will not be considered a nominee for the purpose of this ballot, as University regulations must be followed.**

**Chemical & Materials Engineering Graduate Students’ Association Nominee:**

Elaheh Davari (PhD program, Chemical and Materials Engineering)

**Civil & Environmental Graduate Students’ Association Nominee:**

Firouz Khodayari (PhD program, Mining Engineering)

**Computer & Electrical Graduate Students’ Association Nominee:**

Ryan Kisslinger (MSc program, Electrical Engineering)

**Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students’ Association Nominee:**

Lindsey Westover (PhD program, Mechanical Engineering)

**The names and biographies received (four (4) nominees) are ATTACHED on pages 7.15 -7.17. Biographies have been attached as received (i.e. not edited).**

FOUR PAGES

## Biographies and Resumes of Nominees in Alphabetical Order (4 Nominees)

### 1. Elaheh Davari (PhD program, Chemical & Materials Engineering)

#### Elaheh Davari's Bio:

My name is Elaheh. I was born and raised in Tehran (Iran) so I am fluent in Farsi, Azeri, and English. I obtained my BSc in Material Engineering at the Iran University of Science and Technology. My final thesis was on glass-ceramics for biomedical applications. I received my MEng degree from the University of Windsor in August 2012. I love meeting new people from different parts of the world, travelling and doing outdoor activities.

#### Elaheh Davari's Resume:

I am now a third-year PhD student in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering (CME). I am conducting research in the field of energy storage technologies. My research includes selection of non-precious materials as an alternative for Pt-based catalysts applied in metal-air batteries. I have served as a teaching assistant (TA) for Materials Science II course for four semesters. Here at the U of A, I was actively involved in many volunteer activities. I served as VP-external in Chemical and Materials Engineering Graduate Student Association (CMEGSA) as well as VP-communication of ABCampus student group. Right now, I am the president of ABCampus. I have also served as my department's representative in GSA council more than a year. Based on my experience working in different groups in engineering department, I believe I am an excellent candidate for the Dean of Engineering Selection Committee. It would be a great opportunity for me to be involved in this committee and make a difference.

#### **Are you currently on any other committees (please list them here):**

- GSA Labor Relation Committee

### 2. Firouz Khodayari (PhD program, Mining Engineering)

#### Firouz Khodayari's Bio:

What happens around is important for me, I do care about it and I want to be involved in the decisions, which influence in my life and the people in my community as a graduate student. I was born in Iran, in a professional family who all cared about leadership and teamwork skills. I have been involved in extracurricular activities such as outdoor club, event staff, and student associations since the beginning of my secondary school. I was the head of student association during my high school in which I had to organize so many meetings with the teachers and parents during each semester. I started my undergraduate studies at the Isfahan University of Technology, where I was elected as vice-president academic for the student union of the university. I was also the president for the "Mining Engineering Scientific Association" at the department of mining engineering. My team and I were in charge of the 5th national conference in mining engineering which was held at our university. I did my master degree at Tarbiat Modares University where just offers graduate studies. I was involved with many volunteer activities during my master including student union and scientific association for faculty of engineering. After finishing my master, I started working in one of well-known engineering consultant companies in mining engineering. I started as a specialist in production scheduling and then after one year I was promoted to server as the head of the mine planning department. This position helped me to improve my leadership skills in a new non-academic environment. Continuing my graduate studies at U of A was one of the best decisions I have made during my professional life, a university full of opportunities. Being part of so many volunteer activities

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such as week of welcome, student union, and heritage festival with U of A students have improved my teamwork skills. I am currently VP External and SS for Civil and Environmental Engineering GSA and member of GSA Award Selection Committee (GSA ASC).

**Firouz Khodayari's Resume:**

I am currently PhD candidate in Mining Engineering at the University of Alberta. I obtained my bachelor degree in Mining Engineering from Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran. I hold my M.Sc. in Mining Engineering from Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran. I was the head of mine planning and optimization department at Kusha Madan Consulting Engineers, Iran from 2011 to 2013. I have been involved in many volunteer activities since my secondary school; week of welcome, heritage festival, unwind your mind, and student union are some of the volunteering activities in which I have been involved at U of A. I am currently VP External and SS for Civil and Environmental Engineering GSA and member of GSA Award Selection Committee (GSA ASC).

**Are you currently on any other committees (please list them here):**

- VP External and SS for Civil and Environmental Engineering GSA
- Member of GSA Award Selection Committee (GSA ASC)

**3. Ryan Kisslinger (MSc program, Electrical Engineering**

**Ryan Kisslinger's Bio:**

I was born in Edmonton and have lived here all my life. I obtained my Bsc. Degree in Materials Engineering (Nano and Functional Materials Option) here at the University of Alberta in 2015. I have been steadily involved in intramural sports throughout my university education and was involved in many student resident activities while living at Lister Center during my undergraduate degree.

**Ryan Kisslinger's Resume:**

I am currently a Master's student in Electrical Engineering in my first year of my program studying materials for use in optoelectronic and photovoltaic applications. I worked as an undergraduate researcher during the summers between school terms, studying the effects of strain on pipeline steels during one internship, and investigating fabrication methods of titanium dioxide nanostructures during another. I am interested in this committee because I would like to become more involved in student leadership and representation during the course of my time here at the university.

**3. Lindsey Westover (PhD program, Mechanical Engineering)**

**Lindsey Westover's Bio:**

I was born in Cranbrook, BC and attended the University of Calgary for my BSc in Mechanical Engineering (2007) and my MSc in Mechanical Engineering (2011). During my BSc I participated in the internship program where I worked in Switzerland for 14 months and had the opportunity to travel to over 20 countries in Europe. Following my MSc, I worked at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital (GRH) as a clinical engineer. During that time I served as the department representative on the Joint Workplace Health and Safety Committee and was an active member of the North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) week organizing subcommittee. I have been active in the community as a volunteer for two electoral district associations and the official agent for the candidate during the 2011 federal election. I am currently a PhD candidate

**FOUR PAGES**

in Mechanical Engineering at the U of A. I am a co-instructor for MECE 200 and serving as the graduate student representative on the Graduate Planning Committee.

