GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA
Monday, June 22, 2015 at 6:00 pm
MEC 2-01

A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm at MEC 2-01.

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.

<div style="border:1px solid">**Speaker Sarah Prescott in the Chair**</div>

	Attached Numbered Pages
OPEN SESSION	
1. Roll Call	
2. Approval of the 22 June 2015 Agenda	
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 25 May 2015 GSA Council Meeting *Attachments*: • Minutes from the 25 May 2015 GSA Council Meeting	**3.0-3.11**

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*)	

Presentations and Councillor Announcements	
5. Professional Development for Graduate Students **Presented by Harsh Thaker (Vice-President Academic)** **Guest:** Dr. Renee Polzhien (Professional Development and Outreach Coordinator, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research)	
6. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (For Information) **Presented by Sarah Ficko (Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee), Justin Leifso (Member of the GSA Elections & Referenda Committee), and Ellen Schoeck (GSA Executive Director)** *NOTE: There is no material for this Item; it is a preview of an upcoming proposal presented for Council's information.*	
7. Councillor Announcements	

Prepared by M Caldwell, C Thomas, and E Schoeck for the Council Meeting of May 25, 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\Second Mailing\pdf\2.docx

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

8. GSA Council-Elected Officers: Paper Ballot Election
Ninad Mehta (Member of the GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.

   Attachments:
   - Nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officers (Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer)

   8.0 - 8.5

NOTE: Nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officers have been invited to answer one question each at Council. Nominees were given the question in advance of the meeting. Nominees will be given 1 minute to answer each question. At the time of this mailing, one nominee will be unable to attend GSA Council and a brief video presentation will be shown.

9. GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III) (Second Reading)
Presented by Sarah Ficko (Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Vice-President Labour) and Justin Leifso (Member of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)

GSA GC and GSA ERC members who are members of GSA Council: Sarah Ficko (GSA Vice-President Labour and GSA GC member), Sulya Fenichal (Councillor, Elementary Education, and GSA GC member), Susan Cake (CAL and GSA GC member), Shelby Sanders (Councillor, EAS, a GSA GC member), Leigh Spanner (CAL and GSA ERC member), Axel Perez Trujillo (Councillor, MLCS, and GSA ERC member), Hamman Samuel (GSA CRO), and Richard Kanyo (GSA DRO).

GSA ERC voting members invited to GSA Council as guests: Jennifer Bell (former Councillor, Nursing), Christopher Chen, Justin Leifso, Zhendong Li (former Councillor, Chemistry), and Anmol Shahid.

   Attachments:
   - Outline of Issue
   - Cover Letter From the Chairs of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC
   - GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Double Column of Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw

   9.0*
   9.1*
   9.2-9.4*
   *previously distributed as Item 9

10. Special Business **(none at this time)**

Reports

11. President **(Colin More, GSA President)** (*The President is attending an academic summer school and will not be present at Council*)
   i. President's Report — **11.0 - 11.1**
   ii. GSA Board — **11.2**
   iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee **(no meetings this reporting period; next meeting will be June 24, 2015)**
   iv. GSA Governance Committee — **11.3**

   a) GSA Nominating Committee
   GSA Nominating Committee Report **(Ninad Mehta, Member of the GSA Nominating Committee)** — **11.4 - 11.5**

12. Vice-President Academic **(Harsh Thaker, GSA Vice-President Academic)**
   i. Vice-President Academic's Report — **12.0 - 12.1**

13. Vice-President External **(Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External)**

i. Vice-President External's Report	**13.0**
ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee **(no meetings this reporting period; will resume meeting Fall 2015)**	

14. Vice-President Labour **(Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour)**

i. Vice-President Labour's Report	**14.0 - 14.1**
ii. Vice-President Labour's Supplemental Report Regarding NDP Bill 3	**14.2**
iii. GSA Negotiating Committee **(no meetings this reporting period; will resume meeting Fall 2015)**	
iv. GSA Labour Relations Committee **(no meetings this reporting period)**	

15. Vice-President Student Services **(Alireza Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services)**

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report	**15.0 - 15.1**
ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (Joint Chair: Vice-President External) **(no meetings this reporting period)**	

16. Senator **(Leigh Spanner, GSA Senator)** (*The Senator is attending an academic conference and will not be at Council*)

i. Senator's Report	**16.0**

17. Speaker **(Sarah Prescott, GSA Speaker)**

    i.   Speaker's Report **(no written report at this time)**

18. Chief Returning Officer **(Hamman Samuel, GSA Chief Returning Officer)**

    i.   Chief Returning Officer's Report **(no written report at this time)**

19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee **(Virginia Pimmett, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)** (*The Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee is attending an academic conference and will not be at Council*)

i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report	**19.0**

20. GSA Management **(Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director)**

i. Executive Director's Report	**20.0 - 20.6**

Question Period

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

22. Oral Questions

Adjournment

Meeting Minutes
25 May 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)	Tania Shewring (AFNS)	Sulya Fenichel (Elementary Education)	Yu Du (Karen) (Psychology)
Harsh Thaker (VP Academic)	Heather Leier (Art & Design)	Rachel Osolen (Humanities Computing)	Colin Reynolds (Public Health)
Alphonse Ndem Ahola (VP External)	Michele DuVal (Bio Sci)	Qingqing Liu (Lab Med & Pathology)	Pat Hart (Religious Studies)
Sarah Prescott (Speaker)	Dasha Smirnow (Business PhD)	Jessica Peck (Library & Info Sciences)	Alison Murata (Renewable Resources)
Hamman Samuel (CRO)	Virginia Pimmett (Cell Biology)	Brian Rusk (Linguistics)	Stephen Bruce (Res Econ & Enviro Sociology)
Monty Bal (Councillor-at-Large)	Hezhen Xie (Andrew) (Chemistry)	Amir Nosrati (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Kerry Rose (Secondary Education)
Jude Kong (Councillor-at-Large)	Chad Iverson (Chemistry)	Colleen Reid (Med Microbio & Immunology)	Antonio Bruni (Surgery)
Hannah Madsen (Councillor-at-Large)	Somaye Nasr (Civil & Enviro Engineering)	Upinder Singh (Nursing)	
Leigh Spanner (Councillor-at-Large)	Shelby Sanders (Earth & Atmospheric Sci)	Emrah Keskin (Political Science)	

GUESTS: Chris Chen (GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)

Speaker Sarah Prescott in the Chair.

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

<u>Roll Call</u>

1. **Roll Call of Council Members in Attendance**

   <u>Approval of Agenda</u>
2. **Approval of the 25 May 2015 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 25 May 2015 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015.

Agenda approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

<u>Approval of Minutes</u>

3. **Minutes**
   i. **Minutes from the 20 April 2015 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 20 April 2015 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 14 May 2015. H Thaker requested an editorial change: GSA Council guest, Sina Yansori, was a GSA Budget and Finance Committee nominee, not a Councillor-at-Large candidate.

Minutes approved as amended by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

Changes in Council Membership

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

This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors: Heather Leier (Art & Design); Pat Hart (Religious Studies); Andrew (Hezhen) Xie (Chemistry); Somaye Nasr (Civil & Enviro Engineering); Tania Shewring (AFNS); Upinder Singh (Nursing); Stephen Bruce (REES); Hannah Madsen (Councillor-at-Large); Ryan Stanfield (Renewable Resources); Leigh Spanner (Councillor-at-Large).

   ii. **Farewell to Departing Councillors**

This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: Chad Iverson (Chemistry); Emrah Keskin (Political Science).

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business

5. **Councillor Announcements**

A Bruni announced a professional development seminar at the Alberta Diabetes Institute ("What Can I Do With a Graduate Degree in Biomedical or Health Sciences") and the first Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Graduate Student Recognition Celebration (on June 3).

6. GSA Senator: Paper Ballot Election
   Presented by Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee)

M DuVal presented the item. There were two candidates for GSA Senator: L Spanner and S Hamilton. M DuVal asked two questions of the candidates. L Spanner was present at the meeting to answer, while S Hamilton had filmed her responses in advance and they were shown via video.

Question 1: According to GSA policy, the Senator should have prior experience – what experience do you have?

L Spanner responded that she was involved in the development of the facilitative learning and coaching process spearheaded by the Dean of Students, in which they created a handbook for student engagement in the governance process. She also served on the Vice-President (Advancement) Search Committee and at her previous university, served as a graduate student representative and worked with the province as the Vice-President Communications and Research.

S Hamilton responded that from 2008 to August 2014 she was the manager of the Student Financial Aid Information Centre at the U of A. In that role she worked with Alberta government, governments across Canada including the Federal government, and the US Department of Education.

Question 2: Give a one-minute description of the GSA.

L Spanner responded that the GSA is a non-profit, incorporated by the province in the *PSLA*. We operate as an individual body to represent students at the University. The GSA provides representation on the Board of Governors, General Faculties Council, Alumni Council, and the Senate. The GSA is made up of over 7500 students, is student-governed and managed professionally, and operates a budget of over $1,000,000 with over $600,000 in grants.

S Hamilton responded that the GSA is an organization that supports graduate students through advocacy, services, financial aid, working with the Collective Agreement and making sure graduate students are well represented on campus and within the context of the province of Alberta. The GSA has made some big gains in that area and she would like to support these efforts at the institutional level and in liaising with other people and organizations within the province.

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

Ballots were distributed to voting Councillors. Council was instructed that the blue ballot was for the Senator election and the yellow ballot was for the Councillor-at-Large election.

7. GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election: Paper Ballot Election
Presented by Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee)

M DuVal presented the election for the remaining Councillor-at-Large position. GSA Council was shown previously recorded videos for candidates Megha Bajaj and Farouz Khodayari, who were unable to attend the meeting. Syed Bukhari did not submit a video and was not present at GSA Council.

Question 1: What prompted you to run for the position of Councillor-at-Large?

F Khafayari responded that since he came to the U of A, he has been involved in volunteer activities, and has met so many graduate students who are unfortunately experiencing common problems so he decided to be part of the GSA to help improve the lives of graduate students and make them better than in the past.

M Bajaj responded that she has been on Council for the last two years as a Vice-President, and that she thinks Council is very interesting. There have been active discussions at Council, and Council has voted on important issues. She wants to continue to be part of that discussion and she also wants to keep contributing to the GSA.

Question 2: What are the critical issues facing graduate students today?

F Khafayari responded that there are some critical issues with graduate student lives. The first one is the funding contracts including RA and TA - for many students the contracts are not clear. He thinks the Collective Agreement which is the responsibility of the GSA can help to improve or solve this problem. Another problem is cultural shock, which he believes happens for many international graduate students, which again, the GSA can solve this problem.

M Bajaj responded that she thinks there are a number of challenges that grad students face during their graduate programs, but specifically for the U of A she thinks non-compliance of the Collective Agreement is the most pressing issue. A lot of departments do not pay their students the minimum salary as per the Collective Agreement and this financial burden adds on to a lot different challenges like mental health issues. A lot of grad students have to get part time jobs which increases completion time so she think this needs to be changed.

Speaker asked GSA Council to vote using the previously distributed ballots; F Robertson and J Tanguay left the room to count ballots.

Elections results were announced following Item 9.

8. GSA Standing Committee Elections: GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
Presented by Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee)

Members had before them the nominee for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee vacancy, previously distributed on May 22, 2015. M DuVal presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council receive the report of the GSA Nominating Committee and **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected member of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council receive the report of the GSA Nominating Committee and **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected member of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. M DuVal **MOVED**; S Fenichel **SECONDED**.

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

9. GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan
   Presented by Colin More (GSA President)

Members had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter from the GSA President, and the GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan. C More presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan (pages 9.3 - 9.12 in the attached material).

C More stated that the purpose of the Board SWP was to provide a clear strategic plan across years and for the GSA to be a mature organization with continuity; University administration is interested and receptive to the SWP and will try to give the GSA what they can. This Plan was developed with this year's and last year's executive at a two-day retreat. It has gone to the GSA Board several times and has had 17 drafts. It was restructured from last year's plan. The GSA aims to make new connections considering the turnover in upper level University administration (President, Provost, Dean of FGSR) and the new provincial government. C More further explained that the GSA will focus on the Collective Agreement and its negotiation, and also on departmental compliance, and working conditions.

C Iverson asked what the GSA will do to ensure compliance. C More stated that at this point the GSA is still information gathering and does not have a plan of attack. Perhaps traction with the new Provost will result in a school-wide approach or with specific departments. Once the information is gathered, a strategy can be developed.

J Kong asked about the TA/RA increase. C More explained that there was a two-year agreement ending in 2016 and the plan was to negotiate for the rates for September 2016. J Kong pointed out that the current DEO's term of office will be over by then. C More clarified that negotiations will start in the fall and hopefully conclude before the end of their terms.

M Bal further responded to C Iverson's query and noted that Steven Dew is the new Provost and last year when he was the Associate Dean for Engineering the GSA met with him several times. He seemed interested in the problems. As the new Provost he has already demonstrated concern with respect to this issue, there might be more traction with him.
S Fenichel inquired about the survey on issues of importance, how they are found and defined and can anyone bring an issue to the GSA for a survey? C More replied that if you have questions, bring them to the GSA. Significance is determined if the critical mass has the same problem – is it confined or is it faculty or institution-wide. How it is handled depends on the issue but several methods are employed to determine this.

D Smirnow asked if there are metrics to gauge performance throughout the year. C More responded that on the gross level we ask how many goals were achieved. Previous Presidents created a report card format to show how things progressed. Many of the GSA goals take more than one year to achieve; it's hard to be definite on when things are finished. The GSA aims to make progress. D Smirnow followed up by asking how it was determined which DEOs would handle which initiatives and C More explained that it is partly determined by portfolios and also by personal interest. It is important to decide what can get traction in the University landscape and what actions can get the best result for students.

MOTION: That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan (pages 9.3 - 9.12 in the attached material). C More **MOVED**; V Pimmett **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

At this time the results of the GSA Senator Election and the GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election were presented.

GSA Senator Election Results: L Spanner received 18 votes; S Hamilton received 10 votes; None of the Candidates received 2 votes; 1 ballot was spoiled. L Spanner was elected as Senator.

GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election Results: M Bajaj received 26 votes; F Khodayari received 3 votes; S Bukhari received 2 votes; 1 ballot was spoiled. M Bajaj was elected as Councillor-at-Large.

10. GSA Council Attendance AND Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and Committees: Proposed Changes and Additions to GSA Policy (Only Reading) **Presented by Colin More (Chair, GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Virginia Pimmett (Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)**

Members had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter from the Chairs of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and two double column documents: GSA Council Attendance *and* Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and Committees. C More and V Pimmett presented the item.

Speaker noted the change to double column presentation instead of triple column, in the interest of making proposed changes easier to understand.

C More explained that the next three items on the agenda are from the large package presented last November. GSA Council did not want to vote on it at the time so it was broken into smaller pieces. All three have gone through many joint meetings of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and GSA Governance Committee. S Sanders, S Fenichel, L Spanner, C Chen, and H Samuel were present to answer questions. C More noted that he likes to know why changes are being made; attendance is very good for the most part, only one person was problematic in the past five years. The current policy makes it hard to remove someone from a committee if they do not attend. The internal process is messy and complicated. This proposal aims to simplify the process if someone misses consecutive meetings without reasonable cause.

C More outlined that there are four categories for in the attendance policy. The first was when a Councillor is absent – the position is declared vacant and the department will find a replacement. In this case, the department is the member of GSA Council, not the individual. A delegate is acceptable. The second category was Councillors-at-Large who are elected as individuals by the graduate student body. They cannot delegate so their position is declared vacant and the GSA will try to fill it. Thirdly, are Directly-Elected Officers and Council-Elected Officers. They are the easiest to remove; if they miss meetings without reason, Speak will start a discussion with GSA Council about how to proceed. The fourth category was for those elected to sit on a GSA committee. Their position is declared vacant as they cannot delegate.

V Pimmett pointed out that this policy is designed and worded to align with other committees at the University, especially GFC. Realistically, these policies will rarely be used but they are necessary to have on the books.

C More reminded GSA Council that Speaker would like to have regrets sent, it is nice to know if someone is not attending. Send regrets to Speaker or your committee chair.