**Lindsey Westover's Resume:**

I am currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. I have completed three years in the program working with Dr. Don Raboud and Dr. Gary Faulkner. For my PhD I am developing a measurement system to assess the stability of bone anchored implants and natural teeth and I collaborate with both the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital (GRH) and the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM). I have an MSc from the University of Calgary where I worked with Dr. Janet Ronsky studying laxity in the knee joint and ACL. Between my MSc and PhD, I worked at the GRH as a clinical engineer for one year working primarily with the Edmonton Scoliosis Research Group. My work focused mainly on conservative treatment and monitoring of scoliosis. I worked with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and engineers and had the opportunity to write several papers and successful grant applications. I have been a PhD student at the University of Alberta for three years, where I have been involved in both research and teaching acting as the primary instructor for ENGG 130 as well as the TA and co-instructor for MECE 200. I believe the experiences that I have gained as a graduate student will allow me to bring a valuable voice to the selection committee of the next dean.

**Are you currently on any other committees (please list them here):**

- 2014 – 2015: Graduate Student Representative on the Engineering Faculty Council
- Currently: Graduate Student Representative on the Engineering Graduate Planning Committee

The GSA negotiates for a number of different services for graduate students. In accordance with the GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan, the GSA will "regularly review, monitor, and negotiate all GSA services to ensure that students are getting the highest value possible." We are asking Departmental Councillors to fill out the below survey in order to help us get a better understanding about the value of some of our services.

***Please rate on a scale of 1 - 5, with 1 being low value and 5 being high value, how you think the graduate students in your program value the following services.***

### 1. GSA Health and Dental Plan

The GSA negotiates for a Health and Dental plan for all graduate students. It is automatically assessed in your fees as "GSA Health Plan" and "GSA Dental Plan". The Plan includes things like prescription drugs, medical practitioners (ie, massage therapy, chiropractor, etc), eye exams and glasses, dental work, and travel insurance.

1   
*Low Value*

2

3

4

5   
*High Value*

### 2. U-Pass

Along with the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union, the GSA negotiates for reduced transit costs for graduate students through the U-Pass program. The U-Pass currently costs \$135.42 per term (Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer) and is automatically assessed to all on-campus U of A graduate students. The U-Pass provides unlimited rides on Edmonton Transit, St Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit systems, for roughly 1/4 the cost of adult fare monthly bus passes.

1   
*Low Value*

2

3

4

5   
*High Value*



**3. Graduate Student Support Fund**

The GSA negotiates for the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) as part of the Collective Agreement negotiation process. The GSSF provides funding for GSA Professional Development Awards, GSA Child Care Grants, GSA Emergency Bursaries, and GSA Recognition Awards.

**a. GSA Professional Development Awards:** \$500 for Masters; \$1,000 for PhD (up to \$500/fiscal year) for travel to professional development events like conferences and workshops

1  2  3  4  5   
*Low Value* *High Value*

**b. GSA Child Care Grants:** \$1,000 per child per fiscal year to help offset the costs of child care

1  2  3  4  5   
*Low Value* *High Value*

**c. GSA Emergency Bursaries:** Up to \$2,000 per fiscal year for unanticipated financial emergencies

1  2  3  4  5   
*Low Value* *High Value*

**d. GSA Recognition Awards:** GSA Recognition Awards recognize research, teaching, and service achievements, and range between \$500 and \$1,000 per Award (29 Awards total)

1  2  3  4  5   
*Low Value* *High Value*

**4. Academically-Related Graduate Student Group Award**

The GSA offers the Academically-Related Graduate Student Group Award. This Award provides up to \$1,500 to support academically-related events hosted by registered graduate student groups, such as conferences and speaker series. \$15,000 in total funding is provided each year.

1  2  3  4  5   
*Low Value* *High Value*

**5. TDIMM Group Rate Home and Auto Insurance**

TDIMM offers a group rate on home and auto insurance for U of A graduate students. Graduate students are not required to use TDIMM for their insurance brokers, but **may** find the rates offered through TDIMM to be lower than other providers. The GSA negotiates with TDIMM to provide financial support for GSA events and fund the TDIMM Award for Outstanding GSA Student Service.

1   
*Low Value*

2

3

4

5   
*High Value*

**6. Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)**

The GSA negotiates for the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP), which provides additional assistance and “solution-focused” (ie short-term) counselling services for graduate students over and above the GSA Health and Dental Plan. Other services provided by GSAP include: personal, career, financial and nutritional counselling; a 12 Weeks to Wellness program; personal fitness training; life development, childcare and parenting, and elder care assistance; and, a variety of online e-courses.

1   
*Low Value*

2

3

4

5   
*High Value*

**Comments (please provide comments on any of the above services in the box below)**

**GSA President**  
**Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Colin More  
Date: October 16, 2015

Hello everyone!

We're well and truly in the guts of the fall semester now, aren't we? That means we're also well and truly in the guts of university governance season, but while there are many things in the pipeline on that front, it's too early to report on most of them.

Instead, I shall begin by discussing the provincial advocacy group for graduate students, ab-GPAC. As you may recall, it was only this summer that the group was officially formed, and it spent the last few months trying to get a sense of its own operations. I'm pleased to report that it has now somewhat done so. To that end, it has hired an auditor, is in the final stages of hiring a bookkeeper, continues to collect fees from member schools, and is, in short, starting to function normally. It will be holding its first Annual General Meeting in Lethbridge next month where, amongst other things, we intend to begin work on strategic planning for the coming years.

On the advocacy side, the Chair of ab-GPAC and I (along with the leadership of the other two student lobby groups in the province, CAUS and ASEC) met last Wednesday with the leadership of the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education. The main point of discussion was how the Ministry will proceed with their sector-wide review in the coming months. In brief, there will be ample opportunity for students to provide input and perspective at each stage of the process, and my read of the Ministry is that they are extremely willing to listen. This is a very positive change from previous years!

To change topics entirely, a lot of the last month was taken up by various what I would call parties on campus. The first of these was the Celebrate! event, the University's annual awards ceremony. Sitting on stage, I was reminded yet again that there are a lot of seriously impressive people on campus!

Many subsequent events were related to Alumni Week. Two stand out in particular: the president of the Students' Union, Navneet Khinda, and I were lucky enough to preside over the unveiling of a statue of the University's founders, and later that same evening I attended the Alumni Awards. My take on the latter event? Not only are there some seriously impressive people ON campus, but there are also some seriously impressive people OFF campus. The University has touched, shaped, and improved many peoples' lives, and really has made the world a better place.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the GSA's own parties. The Professional Development Mixer held on September 30th (sponsored by FGSR) was quite a success -- mentors and students both seemed to appreciate the event, with many people mentioning that they hadn't realized how varied most successful careers are. We will be partnering with the Alumni Association this winter on a very similar event -- you should totally come!

Another series of parties you should come to are GSA Coffee Breaks. We host these events throughout the semester at various locations and times, so at least one of them should work for you. They're a great, low-key way to get out of your studies for a few minutes while enjoying coffee, tea, cookies, and/or conversation. All of which are free, of course!

I think that's enough for this month. As usual, don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions!

Cheers,  
Colin More, GSA 2015-2016 President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between September 22, 2015 and October 19, 2015. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

September 22	GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
September 22	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
September 22	U of A President
September 23	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
September 23	Platform Party, Celebrate, Teaching and Learning
September 24	MC for Alumni Event Statue Unveiling
September 24	General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
September 24	Alumni Awards
September 25	Cap 'n Gown Ceremony
September 25	Green and Gold Day
September 28	President Post Doctoral Fellows Association (PDFA)
September 28	General Faculties Council (GFC)
September 29	Welcome Video Filming
September 29	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
September 30	GSA Fall Professional Development Mixer
October 1	Meeting with the Dean of FGSR (Heather Zwicker)
October 1	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Draft Follow-Up
October 1	Board University Relations Committee (BURC)
October 1	Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC)
October 2	Physiology Departmental Orientation
October 5	GSA Coffee Break
October 5	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
October 8	Meeting with the Provost
October 8	Joint GSA Governance Committee/Elections & Referenda Committee (GSA GC\GSA ERC)
October 13	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
October 13	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
October 13	Team Dinner
October 13	Meeting between the Student Leaders and Ministry Staff
October 15	Meeting with the Dean of FGSR (Heather Zwicker)
October 15	Meeting with the Dean of Students (Robin Overall)
October 16	Board of Governors (BoG)
October 16	Board of Governors (BoG) Lunch
October 16	Joint GSA Governance Committee/Elections & Referenda Committee (GSA GC\GSA ERC)
October 19	Killam Trust Luncheon and Awards

**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 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: October 16, 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 19 (Executive Director's Report to Council) on pages 19.3 - 19.7.

**23 September 2015 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:  
 Reports Only.

Motions and Agreements:  
 None at this time

**30 September 2015 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:  
 Attendance at an ab-GPAC AGM in Lethbridge, AB, November 14-15, 2015: Estimated Expense; Long Night Against Procrastination: Request for an External Grant; PD Event

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **APPROVE** an external grant of \$300, as determined by members and on the understanding that additional funding may be granted following the provision of additional information concerning the event, for the Long Night Against Procrastination, as requested in the attached letter from the GSA Vice-President Academic. CM **MOVED**. AT Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**7 October 2015 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:  
 GSA Fall Professional Development Mixer Debrief

Motions and Agreements:  
 None at this time

**14 October 2015 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:  
 Student Legal Services: Proposal for "Partnership" with the GSA; Room Booking: Proposed Changes to GSA Board Policy; Actual Expenses for Attendance at GU15, August 16-19 in Winnipeg, MB: External Relations Travel Expenses

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **APPROVE** changes to GSA Board Policy, Booking of GSA Meeting Rooms by Groups or Individuals External to the GSA, as shown in the attached track changes document, effective immediately. SF **MOVED**. HT Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)  
Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Colin More  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

As reported by Leigh, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), the GSA GC met jointly with the GSA ERC twice in October to discuss the roles of Councillors-at-Large and the composition of GSA Council. These meetings continued discussions we had over the summer on that subject. Members also discussed the comments made by GSA Councillors following a presentation on these matters at the September meeting.

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 October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Michele DuVal  
Date: October 16, 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 Councillor-at-Large (CAL) (1 position)**

Following the resignation of one of the Councillor-at-Large (CAL), there is currently one (1) vacancy for a CAL on GSA Council. This vacancy was advertised in the September 25, 2015 GSA Newsletter. The deadline to receive nominations was October 2, 2015, at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA NoC received two (2) nominations. On October 8, 2015 the GSA NoC forwarded these two (2) nominations to GSA Council with a call for additional nominations. Additional nominations were accepted until Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 12:00 PM (Noon). No additional nominations were received. **See Item 7ii for the list of nominees.**

**2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (4 GSA Councillor positions and 8 graduate students-at-large positions)**

The positions on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board were advertised in the GSA Newsletter on August 28 and September 4, 2015. The deadline was Friday, September 11, 2015 at 12:00 PM. Thirteen (13) nominations were received by the deadline and two (2) candidates subsequently withdrew their nominations. The remaining eleven (11) candidates were interviewed by the GSA NoC in September. Ten (10) nominations were forwarded to GSA Council, along with a call for additional nominations. The deadline for additional nominations was October 7, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Three (3) additional nominations were received. On October 14, 2015, the GSA NoC interviewed these three (3) nominees. **See Item 7i for the list of nominees.** As per GSA policy, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section 3.3, the GSA NoC recommends Christopher Chen for Chair and Jusitin Leifso for Vice-Chair. **See Item 10.**

**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) Dean of Engineering Selection Committee (1 position)**

A Selection Committee for the Dean of Engineering has been struck. The Faculty Deans Selection Procedure (Appendix A - Dean Selection Committees for Individual Faculties) (UAPPOL), as approved by the General Faculties

Council Executive Committee, outlines that the Departmental GSAs will select and forward one name each to GSA Council, and the representative will be elected by the GSA Council. **See Item 7b.**

## **2) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (20 positions and 5 alternates)**

In September, the GSA NoC elected nine (9) graduate students to serve on FGSR Council. The remaining positions were advertised through the GSA Newsletter on September 25, 2015 with a deadline of October 2, 2015. Four (4) nominations were received. The GSA NoC elected **Ahmad Al-Dabbagh (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Joshua Lee (Medical Genetics), Chelsea McNaughton (Business), and Eyene Okpanachi (Political Science)** to serve on FGSR Council. The GSA NoC will work to fill the remaining seven (7) positions.