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

C Reynolds asked what happens with departments that do not regularly send Councillors. V Pimmett responded that if a department does not send someone for 2-3 meetings in a row the departmental group will be contacted

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

to find out why and if they need to fill the position. E Schoeck pointed out that two summers ago the Department Liaison Initiative identified and filled 29 vacancies.

H Samuel pointed out that on the Councillor Information Form there is space for a department contact. This will be useful if someone is absent. V Pimmett added that having a pre-selected alternate can help.

D Smirnow asked what happened if someone was absent, but was then re-elected and continued not to come. V Pimmett explained that the person will be contacted multiple times to be informed that their position will be declared vacant. B Rusk suggested that, in a worst-case scenario, the department could elect the person again and communicate the need to attend. V Pimmett added that this is the choice of the department.

J Kong inquired about Sections 1.1 B and C and 1.2 C and D, which outlined actions to be taken if DEOs, Speaker, or Council-Elected Officers are not present. J Kong stated that the policy states that Speaker will decide on action with GSA Council. If a Councillor-at-Large or DEO is absent, something must be done. The Speaker may have a conflict of interest. V Pimmett agreed that this could happen but there was also a Deputy Speaker and that the Speaker must act in consultation with GSA Council. The intention was to leave flexibility because the context for absence was unknown. E Schoeck added that one of the other components in the large proposal introduced in November had to do with changing the GSA Judicial Committee (which is non-compliant with procedural fairness) into the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB). This is where you would go for removal from office. Aspects of the smaller pieces that will now be brought before GSA Council may seem a little fuzzy because GSA Council has not seen the GSA ACB proposal yet. C More stated that if a DEO was absent without reason there was likely a disciplinary problem. J Kong stated that this should be included in Bylaws. V Pimmett clarified that this was Policy, not Bylaw. The implementation of the GSA ACB will go forward within the next few months with more specific structures. Leaving the Policy open was intentional and it was not meant to legislate for every single eventuality. Policy and procedure should be in place to deal with things as they arise. J Kong re-stated that the committee should be stated in the Policy and not left to the decision of Speaker and whether or not Speaker decides to act. There is nothing in the current documents stating that a committee will be formed. Leaving it to Speaker to decide and present to GSA Council did not seem right. It should be re-worded so Speaker does not make the full decision. S Fenichel clarified that the language in the proposed changes does not give the Speaker full power, but says Speaker must communicate with GSA Council. Speaker must start a discussion with GSA Council, Speaker does not make the decision. J Kong pointed out that Policy should not state clearly what would happen to CALs but not DEOs, these should be the same for consistency.

J Kong proposed a friendly amendment to change the wording in the CAL section from Speaker to declare the position vacant to be the same as that presented in other sections. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and GSA Governance Committee members present agreed with the suggested amendment, as did members of GSA Council. The friendly amendment was adopted.
A Ndem Ahola stated that he did not agree with the proposed amendment since we already know what to do if Councillors-at-Large are absent, there would be a vote. At this point, we do not know what the course of action will be if a DEO is absent. It is better to allow Speaker to bring this to GSA Council. This amendment does not add to the proposed changes or move them forward, it moves backward. S Fenichel stated that there is a parallel between DEOs and CALs in that they are elected the same way, so they should be treated the same in Policy. An option is to declare the position vacant, which Speaker can suggest.

H Samuel asked if the proposal treated CALs the same as DEOs or as Councillors. They are part of the general election, the same as DEOs, but is their function in the GSA equivalent? H Thaker stated that, given they are elected in the general election GSA Council should not be discussing their discipline, they should be treated more like DEOs. If a department Council seat is declared vacant, that department has a body to bring someone forward. H Samuel added that in the end, it is still GSA Council that decides.

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

D Smirnow asked if the Speaker is non-confrontational is there a possibility that issues will not be brought forward. V Pimmett explains that this is part of the job description and also in Policy. There was also a Deputy Speaker. C More also pointed out that the proposed changes state that Speaker "will" bring forward to Council, not "may".

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and effective immediately, the proposed changes and additions to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document and with the adopted friendly amendment. V Pimmett **MOVED**; L Spanner **SECONDED.**

Motion PASSED. One abstention.

11. GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III) (First Reading)
Presented by Colin More (Chair, GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Virginia Pimmett (Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)

Members had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter from the Chairs of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and the double column document: GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings. C More and V Pimmett presented the item.

C More explained that this was the first reading for changes to Bylaw, as shown in the attached double column. C More began by noting a friendly amendment to Section 3.4 to change the language from 'Voting Councillors' to 'Voting Members,' as we are clarifying who is member of GSA Council, and which of those members can vote. The purpose of this change was to clarify quorum and special meeting requirements. **The friendly amendment was adopted.**

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

H Thaker asked for more clarity around the definition of voting membership and if the GSA Governance Committee could re-examine the quorum number, as 14 was too low. C More explained that the GSA Governance Committee will take it under advisement, but it is a low priority right now as there have been no issues.

J Kong asked if the GSA Senator was allowed to vote in GSA Council. V Pimmett stated that they have proposed the Senator be a non-voting position. This was arrived at through much discussion; the Senator has no identifiable constituency at GSA Council and for that reason it was considered more appropriate for them to not have a vote. C More explained that L Spanner, the newly-elected Senator, votes as a Councillor-at-Large, not as Senator.

J Kong asked why DEOs were allowed to vote on items forwarded from the GSA Board at GSA Council. They are voting twice, at GSA Board and at GSA Council. C More stated that DEOs represent all graduate students on GSA Council. They discuss and make decisions at GSA Board in that capacity and then represent students again at GSA Council. L Spanner added that it is accepted practice for people who write legislation to be involved in voting. H Thaker, in follow-up to J Kong's comment, proposed a friendly amendment that as Senator was already an elected member of GSA Council they maintain their voting privileges. Speaker asked GSA Council if they were comfortable voting on the Motion at hand and referring this specific note back to the GSA Governance Committee. C Iverson asked about the consequences of pushing the whole proposal back. V Pimmett stated that this would push the entire process back another month. C More added that this does not seem like a big enough issue to vote the Motion down. H Thaker then agreed that referring the issue back to the GSA Governance Committee made sense as there had been extensive work done by the involved committees and the Motion was good and should be passed.

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of GSA Governance Committee and effective upon the second reading, the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw, as shown in the attached double column document and with the adopted friendly amendment. C More **MOVED**. H Samuel **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Vote-for-One: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy (Elections, Section 10) (Only Reading)
Presented by Colin More (Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Virginia Pimmett (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)

Members had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter from the Chairs of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and the double column document: Vote-for-One. C More and V Pimmett presented the item.

V Pimmett explained that these changes were meant to simplify voting mechanisms. The goal of these changes was to remove barriers to participation in GSA elections, to increase turnout and therefore representation. Graduate students, when faced with a giant wall of instructions with many boxes to check, are choosing not to participate. If a candidate loses to "None of the Candidates," that candidate will not be allowed to run in a by-election for the same position. GSA Council was also asked to consider changing the wording from "None of the Above" to "None of the Candidates". When the elections system randomly ranks this candidate in the middle, using "None of the Above" does not make sense and is needlessly confusing. The GSA legal team agrees that this is a reasonable and rational approach to voting. The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee would return to GSA Council following the next election to discuss the results, considering that this is a big change. It was noted that the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee was committed to getting feedback from GSA Council.

C More added that lots of people have looked at this and it is worth noting that the vote-for-one ballot would include more instructions than the example shown here but the point of clarity and simplicity still stands.

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

H Madsen asked how a candidate would be considered ranked above "None of the Candidates" in the CAL election. Will it be a flat number of votes rather than preferential? V Pimmett explained that on the new ballot for CALs there will be ten slots and you can select up to and including 10 boxes. "None of the Candidates" is one of the options so a voter could select seven and also "None of the Candidates."

C Reynolds asked for clarification for the reasoning for CALs not being allowed to run in a by-election when they receive fewer votes than "None of the Candidates". V Pimmett explained that the will of the electorate has been expressed in their votes and that candidate was not chosen. Letting them run again is not respectful of that. S Fenichel further explained that GSA Council voted in by-elections for CALs, not the entire constituency. If the by-election went back to the entire GSA body perhaps they should be allowed, but otherwise it is undemocratic to allow them to run again in GSA Council when the collective membership had already eliminated them. This was discussed at length by the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

A Murata asked for clarification on the new CAL ballot and that candidates are elected by the number of votes they secure and not elected if they secure less than "None of the Candidates". V Pimmett stated that it was straight arithmetic.

H Thaker clarified that in the case of DEOs, the vote will go back to the larger body and asked if that section would be re-worded for clarity. S Fenichel pointed out that this Motion concerned how we vote, not who gets to vote and GSA Council should hesitate to delay this Motion further. V Pimmett assured GSA Council that the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee would look into this further.

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

H Thaker moved to strike the Section 7. V Pimmett proposed a slight wording change instead. The section would read "Candidates for Councillor-at-Large positions who received…". J Kong did not accept this change and agreed with the initial move to strike.

Speaker called for five-minute recess.

After the recess, V Pimmett explained to GSA Council that after consultation with members present from the two committees, they would like to put forward a friendly amendment stating, "Candidates who receive fewer votes than None of the Candidates cannot run for the same position in any ensuing Council by-election". J Kong disagreed and stated that if there was a by-election everyone who was a student should be given the opportunity to run. C More clarified that in a general election, where the electoral body votes for someone below "None of the Candidates", why should GSA Council have the power to possibly overrule the student body. Not allowing them to run in the by-election respects the wishes of the student body. The lower level or smaller body should not supersede the wishes of the larger body.

C Reynolds asked as a follow up for an explanation of the abstaining process. Do those go to "None of the Candidates" and this is why the numbers end up higher? Is this a result of voter apathy rather than electorate will. V Pimmett stated that this will be explicit in the voter instructions. H Thaker also clarified that this is made clear at the All Candidates Meeting, that campaigning is important in order to ensure more votes than "None of the Candidates". The amendment proposed allows for the general student body to elect someone to office or not elect them and does not allow Council to supersede that. J Kong made the point that if a DEO does not get elected and the by-election goes back to the student body, that student is allowed to run so why is the CAL not allowed to run. H Thaker responded that the procedures for by-elections are different and referred GSA Council to Section 13 of the Elections Policy. The noted this was something to look at in future but not part of this motion.

H Samuel stated that this is the "Groundhog Day" of elections; candidates run for Directly-Elected Officer positions, none are elected, they run again, none are elected, and so on. This will keep happening because the current Policy allows it. At some point do we want to say that the people have the right and power to vote and decided that certain people are not suitable and should not be allowed to keep running. J Kong stated that if a CAL is a graduate student and elections are open to all graduate students, they should be allowed to run irrespective of what happened before. L Spanner clarified that he meant that even though the will of the people has been spoken, that one person has the right to re-run. J Kong responded that sometimes people vote for "None of the Above" as a joke or they are not paying attention and that if we give other students the chance, all graduate students should be allowed. Instead of saying they cannot run, it should be open to all graduate students. Speaker clarified that Councillor Kong cannot make a Motion that is not germane to the current Motion under debate but he could make a motion to strike Section 7.

J Kong **MOVED** to strike Section 7. **Not SECONDED.**

The friendly amendment proposed earlier was adopted.

D Smirnow expressed thanks for making a commitment to bring this important issue back next year after elections for discussion. V Pimmett responded that it will be brought back to Council. Council places their trust in these committees but they answer to Council in the end.
MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and effective upon approval, the proposed changes to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document and with the adopted friendly amendment. V Pimmett **MOVED**. S Sanders **SECONDED.**

Motion PASSED. 1 Opposed (J Kong). 1 Abstention.
13. Special Business **(none at this time)**

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

Reports

12. President
i. President's Report:
Members had before them a written report from the 2014-2015 President and a written report from the 2015-2016 President, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The reports stood as submitted. In addition, C More stated that the GSA was asked for their position on the recent comments made by the Board of Governors Chair. A statement is available on the website, in the Archives section, if anyone wanted to see it. C More will be away for next month's GSA Council to attend a conference.

ii. GSA Board
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted.

iii. Budget and Finance Committee
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted.

iv. Governance Committee
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted.

a) Nominating Committee
i. Nominating Committee Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted.

13. Vice-President Academic
i. Vice-President Academic's Report
Members had before them a written report from the 2014-2015 Vice-President Academic and a written report from the 2015-2016 Vice-President Academic, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The reports stood as submitted. In addition, H Thaker stated that the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council voted on an item about student/supervisor relationships and how to lessen the strain in upper years of study. It will be mandatory for each department to list points of discussion for students and supervisors. H Thaker also noted that the GFC Academic Standards Committee is currently recommending to the GFC Academic Planning Committee to approve the mandatory professional development requirements, which have been previously discussed at GSA Council. This involved the development of an individual plan followed by 8 hours of work toward that plan. It was intended for future career planning and to help students think about options beyond academia. This will go through in 2016-2017 for incoming students. Current student will have the option to opt in.

14. Vice-President External
i. Vice-President External's Report
Members had before them a written report from the 2014-2015 Vice-President External and a written report from the 2015-2016 Vice-President External, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The reports stood as submitted. In addition A Ndem Ahola stated this was his first time before GSA Council and he felt honoured but shy. A Ndem Ahola stated that we have a new government and he is looking forward to meeting them and seeing if they will keep their platform promises and how this will impact graduate students. There was an ab-GPAC meeting on June 14 and they recently met with GU15 and talked about the new government and coming up with a common platform that addresses graduate student concerns. A Ndem Ahola also noted he was excited to work with this team under the leadership of C More. C Iverson asked if the GSA will reach out to the new minister and A Ndem Ahola responded that there are about four meetings per year so we will meet with the new minister. There are still

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

discussions to have but this is still very new. C More added that we are part of the newly formed advocacy group, ab-GPAC and we will reach out to the Minister and other appropriate caucus members as a group.

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

15. Vice-President Labour
i. Vice-President Labour's Report
Members had before them a written report from the 2014-2015 Vice-President Labour and a written report from the 2015-2016 Vice-President Labour, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The reports stood as submitted. S Ficko sent her regrets and submitted a video report, which was played for GSA Council.

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

iii. Labour Relations Committee
No meetings this reporting period.

16. Vice-President Student Services
i. Vice-President Student Services' Report
Members had before them a written report from the 2014-2015 Vice-President Student Services and a written report from the 2015-2016 Vice-President Student Services, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted. A Talaei sent his regrets and submitted a video report, which was played for GSA Council.

ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice-President External)
No meetings this reporting period.

17. Senator
i. Senator's Report
No written report at this time.

18. Speaker
i. Speaker's Report
No written report at this time.

19. Chief Returning Officer
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Samuel stated that the hope was to elect a new Chief Returning Officer at the next GSA Council meeting and that nominations were open.

20. Elections and Referenda Committee
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition V Pimmett thanked GSA Council for their consideration of the proposals put forward and noted that more would come forward.

21. GSA Management
i. Executive Director's Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 May 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Schoeck stated that this was a good beginning but there is still a lot more to come. The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee decided the package as a whole was too much. It is difficult to

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

unwind the pieces. Each of the pieces GSA Council saw tonight touch on many other pieces as well. It will be messy for a while. The biggest piece with the biggest effect was the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, which will deal with the removal of DEOs from their positions. The GSA currently had the GSA Judicial Committee, and it did not represent elements of procedural fairness. It did not give a scope or require proper notice, it did not allow for someone to be removed from a committee for a conflict of interest. Individuals have a right to be heard before an unbiased body. There are a number of subservient pieces to procedural fairness. E Schoeck noted she had spoken to the GSA's lawyers and they do training on procedural fairness; we will see what their materials are like and do some training with V Pimmett and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. E Schoeck then thanked everyone for the debate at the meeting

Question Period
22. Written Questions
Members had before them a written question submitted from I Odoom and a written response from H Samuel. Speaker presented the item. There were no questions.