## **3) Integrated Health Institute Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (1 position)**

The GSA NoC advertised this vacancy in the September 25, 2015 GSA Newsletter with a deadline of October 2, 2015 at 12:00 PM (Noon). Four (4) nominations were received. The GSA NoC elected **Alexandra Dixon (Health Promotion)** to serve on the SAB.

## **4) SU Student Group Services Granting Committee (1 position)**

In May 2015, the GSA NoC elected two (2) GSA representatives on the SU Student Group Services Granting Committee (SGS). One of the representatives has stepped down. The NoC elected **Pallavi Bhambri (Mechanical Engineering)** to serve on the SGS in place of the student who stepped down.



GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)  
**GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Chair and Vice-Chair  
 NOMINEES**

As set out in GSA Policy, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section 3.3:

"GSA Council will elect one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Chair and one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Vice-Chair on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC), for a term of office, also recommended by the GSA NoC, not to exceed two (2) years. Members may stand for re-election as Chair or Vice-Chair."

In recommending these nominees, the GSA Nominating Committee considered their interview, their relevant experience to the position of Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, and their knowledge of fair process.

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the October 21, 2015 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the October 21, 2015, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday April 20, 2015, in order to cast your vote in advance of the Council meeting.*

**Nominees for Chair of the GSA ACB:**

1. **Christopher Chen (Public Health)**

**Nominees for Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB:**

1. **Justin Leifso (Political Science)**

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

**Biographies and Resumes of Nominees**

**Nominee for the Chair of the GSA ACB**

**4. Christopher Chen**

**Christopher Chen's Bio:**

I was born and raised in Edmonton and completed all my post-secondary education at the University of Alberta. I started in 2008 in the Faculty of Science, transferred to the Faculty of Pharmacy in 2010 and after completing my pharmacy degree in 2014, I started a MSc. in the School of Public Health. When I'm not working on my thesis I'm either playing with my dog or playing soccer with friends.

**Christopher Chen's Resume:**

**TWO PAGES**

Throughout my seven years at the University of Alberta I've become familiar with some aspects of governance. In 2012 I represented the Faculty of Pharmacy on the General Faculties Council and most recently sat on the GSA Elections and Referendum Committee. In 2012 I was also a campaign manager in the undergraduate Students' Union Executive elections, working on one of the Vice-President Academic campaigns. From 2013 to 2014 I was a volunteer on various Students' Union campaigns, eventually helping past Vice-President Operations and Finance and Vice-President Student Life candidates win their elections. On these campaigns I completed anything from posting posters to writing platforms. With 3 years of campaigning experience and seven years on campus, I've seen or been apart of many DIE board hearings. Thus I understand the qualities of a strong committee. For example impartiality, informed decision making and ensuring both sides have equal opportunity to present their case.

**Christopher Chen currently serves on the following committees:**

GSA Elections and Referendum Committee

**Nominee for the Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB**

**7. Justin Leifso**

**Justin Leifso's Bio:**

I was born and raised in Southern Saskatchewan. I received my BA Honours in Political Science (2006) from the University of Regina, after which I began a career in the Saskatchewan public service. I spent 2007/08 teaching English in Korea, received my MA in Political Science at the University of Alberta (2011) and, in 2013, returned to Edmonton to pursue my PhD. I have served on the board of the Saskatchewan Festival of Words, the executive of the Political Science Graduate Student Union, and volunteered with a number of organizations including the Edmonton Christmas Bureau. I have served the GSA as a member of the Dean of Arts Review Committee and member of the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC), and currently sit on the General Faculties Council (GFC).

**Justin Leifso's Resume:**

I am now a third year PhD student in the Department of Political Science, currently developing my dissertation proposal. Before moving to Edmonton to pursue my PhD, I was a Manager of Performance Audits in the Office of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan and a Senior Policy Analyst in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health. The Appeals and Complaints Board (ACB) will serve as a crucial piece of the GSA's governance structure and, as a new board, will require members with experience in procedural fairness and high-pressure situations. I believe my experience, both academic and professional, makes me a suitable candidate for the position.

**GSA Vice-President Academic**  
**Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Harsh Thaker  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

It's Election Day and apart from that I don't really have much of a preamble for my report this month.

I would like to highlight a couple meetings I have attended over the past month.

**General Faculties Council**

President David Turpin chaired the 400<sup>th</sup> General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting on September 28 and started the meeting by having a couple students present on their respective academic journeys at the University of Alberta. He also provided GFC with some insight on how the landscape of post-secondary education is changing in Canada and areas of potential growth for the academy. The university budget appears to be in better shape than last year and a joint retreat between GFC and the Board of Governors members will likely be taking place later on during this term to serve as a starting point for the development of the University's upcoming academic plan (the successor to *Dare to Deliver 2011-2015*).

**GSA Fall Professional Development Mixer**

As my fellow Directly-Elected Officers report, we had our first Professional Development networking event of the year at the end of September. The event was a great success and many absorbing conversations were taking place with our invited guests. For those who were unable to attend, we will be hosting a similar event in the winter term. A big thank you goes out to all the GSA staff for organizing the mixer. A thanks also goes out to Heather Zwicker and her team at FGSR for sponsoring this event and their continued support of the professional development of grad students.

**Upcoming Campus Event: Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP)**

On Thursday November 19 (from 8pm – 8 am), the Centre for Writers shall be holding an all-night event in Rutherford Library with a host of tutors and workshops available for assistance with writing projects. They will be having targeted programming for graduate students which includes editing support for theses/dissertations, tips on avoiding procrastination, public speaking, CV/resume review in addition to mental wellness sessions and workshops on researching strategies, time management and more.

The organizers of this event are currently looking for volunteers and if you are interested please go to the C4W website to sign up or for more information on LNAP: <http://c4w.ualberta.ca/en/LNAP.aspx>.