23. Oral Questions

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Prepared by M. Caldwell and F. Robertson for the Council Meeting of 25 May 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\First Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 3 - GSA Council 25 May 2015 Minutes.docx

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER (CRO), DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICE (DRO), SPEAKER, AND DEPUTY SPEAKER
NOMINEES

The GSA NoC advertised these positions to all graduate students in the GSA Newsletter on May 1, 2015, and received **one** nomination for Speaker, **one** nomination for Deputy Speaker, **one** nomination for CRO, and **one** nomination for DRO by the deadline of June 1, 2015 at 12:00 PM (Noon). The Nominating Committee forwarded **ALL** bios and resumes received to GSA Council. GSA Council was invited to make additional nominations and one nomination for the DRO position was received by the deadline of Friday June 12, 2015 at 12:00 (Noon) (GSA Policy, Nominating, 6.6). All bios and resumes received are set out below in red.

There will be <u>four separate</u> anonymous paper ballot votes held at the June 22, 2015 GSA Council meeting to elect the GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO for 2015-2016.

If you are unable to attend the June 22 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for each position, you must contact the Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 22, 2015 in order to cast your votes in advance of the Council meeting.

Nominees for each position are listed in alphabetical order and will be presented in *reverse* alphabetical order on the ballot. 'None of the Candidates' will also be displayed on each paper ballot (GSA Policy, Elections, 10.4):

GSA Speaker

1.	Sulya Fenichel (PhD program, Elementary Education)*

GSA Deputy Speaker

1.	Roy Coulthard (PhD program, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)*

GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

1.	Virginia Pimmett (PhD program, Cell Biology)*

GSA Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)

1.	Saeidreza Radpour (PhD program, Mechanical Engineering)**
2.	Sean Rah (MSc program, Physiology)*

* GSA NoC Nomination
** GSA Councillor Additional Nomination

GSA Policy governing the NoC states that "the NoC will provide Council with nominations for the GSA Board, all GSA standing committees, Speaker, CRO, and Senator "(GSA Policy, Nominating, 6.6). **Biographies and brief resumes of the GSA nominees for CRO (1), DRO (2), Speaker (1) and Deputy Speaker (1) are <u>ATTACHED on pages 8.1 - 8.5.</u> Biographies and brief resumes have been attached as <u>received</u> (i.e. not edited).**

Biographies and Resumes of Nominees in the Order in Which They Were Received:

GSA CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER AND GSA DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER

Qualifications as set out in the GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios Policy)
8.4 "a. The CRO and DRO should ideally have previous experience with administration of student elections.

- b. Other ideal competencies and qualities for both the CRO and DRO positions include:
- i. Experience acting in a neutral or impartial position.
- ii. Thorough understanding of GSA Bylaw and Policy, especially with items pertaining to elections.
- iii. Thorough knowledge of the organization and its role in the graduate student community.
- iv. Demonstrated ability to bring disputing parties together to reach decisions based on mutual interests.
- v. Patience, tact, and discretion.
- vi. Previous experience effectively dealing with contentious issues (elections or otherwise).
- vii. Experience working in a highly politicized environment requiring quick and fair decisions.
- viii. A schedule that allows for the bulk of election work to take place in a compressed time-frame (a few weeks).
- ix. Experience with mediation and/or conflict resolution.
- x. Collaborative approach with others (eg members of a committee) in reaching fair minded decisions.
- xi. Capable of handling a wide range of tasks effectively and impartially.
- xii. Sound judgment and good decision-making skills.
- xiii. Good team player and good communicator.
- xiv. Can manage stressful situations.
- xv. Experience with not-for-profit organizations."

Duties in Bylaw (Part IV Officers, Section 3 Council-Elected Officers)
3.3.3 "The Chief Returning Officer is responsible for running all GSA elections and referenda."

Duties in GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios Policy)
8.1 "Duties of the Chief Returning Officer

- a. The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), oversees GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda processes, observing the guiding principle "that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA" (GSA Bylaw, Part VIII, Elections, Section 1.1, and GSA Bylaw, Part IX, Referenda, Section 1.1).
- b. The CRO is responsible for monitoring candidate activities and is authorized to discipline candidates for violations of GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies as provided for in the GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies.
- c. The CRO serves as a non-voting member on the GSA ERC. […]
- 3. Restrictions for CRO and DRO
- a. The CRO and DRO may not hold any other elected position in the GSA.
- b. "The CRO, DRO, Speaker, and members of the ERC shall not campaign for or endorse any candidate whatsoever" (GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section 5.3).
- c. Council-Elected Officers shall be GSA members. As set out in GSA Bylaw, Members, Section 1, "Council (Part III) may elect to associate membership of the GSA to any member(s) or class of members of the University community it considers appropriate (GSA Bylaw, Part I, Members, Sections 1.2).
- d. The CRO and DRO must be fully willing and able to carry out the position and must be physically present in Edmonton or surrounding areas for the duration of any GSA Election, By-Election, and/or Referendum."

Roles and Responsibilities of the CRO in GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios Policy)
8.5 "Roles and Responsibilities of the CRO

- a. The CRO, with advice from the GSA ERC, oversees GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda processes within the guiding principles of GSA Elections and Referenda "that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA" (GSA Bylaw, Part VIII, Elections, Section 1.1, and GSA Bylaw, Part IX, Referenda, Section 1.1).
- b. Preparing for Elections
  - i. Participating in all GSA ERC meetings and serving as a non-voting member of the GSA ERC.
  - ii. Working with the GSA ERC to approve timelines for Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda in accordance with GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies and communicating these timelines to graduate students.
  - iii. Working with the GSA ERC to advertise the nomination period for any GSA Election or By-Election, the registration period for any GSA Referendum, and voting periods for all Elections and Referenda.
  - iv. Preparing nomination forms for a General Election or By-Election and registration forms for a Referendum with the GSA ERC in accordance with GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies.
  - iv. Ensuring nomination forms comply with GSA Bylaw and Policy.

vi. Approving in consultation with the GSA ERC, GSA Executive Director (ED) or delegate, and GSA Financial Manager, the electronic software or applications used to run GSA Elections, By-Elections, or Referenda.

c. All-Candidates Meeting

i. Holding at least one (1) All-Candidates Meeting during a GSA Election, By-Election, or Referendum to communicate bylaws and policies to all candidates and/or referendum campaign members in order to answer questions about campaigning rules and regulations in a GSA Election, By-Election, or Referendum.

d. Planning and Hosting a GSA Election Forum

i. In consultation with the GSA ERC, planning a GSA Election Forum for graduate students to ask candidates questions.

e. Managing and Deciding on Complaints

i. Reviewing and approving the use of all campaign materials to "ensure they do not conflict with GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy and do not contain any factually incorrect information (eg regarding the election procedures or timeline)" (GSA Policy, Elections, Section 5.5.a).

ii. Receiving complaints regarding alleged breaches of bylaw or policy with the GSA ERC, while also actively monitoring any campaign activities during GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda campaign periods.

iii. Managing and ruling on complaints and alleged violations of GSA Bylaw and Policy with the GSA ERC and the CRO upholds the Bylaws and Policies pertaining to GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda, but consults with the DRO and as many members of the GSA ERC as possible on decisions regarding penalties, remedial action, and/or referrals.

iv. Ensuring candidates or referendum campaigns respect the election spending limits and present their election expenses reports and receipts by the set deadlines.

v. Observing fair process when dealing with complaints. The CRO observes procedural fairness, and consults with the ED or delegate on fair process.

vi. The CRO keeps a written record. The written record is defined as all actions, communications with candidate(s) and any other(s) also involved and includes but is not restricted to cellphone messages, cellphone text messages, and emails. The written record also includes any written complaints received and the CRO's written reasons for all decisions.

f. Election Results

i. Reviewing and approving the format of the electronic ballots for GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda with the GSA ERC.

ii. Communicating the results of all GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda to graduate students.

g. Reporting

i. The CRO is responsible for reporting to GSA Council on all work related to GSA Elections, By-Elections, and/or Referenda.

ii. Submitting a written report to GSA Council following any GSA Election, By-Election, or Referendum."

GSA CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER NOMINEE

1. Virginia Pimmett

Virginia Pimmett's Bio:
I was born and raised in a farm town just outside Peterborough in southern Ontario. I completed my BSc(Hons) at the University of Western Ontario, with an Honors Specialization in Cell & Developmental Biology before coming to Edmonton to pursue a PhD in the Department of Cell Biology. I have previously volunteered with the Western Foot Patrol, the Pride Centre of Edmonton and Scouts Canada/United Way. Within the University of Alberta GSA, I have served on the Elections and Referenda Committee, including as Chair during a time of major overhaul to multiple aspects of the elections bylaw and policy, as well as having previously served as Acting Speaker for the GSA in regards to an elections appeal. I also serve on the FoMD Medical Library Committee as the Graduate Student Representative. I am currently the Departmental Councillor for the Department of Cell Biology, and have previously served as secretary of the Cell Biology Students Association.

Virginia Pimmett's Resume:
My research focuses on elucidating the transcriptional mechanisms behind specification of individual muscles during embryogenesis using the fruit fly (*D. melanogaster*) as a model system. I am interested in running for the CRO position because I have a very strong interest in promoting open and fair elections at the GSA. I have served on the GSA Elections and Referenda committee for roughly three years, and currently chair the committee. I have extensive knowledge and experience with the elections and referenda bylaw and policy at the GSA, and have been heavily involved in the ongoing overhaul of these documents. In 2014, I also served as Acting Speaker of the GSA for the purposes of hearing an elections appeal, giving me practical experience in adjudicating elections issues from a judicial standpoint as well as a legislative one.

I am generally available at all times.

GSA DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER NOMINEES

1. **Sean Rah**

Sean Rah's Bio:
I was born in Seoul, South Korea, but spend the majority of my life in Canada. I graduated from University of McGill, Montreal, with a major in Physiology. I have volunteered in Hospitals and as an executive in various student groups. (Partners in Health, Student alumni group, Physiology undergrad society).

Sean Rah's Resume:
I am currently in the Master's program researching the 'norepinephrine mediated protection of LTP from depotentiation' with Dr. Nguyens in the department of physiology. I wish to serve as the DRO. Although I do not have experience with student government/bylaws etc… I think that as the DRO (taking into account the description of duties explained above) I would be in a position to familiarize myself with the system very quickly without being overwhelmed.

2. **Saeidreza Radpour**

Saeidreza Radpour's Bio:
Received the B.Sc. degree from Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran, in 2001 and the M.Sc. degree from Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran in 2004, in Chemical Engineering and Environmental Engineering respectively. During his M.Sc. studies, he developed a series of mathematical equations to model the energy system of process industries with environmental criteria. He was voluntarily active in student activities and planned and organized on-campus activities during his M.Sc. program.

His research interests are in energy system modeling, GHG mitigation and the impact of environmental pollution on public health.

He has over five years of work experience in different positions such as coordinating parties in construction projects and bringing disputing parties together to reach decisions, safety and environmental assessment of workplaces and projects and contributing in related research projects.

He joined the PhD program in Mechanical Engineering Department at University of Alberta in 2012. His current mission is energy system modeling of demand and supply sides of Alberta's energy system.

Saeidreza Radpour's Resume:
1) Internship in Isfahan crude oil refinery, for three months, Isfahan, Iran, 1999
2) Worked as coordinator of "Process Equipment Process" training package in Young Scholars Club as a not-for-profit organizations, Tehran, Iran, 2001-2003
3) Worked as health, safety and environment engineer in ANTEC Company, Tehran, Iran, 2002-2007
4) Working at student union to implement preliminaries and coordinate "Student Council Election", Tehran, Iran, 2003
5) Collaborated in renewable energies plan and strategy formulation for the country considering the political viewpoint of different related parties, Tehran, Iran, 2007-2012
6) Contributed as a volunteer in Mechanical Engineering Department's Expo, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, 2013
7) Contributed as volunteer in the Russian pavilion, preliminaries and during Heritage Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, 2013
8) Design and implementing the minute and work flow of the research group, Edmonton, Alberta, 2013-2014
9) Contributed as a volunteer at Mechanical Engineering Seminars - University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, 2013 and 2014
10) Attending GSA Councillor meetings as a volunteer to know about these meetings
11) Understanding of GSA bylaw and Policy, especially the jobs and duties of DRO and CRO
12) Attending in several public GSA seminars and having knowledge about its organization
13) Experience in coordinating parties in construction projects and bringing disputing parties together to solve problems and reach decisions, Tehran, Iran, 2002-2007
14) Flexibility: Taking my work forward throughout my studies has required me to constantly develop new skills in different fields and apply them effectively

15) Innovation: Taking a logical approach to the obstacles faced during my studies, I have gained experience in using creatively and initiative to implement new solutions

16) Communication, Team working and Leadership: Through my research as a student, serving as a member of project team, working on different research papers, contributions in conferences and social activities, I have developed excellent communication and team working skills and have practiced how best influence people, bring enthusiasm and energy to a team environment, and look to generate it in others

17) PhD student in university of Alberta and present full time on campus and flexible time schedule, able to manage compressed time-frame for a short period of time, Edmonton, Alberta, 2012

18) Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and social media and Internet research skills

GSA SPEAKER AND GSA DEPUTY SPEAKER

Qualifications as set out in the GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios Policy)
7.3.a "The Speaker must have a good working knowledge of the GSA, its structure, and its governing documents."

Duties in Bylaw (Part IV Officers, Section 3 Council-Elected Officers)
3.3.2 "The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council and General Meetings."

Duties in GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios Policy)
7. "1. Duties
    a. The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council and General Meetings and for "[acting] in a neutral capacity and [maintaining] order and decorum in Council so that Council can conduct its business in a fully-informed, fair fashion" (Standing Orders of Council, Role of Speaker).
    b. The Speaker is responsible for dealing with any breaches of confidentiality arising in GSA Council (see GSA Bylaw, Part III, Council).
    c. The Speaker shall see that an agenda package is prepared for all meetings of GSA Council.
    d. The Speaker is ultimately responsible for review of the Minutes of meetings of GSA Council prior to their being distributed to GSA Council for approval.
    e. The Speaker is responsible for tracking attendance at meetings of GSA Council (see GSA Bylaw, Part III, Council, Section 6).
    f. The Speaker oversees the archiving of the official copies of the GSA's governing documents and is responsible for ensuring that up-to-date copies thereof are available to members on the GSA website.
    g. The position of Speaker total approximately two (2) hours per week on average, except for weeks where there is a GSA Council meeting, in which case there is an average of approximately five (5) hours.
2. Restrictions
    a. The Speaker may not act in any other representative position for the GSA except as provided for in GSA Bylaws and GSA Policy.
    b. The Speaker shall not campaign for or endorse any candidate or team whatsoever in a GSA General Election or By-Election (see GSA Bylaw, Part VIII, Elections, Section 6.3)."

GSA SPEAKER NOMINEE

1. Sulya Fenichel

Sulya Fenichel's Bio:
Born and raised in Montréal, Sulya has benefited from the multiple political and experiential perspectives of having also made homes in Vancouver, Calgary, London, England and now Edmonton. In both paid and volunteer positions, she has been a teacher, leader and/or board member in preschool, out-of-school care, and pre-music and movement education. As such, she has successfully and respectfully negotiated the needs and learning experiences of people ranging in age from 4 months to 80+ years, and of people who have worked in fields as widely divergent as food service to air traffic control. With additional communications experience in the areas of film, community based advertising, graphic design, photography, writing, and editing, she is now in pursuit of PhD in the department of Elementary Education. Nearly finished her coursework as she rounds out the second year of her program, her closest research community is located more specifically at the Centre for Research in Teacher Education and Development. She has served with the GSA as a Departmental Councilor since September of 2013 and on the GSA Governance Committee since early summer 2014.

Sulya Fenichel's Resume:

In line with the spirit of neutrality and mediation which underscores the role of GSA Speaker, my current research interests explore the ways in which key, and sometimes ideologically entrenched, stakeholder groups might improve communication and collaboration in processes of education. Always drawn to relationality and the 'how' of interconnection and communication between people/disciplines, most recently I have had the pleasure of co-teaching both a seminar about the intersection of fiction writing and research as well as a 400 level pre-service teacher education course with a focus on Language Arts in Indigenous contexts. Funded by the Alberta Assessment Consortium, I am also a co-investigator in an ongoing research project to study assessment for learning strategies with school administrators. Attentive and compassionate, I am able to see things from many perspectives, decisive and have exceptional communication skills. My schedule, experience and interests make me confident that I will be up to the challenge of being GSA Speaker.