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 September 22, 2015 and October 19, 2015. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

September 22	Late Night Against Procrastination (LNAP)
September 22	Grad Professional Development (PD) Committee
September 23	Celebrate, Teaching and Learning
September 24	General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
September 23	GSA Coffee Break
September 24	Alumni Awards
September 25	Green and Gold Day
September 28	General Faculties Council (GFC)
September 30	Board Safety, Health and Environment Committee (BSHEC)
September 30	GSA Fall Professional Development Mixer
October 2	Student Experts – Our Ideal Classroom Experience
October 5	GSA Coffee Break
October 5	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
October 5	General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive
October 6	Online Calendar Project Update
October 6	Office of the Registrar Student Advisory Committee (ORSAC)
October 7	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
October 8	TEC Edmonton
October 13	Policy Review Committee
October 13	Online Calendar Project Update
October 13	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
October 13	Team Dinner
October 13	Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP)
October 15	General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC)
October 16	Board of Governors (BoG) Lunch
October 16	Meeting with Student Union Vice President (SU VP) Academic

**GSA Vice-President External  
Report to Council for the October 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you're doing well so far. This month was as busy as September. I am highlighting some activities that I think were the most important.

We are actively looking for ways to finance the construction of the prayer and meditation space (PaMS). To that end, we are consulting with various parties. We met on September 21 with the Students' Union, the campus Muslim chaplain and the Muslim Students' Association (MSA).

On September 23, we joined the U of A community to Celebrate! Teaching Learning and Research. As Colin mentions, this event celebrates exemplary individuals faculty who bring their research to life in the classroom, graduate and undergraduate students who have distinguished themselves for outstanding academic and extracurricular work, and staff that support research and learning. As Colin also reports, we were also involved in the Alumni Weekend 2015, a special fall celebration of events, family activities, and lectures. We also attended the unveiling of The Visionaries, a statue that commemorates the two men who founded the U of A more than 100 years ago: Alexander Cameron Rutherford and Henry Marshall Tory. In the same vein, we were on the platform party celebrating the U of A class of 1964.

Regarding student residences, one person has raised a concern about some students who arrived after office hours and could not check into their units. I discussed this matter with the Residence Advisory Committee. In order to prevent it from happening again, Residence Coordinators' numbers are displayed in all the front doors. I also discussed repairs needed in Michener Park; Residence Services has consulted with students and residents and plans are in the works to rejuvenate the buildings. An approximately \$284 million dollar project to double the occupancy of Michener Park is being developed and is fully outlined in the Residence Strategic Plan. Michener Park is the most requested residence to live in.

Finally, as others note, at the end of September, the GSA hosted a Professional Development Mixer with support from FGSR. This event was meant to connect grad students with a number of mentors from companies, industry, the public service, and non-governmental Organizations. The event was successful and we hope to see you at a planned upcoming PD event in the winter term.

Looking forward to meet you at Council.

Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between September 22, 2015 and October 19, 2015. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

September 22	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
September 23	Celebrate, Teaching and Learning
September 24	Alumni President's Circle Statue Unveiling
September 24	Alumni Awards
September 25	Cap 'n Gown Ceremony

September 25	Green and Gold Day
September 25	Granting Committee
September 29	New Program Development Committee
September 29	Athletic and Recreation Fee Policy Advisory Committee (ARFPAC)
September 30	Alumni Council
September 30	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
September 30	GSA Fall Professional Development (PD) Event
October 5	GSA Coffee Break
October 8	GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
October 8	TEC Edmonton
October 13	Residence Budget Advisory Committee (RBAC)
October 13	Team Dinner
October 15	Meeting with University Relations
October 15	Residence Halls Association (RHA)
October 16	Board of Governors (BoG) Lunch
October 19	Sustainability Awareness Week (SAW) Volunteer

**GSA Awards Selection Committee (ASC)  
Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA ASC met on October 8, 2015, for a training session for the adjudication of the 2015 Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award (AGCA) applications. The deadline to receive applications for the 2015 AGCA was Thursday, October 15 at 4:00 PM. The GSA ASC will start adjudication of the 2015 AGCA applications in the upcoming weeks.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have about the GSA ASC on Monday.

Sincerely,

Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External, and Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee

**GSA Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the September 21, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sarah Ficko  
Date: September 18, 2015

Hi Everyone!

I hope you've all recovered from Thanksgiving dinners and are starting to prepare for our first fall break in a few weeks! I spent the long weekend cleaning up our garden and then cooking a feast with all the fresh vegetables!

Since my last update, I have spent a fair amount of time working with the GSA Labour Relations Committee, the GSA Negotiating Committee, and Heather and Courtney to develop our Opening Position for Collective Bargaining. While neither the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) nor Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA) have had increases in pay rates in their collective bargaining (AASUA has still not settled), we will continue to advocate for increases to graduate student assistantship salary rates for the upcoming collective agreement.

As I mentioned in my last Council report, one of our key objectives this year is to highlight issues of compliance with the collective agreement to all levels of administration, and determine how it can be enforced to protect academically employed grad students. This month we are trying to collect examples of letters of offers, contracts and assistantship offer letters that have been received by graduate students over the last few years. If you have held an assistantship or know someone who has, we would appreciate receiving a copy of any letters. Feel free to remove your name and supervisor's name if applicable before sending me a copy or dropping it off at the GSA office (it just needs to indicate a department). In addition, if your departmental GSA would like a presentation on the Collective Agreement and assistantships, please let me know so we can arrange a time.

My month has had a diverse set of meetings and events (see below), but I think the final highlight to discuss has been the opportunity to sit on the President's Installation Executive Planning Committee. I believe it is a pretty unique opportunity to understand how large events are planned on campus and the sheer amount work that goes into anything such as Convocation or the Celebrate! Teaching and Learning event held on September 23. On September 25, Navneet Khinda, the SU President and I coordinated the taping of about 20 students who will be part of the student Welcome Video to Dr. David Turpin at the Ceremony. I've decided that being a videographer is not an alternative career choice for me, as just one afternoon of running around was pretty exhausting! However, I am looking forward to seeing the rough cut later in the month. I hope everyone is planning on attending the actual Installation Ceremony at 3 pm on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Jubilee! Email invitations were sent out on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Happy autumning,

Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour



*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between September 22, 2015 and October 19, 2015. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