GSA DEPUTY SPEAKER NOMINEE

1. **Roy Coulthard**

Roy Coulthard's Bio:

Roy Coulthard was born and raised in Edmonton where he attended school and completed his Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree at the U of A. During his undergrad degree, Roy served as Vice-President of the Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Students' Association and performed with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra and several U of A music ensembles. Roy subsequently completed a Master of Science degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was an active member of the International Peer Mentor Team. Since returning to the U of A, Roy served as President of the Circumpolar Students' Association, and has been a GSA Councillor, alternate Councillor and Councillor-at-Large. He served as Vice-President Operations & Services, Acting President and President from October 2009 through April 2012. Roy was the GSA's Senator from June 2012 through June 2014. He has served as Deputy Speaker since June 2014.

Roy Coulthard's Resume:

I am currently studying the glacial and sea level history of Prince Patrick and Baffin Islands, Arctic Canada for my PhD in Earth & Atmospheric Sciences. My research takes me for a month most summers to the Canadian High Arctic where I work in small tent camps. I have previously taught courses in Global Change and Stratigraphy at the U of A, and at Boulder. I would be pleased to continue to serve as Deputy Speaker of GSA Council. My extensive time on Council, familiarity with procedure and bylaw and experience chairing meetings makes this a natural fit for me. As my coursework is complete and I am writing up my thesis, I can confirm I am able to attend Council meetings throughout the year when required.

Outline of Issue (GSA Council)

GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III) (SECOND READING)

This is the **second reading** of the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III) concerning GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings. At the May 25, 2015 meeting of GSA Council, Councillors *unanimously passed* the first reading of these changes, with a friendly amendment to change language in Section 3.4 from 'Voting Councillors' to 'Voting Members' (this change has been made in the attached double column) (see pages 3.4 - 3.7 in Item 3, Minutes from the May 25, 2015 meeting of GSA Council).

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

> That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of GSA Governance Committee and effective immediately, the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw, as shown in the attached double column document.

NOTE #1: The proposed changes and current GSA Bylaw are in the first column of the attached double column.

NOTE #2: Should GSA Council approve the proposed changes and additions, **any other relevant sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy that intersect and/or are contradictory or superfluous will be amended accordingly by the GSA Governance Committee and reported to GSA Council**.

Background:

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED COVER LETTER TO GSA COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. This cover letter was originally circulated to Council for the first reading at the meeting of May 25, 2015.

Prior to the first reading at the May 25, 2015, meeting of GSA Council, the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) met jointly with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) to discuss the attached material on May 1 and May 7, 2015. The GSA GC then voted, via email, to recommend the attached proposed changes to GSA Council on May 11, 2015. The GSA Board received the proposed changes for information and onward transmission to GSA Council at its meeting of May 13, 2015. Minor revisions to the proposal were subsequently made by the GSA GC following additional discussion and review via email.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Governance Committee Mandate – GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.2.1.i and 3.2.1.ii
"*The GSA GC will advise Council on the GSA Bylaws, matters of policy not in the purview of any other Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled Council meeting*" and "*The GSA GC will make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee*."

Changes to GSA Bylaw Require Two Readings – GSA Bylaw, Part I, Section 1.2
"*These Bylaws … may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days' notice of motion and no less than one week apart*."

Prepared by C Thomas and E Schoeck for GSA Council 22 June 2015

C:\Users\GSAIT\Google Drive\320 - Council\Meetings\June 2015\Second Mailing\GSA Council 22 June 2015 Item 9 - Outline of Issue GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings.docx

![The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta](GSA logo)

To: GSA Council   May 14, 2015

From: Colin More, Chair, GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and GSA President
            Virginia Pimmett, Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)

Re: GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The attached proposal comes to you from the GSA GC, which met in joint session with the GSA ERC twice in May on a number of proposals concerning Council and elections. Both committees support this proposal.

The attached proposal has two main elements: the voting membership of GSA Council is defined, and the calling of special meetings is refined.

Voting Membership of GSA Council: This issue arose when a Councillor questioned whether Directly-Elected Officers (President and VPs) were voting members (even though they have always voted). In addition, the proposal makes it clear the Councillors-at-Large are voting (they have always voted). With respect to Council-Elected Officers (Speaker and Deputy, CRO and Deputy, and Senator), GSA Council has already passed policy that the two Deputies are non-voting and that Speaker and CRO must be "neutral" and "not campaign." Senator is proposed as non-voting as this position does not represent graduate students on GSA Council but, rather, on the Senate.

Special Meetings of GSA Council: This issue arose last year when we had to hold a Special Meeting to ratify the Collective Agreement. The proposal allows for Special Meetings to be called when there are "important matters" that arise between scheduled monthly meetings.

This proposal comes with the support of both the GSA GC and GSA ERC (after much discussion), with the suggested Motion for GSA Council coming formally from the GSA GC. As with the previous proposals concerning attendance at Council and on Committees, this matter will be reviewed over the next year and any needed changes proposed to GSA Council.

Sincerely,

Colin More, Chair of the GSA GC and GSA President, 2015-2016

Virginia Pimmett, Chair of the GSA ERC

cc: Members of the GSA GC and GSA ERC

www.gsa.ualberta.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Room 1-37, Killam Centre for Advanced Studies
Triffo Hall, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E1
Tel: 780.492.2175 | Fax: 780.492.2999

GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings
Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III, GSA Council)

Current Bylaw (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*)	Rationale/Background
Part III GSA Council	
1. Mandate	
1.1 …	*No change.*
2. ~~Membership~~ GSA Council Composition	*"Composition" lists offices/positions as opposed to "membership", which lists actual people holding an office or position.*
2.1 GSA Council is comprised of:	*No change.*
2.1.1 ~~All Officers (See GSA Bylaw, Part IV, Officers)~~ All Directly-Elected Officers as voting members (see GSA Bylaw, Officers);	*Separate Directly-Elected Officers from Council-Elected Officers.*
2.1.2 All Council-Elected Officers and Deputies as non-voting members (see GSA Bylaw, Officers);	*Council-Elected Officers are Speaker, Chief Returning Officer, Senator, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy Returning Officer.* *The two deputies are already non-voting members as per GSA Bylaw, Part IV, Officers, Section 3.3). GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios) stipulates that Speaker and CRO are to be "neutral" and to "not campaign". The Senator is not elected to represent a particular constituency on GSA Council but, rather, to represent graduate students on the Senate.*
~~2.1.2~~ 2.1.3 One ~~Councillor~~ (1) graduate student elected from each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University that offers a graduate program (Departmental Councillors) as voting members;	*Clarification that Departmental Councillors should be elected to their position per the Post-Secondary Learning Act Section 95(1)(a).*
~~2.1.3~~ 2.1.4 Ten (10) Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as voting members; and	*CALs have always voted.* *As per, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section 2.3.1.1 "In the case of CALs, 'constituents' shall refer to all members of the GSA".* *All numbers in this section will have the numeral added in parenthesis.*
~~2.1.4~~ 2.1.5 The GSA Directors as non-voting members.	*No change except renumbering.*
2.2 Departmental Councillors	
2.2.1 Departmental Councillors and their alternates shall be elected (or, in the case of alternates, appointed) annually for a one (1)-year term by graduate	*All Departmental GSAs registered with the University and the GSA are required to have Constitutions which set out procedures for electing a Councillor.*