September 22	GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
September 22	President's Installation Executive Planning Committee
September 23	Celebrate! Teaching and Learning
September 24	General Faculties Council Law Review Committee (GFC CLRC)
September 24	Alumni Awards
September 25	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
September 25	Green and Gold Day
September 25	Welcome Video Taping
September 29	Meeting with a Student
September 30	Meeting with Ombudsperson
September 30	GSA Fall Professional Development Mixer
October 5	GSA Coffee Break
October 5	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
October 6	Graduate Award System Review with FGSR
October 7	PAW Tour
October 8	GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
October 8	Meeting with a Student and Ombudsperson
October 8	Joint GSA Governance Committees/Elections & Referenda Committee (GSA GC/GSA ERC)
October 9	President's Installation Executive Planning Committee
October 13	GSA Negotiating Committee (NC)
October 13	Team Dinner
October 14	Meeting with Chair of Provost Negotiating Committee
October 14	Meeting With Student
October 15	Joint GSA Governance Committee/Elections & Referenda Committee (GSA GC/GSA ERC)
October 16	Board of Governors (BoG) Lunch
October 16	Sustainability Awareness Week (SAW) Volunteer

**GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)  
Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sarah Ficko  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC) formed on September 9, 2015 and had its first meeting on September 29. As per GSA Policy, the Vice-President Labour serves as the Chair of the committee and the Vice-President Academic serves as the Vice-Chair; the other members of the GSA NC (President Colin More, Councillor Dasha Smirnow, and Councillor-at-Large Monty Bal) were named by the GSA Board.

The GSA NC met on October 5 and October 13 to consider advice provided by the GSA Labour Relations Committee with respect to the GSA's Opening Position for the upcoming round of collective bargaining, which will begin soon. The Opening Position will be submitted to University administration on November 1.

I am happy to answer any questions in Closed Session when GSA Council meets.

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

**GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)  
Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sarah Ficko  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) met on September 22 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 would like to warmly thank the members of the GSA LRC for all their hard work and excellent ideas!

The Opening Position has also been considered by the GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC), as reflected in the GSA NC report to GSA Council.

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 October 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Ali Talaei  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope all is good and the academic life is treating you well. Moving forward during the semester, my workload here at the GSA is slightly moving from introducing our services to grad students towards assuring that the services are meeting your needs in a perfect way. Below is the summary of how we are approaching this.

Since September, we have started the Unwind your Mind coffee breaks and so far we have had two of them. In the coffee breaks, we try to provide the students a relaxation opportunity to think and talk about something other than (or maybe including) research and work. So far the attendance has been good and I myself could make good friends from different faculties and fields of research. As Colin notes, please do come out and enjoy your time with your peers from all across the campus. The coffee breaks will be ongoing for the rest of the semester and we organize them almost every two weeks (<http://www.gsa.ualberta.ca/CoffeeBreaks.aspx>). See you next time!!!!

I have had some meetings regarding the quality of services we provide to students. In the past two weeks, a survey has been included in our newsletter asking students their opinion about the different services, how they use them, how important they are for grad students, and how we could improve them in future. As discussed in the previous Council meeting, we will have a similar survey during the October Council meeting.

In the ARFPAC committee, we discussed the availability of services in PAW and we asked about how grad students are using those facilities. I'll inform you about that orally. Regarding the PAW lounge, we have had meetings with the University Architect and other stakeholders and made progress in terms of internal design and decoration and the outside patio. We are trying to make sure that the graduate PAW lounge will be a place that meets the grad students' needs.

The GSA's PD event went quite well, as others report. It was a great opportunity to talk to mentors from different disciplines who shared their career paths and some "Do & Don'ts" for more successful professional careers. This wouldn't have been possible without the great support of our management team, GSA staff, and FGSR.

Sincerely,

Ali Talaei, Vice-President Student Services

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between September 22, 2015 and October 19, 2015. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

September 24	GSA Coffee Break
September 24	PAW Lounge
September 29	Athletic and Recreation Fee Policy Advisory Committee (ARFPAC)
September 30	Joint U-Pass Advisory Group
September 30	GSA Fall Professional Development Mixer
October 13	Team Dinner
October 15	U-Pass Admin
October 15	Dean Selection Committee
October 16	Dean Selection Committee



**GSA Senator  
Report to GSA Council for the October 19,2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Leigh Spanner  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The first Senate Plenary Meeting took place September 24 – 25th. Over the course of the two days we met with and consulted with President David Turpin, and had working sessions on the Task Force’s Report on Community Engagement.

Otherwise I have attended the Honorary Degrees Selection Committee and will be attending the Standing Committee Meeting on Community Engagement.

I’m happy to answer any questions,

Leigh Spanner, GSA Senator

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)  
Report to GSA Council for the October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Leigh Spanner  
Date: October 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA ERC met in late September to discuss the 2016 GSA General Election. Members discussed the timeline for the election and possible ways to increase voter turnout. We will meet again in November to finalize the timeline.

The GSA ERC met jointly with the GSA Governance Committee on October 8 and on October 16, 2015. At these meetings we discussed the roles of Councillors-at-Large and the composition of GSA Council. Members of both committees discussed the feedback received at the September GSA Council following the presentation on this subject. Proposed changes with respect to the Councillors-at-Large positions in GSA Bylaw and Policy and the Standing Orders of GSA Council will be brought forward in November and December.

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 October 19, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director  
Date: October 16, 2014

Dear Council,

As you may be aware, I choose one topic to focus on for the Executive Director's Report to Council each month. This month, I would like to share the **list of all the documents that define the GSA as a corporate entity**.

As usual, the detailed weekly Management reports to the GSA Board are attached for your review.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,

Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director

**Documents that Define the GSA as a Corporate Entity**

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
<i>Agreements with Expiry Dates</i>		
North Power Plant and Dewey's	<p><b>2009 Memorandum of Agreement</b> with the SU regarding the operation of Dewey's</p> <p><b>2010 Memorandum of Understanding</b> with the U of A for use of North Power Plant Space for the Tory Building decant</p> <p><b>1997 Memorandum of Agreement</b> with the U of A guaranteeing graduate social space in North Power Plant or at another location; <b>2004 Letter of Confirmation</b> on this MoU from the Dean of Students</p>	<p><b>Expired August 2012</b> - conversations and negotiations are currently ongoing</p> <p><b>Expired</b> - Tory Decant complete</p> <p><b>No Expiration</b> - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP underway as part of this MoA</p>
Collective Agreement (AEGS)	Sets out terms of employment for certain graduate students and terms for use of AEGS funds.	<b>Current agreement expires August 31, 2016.</b>
Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)	Provides for a wide range of personal counselling.	Originally signed December 31, 2010 for a two-year period with the possibility of 4 two-year extensions. Was reviewed and re-signed via email in August 2013. Dependents added in December 2013. <b>Current agreement expires December 31, 2014 but is described by Administration as a</b>



		<b>rolling plan. Reviewed annually with Administration.</b>
Officers/Directors' Insurance	As a separate corporation from the U of A, we carry insurance that covers the elected officials, and management.	We doubled our coverage in 2013. <b>Current agreement expires January 28, 2016.</b>
Photocopier Lease with Xerox	Covers two photocopiers.	<b>Current agreement expires March 31, 2018.</b>
Collective Agreement with NASA covering office staff	Sets out terms of employment for GSA staff.	Renegotiated by the Executive Director and Director of Operations in April 2012. <b>This agreement was renegotiated in 2015 and signed in April 2015.</b>
Liability Insurance	As a separate corporation from the U of A, we carry our own General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance.	We doubled our liability insurance in 2012. <b>We are not covered for alcohol use and yet have GSA students groups who have self-reported that they use alcohol; this led to discussions in 2013-2014 with Administration and insurance experts.</b> <b>General Liability insurance expires May 17, 2015.</b> We will meet with M Middleton, the University's new Insurance Director, this year. <b>Directors and Officers insurance expires January 28, 2016.</b>
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for the GSA Health and Dental Plan.	Provider changed in 2012. Re-signed in 2014. <b>Current agreement expires August 31, 2020 (renegotiated agreement was signed in October 2014). Review service levels annually.</b>
U of A Financial Services	Stipulates when GSA receives fees collected by the U of A on our behalf.	Re-negotiated and signed in April 2012. Re-negotiated again in 2013 for the academic years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016. Deals with cash flow issue. <b>Current agreement expires April 30, 2016.</b>
Triffo Hall Lease	Detailed lease covering our use of Triffo Hall office space.	First-ever lease was signed in June 2011; 5-year term, four renewals. <b>Current agreement expires May 30, 2016 (notification of desire to renew must be given 6-12 months before expiry).</b> We recently provided notice shortly.
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance as well as some funding for GSA events.	<b>Current agreement expires October 7, 2016. Funding for the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex (TDIMM) Award for Outstanding GSA Student Service continues until 2017.</b>
U-PASS Transit Agreement with the U of A	Governs U-PASS.	Referendum held in March 2013. New agreement signed in September 2013. <b>Current agreement expires in 2017 when the U of A agreement with the</b>

Agreement with the City of Edmonton	Governs U-PASS.	<p><b>City of Edmonton expires.</b></p> <p>The University, rather than the GSA, signs this agreement with the City and the U of A and the GSA and SU then sign a separate agreement. <b>Current agreement expires in 2017 and an agreement in principle on renewal must be reached between the U of A and City of Edmonton by October 31, 2016.</b></p>
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<b>AGREEMENTS WITH NO EXPIRY DATE (ONGOING)</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Semi-Annual Pay Cycle	Governs AEGS pay cycle	Signed in April 2012. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council	Society under the <i>Societies Act</i> .	Registered in March 2015 with U of C, U of L and AU GSAs. No expiration date; annual <i>Societies Act</i> filing required. (The former Alberta Graduate Council disbanded in 2013).
Banking and signing authorities	Operating account, GICs, investments.	Actively reviewed with BMO in April 2012. Signing authorities reviewed annually.
Campus Food Bank	Regulates GSA involvement with the Campus Food Bank.	GSA gives \$9000/annum to the Campus Food Bank. <b>MOU expired April 30, 2015 and we have contacted the Campus Food Bank about renewing.</b>
CAPS and Writing Resources Centre Agreement (Academic Workshop Subsidies)	Provides for subsidy of certain CAPS and WRC courses for grad students.	Annual subsidy of \$5500. Subsidy part of the GSA budget. Reviewed annually.
Ceridian (Payroll)	GSA staff and elected officials are now paid by direct deposit.	We are very pleased with Ceridian. Outsourcing is cheaper than in-house production of cheques. Agreement signed May 30, 2011. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Direct Deposit	Provides for direct deposit of AEGS cheques and T4A production by U of A.	Signed 2012. Major infrastructure change. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Info Sharing with Studentcare and University	Allows Studentcare access to graduate students' personal information for strictly defined purposes regarding the GSA Health and Dental Plan.	Reviewed with the U of A Privacy Officer and Studentcare in 2012 and new agreement signed on May 3, 2013. Ongoing with no expiry date, GSA gives notice of 6 months if wanting to terminate.
Personal Information Sharing Agreement with the U of A	Allows the GSA access to graduate students' personal information for strictly defined purposes, e.g. emailing the newsletter, elections.	Signed in May 2013. Ongoing with no expiry date.
PAW Centre Agreement	Sets out terms of operation of PAW. SU also a signatory to the Agreement.	Signed in April 2012.

PAW Sublease	Set out terms of business with the SU related to shared PAW spaces as stipulated in the PAW Centre Agreement (i.e. Chopped Leaf).	Signed in August 2015.
Student Financial Services	Student Financial Services administers the GSA's emergency bursary funds.	2006 AEGS Memorandum of Settlement between GSA/BoG provides for establishment of a bursary program with terms of reference developed by GSA and "distributed through the University Bursary Program."

<i>Other Corporate Documents</i>		
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Audit (based on GSA Council-approved budget)	As a separate corporation from the University, we hire our own auditor. Requirement of the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> .	Audit occurs annually in May-June. Audit field officers were on site June 15-17, 2015.
GSA Bylaw and Policy	Enabled by the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> .	Comprehensive review began in 2013 and continues.
Management Contracts with ED/Letters of Appointment	Sets out terms of employment for managers.	Standard appointment letter has been reviewed by our lawyers.
Referenda Master File	All referenda questions that actively impact graduate students (eg UPASS, PAW Centre, GSAP, Health and Dental Plan, etc).	Compiled and filed. Ongoing as referenda arise.
Tuition Agreement Letters	Letters from the University stating the tuition increases for the upcoming academic year.	Received annually.

#### Management Report to the GSA Board, September 23, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on September 16, 2015:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Interviews with GSA ACB Nominees, reviewing social media strategy, reviewing IT requirements and solutions, Council preparation, departmental orientations (one left!), strategic thinking on the GSA's Opening Position for Collective Agreement negotiations (and beginning a draft), GSA website overhaul, preparing a handbook for new GSA Council members, GSAP services, PD and Coffee Breaks event planning, Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award.
- **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 Policy and Board Policy associated with travel, 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 = 687 likes (up 8 from September 16). Our Facebook posts reached 1,159 users this week, up from 444 September 16. Twitter = 452 followers (up 2 from September 16).
- **PD event planning and Unwind Your Mind event planning.**
- **Grants processing** (period runs July 1 to September 30, period is 90% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>PDA</b>	\$117,261.67	\$18,133.98	14	198 (17 pending processing)
<b>CCG</b>	\$73,297.81	\$297.81 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	49 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGA</b>	\$3,562.50	\$17.50 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	3 (0 pending processing)
<b>EB</b>	\$149,362.80 <b>*(no periods)</b>	\$101,076.37 <b>*(no periods)</b>	0	15 (0 pending processing)

## Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Supporting the work of the GSA NoC, (**assisting the GSA NoC with filling vacancies on** the GSA ACB and conducting interviews for nominees; filling vacancies on the General Faculties Council, Arts Faculty Council, and Science Faculty Council).
- Preparing materials for ERC meeting.
- **Training into new positions.**
- **Grants processing and AGCA application assistance.**
- **Departmental orientations.**
- **Assistance with event planning.**

## Management Report to the GSA Board, September 30, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on September 23, 2015:

### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Staff training and transition, lease compliance, GSA ERC meeting, review of IT, reviewing the GSA's social media strategy, PD event planning, GSA Health and Dental Plan issue with respect to numbers of graduate students, Google Forms, strategic thinking on the GSA's Opening Position for Collective Agreement negotiations (and working on a draft), GSAP services, PD and Coffee Breaks event planning, Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award, election of a GSA Councillor for Medicine.
- **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 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 = 693 likes (up 6 from September 23). Our Facebook posts reached 0 users this week, down from 1,189 September 23. Twitter = 458 followers (up 6 from September 23).
- **PD event planning and Unwind Your Mind event planning.**
- Preparing for the **opening of a new granting period.**
- **Grants processing** (period runs July 1 to September 30, period is 98% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>PDA</b>	\$117,261.67	\$6,617.23	24	222 (27 pending processing)
<b>CCG</b>	\$73,297.81	\$297.81 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	49 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGA</b>	\$3,562.50	\$17.50 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	3 (0 pending processing)
<b>EB</b>	\$149,362.80 <b>*(no periods)</b>	\$101,076.37 <b>*(no periods)</b>	0	15 (0 pending processing)

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Supporting the work of the GSA NoC, (**assisting the GSA NoC with filling vacancies on** the GSA ACB and filling vacancies on the Scientific Advisory Board position, FGSR Council, the Arts Faculty Council, and the Science Faculty Council.
- Support for a **GSA ERC meeting.**
- **Training** into new positions.
- **Grants processing** and AGCA application assistance.
- Assistance with **event planning and with GSA Council support.**

#### Management Report to the GSA Board, October 7, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on September 30, 2015:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Staff training and transition, GSA Opening Position for collective bargaining, GSA NC meeting, review of IT, GSA Council, Google Forms, upcoming joint meeting of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC, upcoming GSA ASC meeting, child care services for U of A students, Campus Food Bank, GSAP services, Coffee Break event planning, Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award, election of a Departmental Councillor for Medicine, election of a CAL, governance training for new staff.

- **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 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 = 699 likes (up 6 from September 30). Our Facebook posts reached 1,162 users this week, up from 0 September 30. Twitter = 462 followers (up 4 from September 30).
- **GSA Coffee Breaks event planning.**
- **Opening of a new granting period (Child Care Grants closed with 5 hours of being opened due to high demand and the exhaustion of funds).**
- **Grants processing** (period runs October 1 to December 31, period is 5% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	\$79,621.88	\$71,459.88	31	18 (36 pending processing)
CCG	\$46,976.91	\$4,976.91 <b>CLOSED</b>	25	25 (25 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$3,562.50	0	3 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$149,362.80 <b>*(no periods)</b>	\$79,151.37 <b>*(no periods)</b>	6	21 (0 pending processing)

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Supporting the work of the GSA NoC (**assisting the GSA NoC with filling vacancies on the GSA ACB and filling vacancies on the Scientific Advisory Board and the Dean of Engineering Selection Committee**) and assisting with the election of a CAL and a Departmental Councillor for Medicine.
- Assistance with planning for an upcoming **GSA ERC/GSA GC meeting and a GSA ASC meeting.**
- **Training** into new positions.
- **Grants processing** and AGCA application assistance.
- Assistance with **event planning and with GSA Council planning/preparations.**

#### Management Report to the GSA Board, October 14, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on October 7, 2015:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Staff training and transition, GSA Opening Position for collective bargaining, GSA NC meeting, review of IT, preparing for GSA Council, Google Forms, collection of feedback on the recent PD event, GSA ASC meeting to prepare for adjudication of the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award, joint meeting of the GSA GC and

the GSA ERC, survey on GSA services, election of a Departmental Councillor for Medicine.

- **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 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 = 702 likes (up 3 from October 7). Our Facebook posts reached 204 users this week, down from 1,162 October 7. Twitter = 468 followers (up 6 from October 7).
- **GSA Coffee Breaks event planning.**
- **Forward thinking on the winter term GSA PD event** (sponsored by the Alumni Association).
- **Grants processing** (period runs October 1 to December 31, period is 5% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>PDA</b>	\$79,621.88	\$63,359.88	17	35 (22 pending processing)
<b>CCG</b>	\$46,976.91	\$4,976.91 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	25 (5 pending processing)
<b>ASGA</b>	\$3,562.50	\$2,562.50	1	1 (1 pending processing)
<b>EB</b>	\$149,362.80 <b>*(no periods)</b>	\$76,678.37 <b>*(no periods)</b>	1	22 (0 pending processing)

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Supporting the work of the GSA NoC (**assisting the GSA NoC with filling vacancies on the GSA ACB and filling vacancies on the Scientific Advisory Board, Student Union Student Group Granting Committee, FGSR Council**) and assisting with the election of a CAL and a Departmental Councillor for Medicine.
- Supporting a joint meeting of **GSA ERC/GSA GC**.
- Training for the new members of the GSA ASC.
- **Grants processing** and AGCA application assistance.
- Assistance **with GSA Council planning/preparations.**