Current Bylaw (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*)	**Rationale/Background**
Part III GSA Council	
students from their department ('constituents') according to their own procedures or their group Constitution;	*Note: The GSA Office can run elections in any graduate department.*
~~2.2.2 Councillors-at-Large shall be elected annually (Part VIII), with their terms to run from May 1 until April 30 of the following year:~~	*Moved to new section 2.3 on CALs to have a separate section that parallels section 2.2. on Departmental Councillors.*
~~2.2.2.1 In the case of Councillors-at-Large, 'constituents' shall refer to all members of the GSA.~~	*Moved to new section 2.3 on CALs to have a separate section that parallels section 2.2. on Departmental Councillors.*
~~2.2.3~~ 2.2.2 The duties of ~~all~~ Departmental Councillors shall be:	*Separate information on Departmental Councillors from CALs.*
~~2.2.3.1~~ 2.2.2.1 To act as the primary liaison between the GSA and their constituents, including sending their constituents a brief report on GSA Council meetings and soliciting feedback; ~~and opinions and, for departmental Councillors, presenting on behalf of the GSA to departmental orientations;~~	*Departmental Councillors are now provided with a brief report on each Council meeting to use or and, and then to send to the constituents. Departmental Councillors would no longer be required to present at departmental orientations.*
~~2.2.3.2~~ 2.2.2.2 To attend all meetings of GSA Council or, if they are unable to attend, to ensure their alternate can attend in their place;	*An attendance policy is proposed separately and will appear on the May 25, 2015 GSA Council agenda for consideration.*
~~2.2.3.3~~ 2.2.2.3 To serve on the GSA Judicial Committee if selected to do so; and	*It will be proposed in June or July that the Judicial Committee become the Appeals and Complaints Board.*
~~2.2.3.4~~ 2.2.2.4 To ensure that the Speaker and GSA office are kept up to date with their names, departmental addresses, and contact information.	*No change except renumbering.*
~~2.2.4~~ 2.2.3 Departmental graduate student groups, as represented by their Departmental Councillors shall be eligible to receive a portion of the Council Remuneration budget as specified in GSA Board Policy.	*CALS are not eligible for Council Remuneration. Remuneration is given to the graduate student group.*
2.3 CALs	*This is a separate section on CALs.*
2.3.1 CALs shall be elected annually (Part VIII), with their terms to run from May 1 until April 30 of the following year:	*No change, moved here from section 2.2.2 to parallel section on departmental councillors.*
2.3.1.1 In the case of CALs, 'constituents' shall refer to all members of the GSA.	*No change, moved here from section 2.2.2 to parallel section on departmental councillors.*
3. Meetings	

Current Bylaw (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*)	Rationale/Background
Part III GSA Council	
3.1 …	*No change.*
~~3.2 Special meetings of Council shall be called by any of the following, subject to at least one (1) week's notice:~~ 3.2 Special meetings have specific and limited agendas and may be called when important matters arise for decision either between regular meetings or at a time when pressure of business would not allow them to be adequately disposed of at a scheduled meeting. Provisions governing scheduled meetings shall apply to special meetings. With reasonable notice (when possible five (5) working days ("Working Day" means a day the GSA office is open)), special meetings may be called by the Speaker following receipt of any of the following:	*Enhanced discussion of special meetings.* *Except for CALs, the composition of GSA Council is based on that of FGSR Council.* *This statement governing the calling and structure of special meetings governs FGSR Council.* *For the "provisions governing scheduled meetings" see the Standing Orders of GSA Council, available at:* *http://www.gsa.ualberta.ca/~/media/gsa/GoverningDocuments/StandingOrdersofCouncil.pdf.*
3.2.1 A Motion of GSA Council at any GSA Council meeting;	*No change.*
3.2.2 A Motion of the GSA Board;	*No change.*
3.2.3 A petition signed by ten (10) or more members of GSA Council, to be received by the GSA Board; or	*No change.*
3.2.4 A petition signed by at least one hundred (100) members of the GSA.	*No change.*
3.3 Any request for a special meeting of GSA Council as denoted in 3.2. shall specify the intended purpose of that meeting, and all business at the meeting must, unless otherwise mandated by GSA Bylaw, be restricted to the specified purpose of the meeting.	*Editorial.*
3.4 Quorum for any GSA Council meeting shall consist of fourteen (14) voting members of GSA Council.	*Clarification that Quorum requires Councillors who can vote (ie, not Council-Elected Officers and Deputies or GSA Directors).*
3.5 – 3.5.1 …	*No change.*
4. Attendance	
4.1 There will be a policy governing attendance at GSA Council (see GSA Policy, Council, Section 1).	*An attendance policy is proposed separately and will appear on the May 25, 2015 GSA Council agenda for consideration.*

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Colin More
Date: June 17, 2015

Greetings from the Czech Republic!

I am pleased to be writing this in Prague, where I have been living on a diet of beer (not bad), goulash (tasty), and undistilled physics (stupendously delicious!). The geomagnetism summer school I'm attending is excellent, and I'm equally excited about the conference subsequent to it. Outside the science, it's really interesting to see the layers of civilization built on one another, modern over Soviet over Baroque. Not something we're used to in Canada, where anything older than a hundred years is considered ancient!

As far as the GSA is concerned, there has been plenty happening since our last Council meeting. Although most has been related to the routine running of the university, there are two items of particular note which I would like to discuss.

First, **the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) has finally (!) taken its final form, and I have been elected as its Vice-Chair**. The organization will craft both an advocacy strategy and a set of advocacy priorities over the summer, then execute the strategy in the fall and winter. Of course, how and what we advocate on will depend heavily on the future direction taken by the new provincial government. But we will be working hard in the coming weeks and months, and I shall be sure to keep you up to date with the direction we are taking.

Second, I was saddened to learn of the **recently-announced changes in the Provost's office**. Olive Yonge has been an indispensable ally of the GSA on a number of issues. Roger Epp has done wonderful things with respect to northern research initiatives. Bob Luth has done remarkably well with the university's digital learning strategies, and has been a personal mentor to me. And I've enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Brenda Leskiw since my time serving, nearly three years ago, as a member of the GFC Academic Standards Committee. When they return to their respective faculties on July 1st, all four will be missed not only by myself and the GSA, but also by the entire university community. They have left the institution better than they found it.

I have the highest respect for the incoming Provost, Dr. Steve Dew. I worked with him several years ago on the Attributes & Competencies working group, and more recently on FGSR's Professional Development Advisory Board. He is a man who earns, rather than commands, respect. I trust he will build an equally outstanding team around himself, which will serve the university well for years to come.

While I am away, the GSA's annual external audit has been underway. GSA Vice-President Labour Sarah Ficko will be chairing the GSA Budget and Finance Committee meeting, as Vice-Chair of the committee, when the audit is considered in my absence.

I think that's all for now. As always, please feel free to interrupt my European adventures with any questions you may have! I, meanwhile, have some gelato to analyze...

Colin More, GSA 2015-2016 President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 25, 2015 to June 22, 2015. I am away on research leave and personal leave June 13 to July 12, 2015.

May 26	*Dean of FGSR*
May 26	*ab-GPAC Phone Meeting*

May 27	*Alumni Association Strategic Planning*
May 28	*B Luth (Vice-Provost)*
May 29	*L Sirgudson (Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education) Phone Call*
June 1	*Special BoG*
June 1	*BURC*
June 1	*GFC*
June 1	*BDLC*
June 2	*BFPC*
June 2	*Convocation (ALES)*
June 5	*ab-GPAC Phone Meeting*
June 8	*Professional Development Advisory Board*
June 8	*Land Reclamation International Graduate School*
June 10	*GFC APC*
June 11	*Professional Development Advisory Board*
June 12	*L Collins (Registrar)*
June 12	*GSA GC (Joint meeting with GSA ERC)*

GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 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: June 19, 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 20 (Executive Director's Report to Council) on pages 20.4 - 20.6.

This month, the GSA Board Meetings have consisted largely of reports on meetings attended by the GSA President and GSA Vice-Presidents.

27 May 2015 GSA Board Meeting
Main Agenda Items:
Review of GSA Office Fire Safety Procedures

Motions and Agreements:
None at this time

3 June 2015 GSA Board Meeting
Main Agenda Items:
CAPS 2014-2015 Summary Report: GSA Subsidized Workshops Offered by CAPS, April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

Motions and Agreements:
That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary report (page 3.1), as submitted by CAPS. CM **MOVED**. SF Seconded. **CARRIED.**

10 June 2015 GSA Board Meeting
Main Agenda Items:
August GSA Council

Motions and Agreements:
None at this time

17 June 2015 GSA Board Meeting
Main Agenda Items:
Meeting cancelled as there was no pressing business to attend to, and two GSA Directly-Elected Officers were not present.

Motions and Agreements:
None at this time

GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Colin More
Date: June 19, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Last month GSA Council voted to approve several proposed changes to GSA Policy related to moving to a vote-for-one system in the GSA General Election and GSA Council attendance and responsibilities and attendance at GSA committees and University governing bodies and committees. **On the outlines of issue associated with those items, it was noted that "should GSA Council approve the proposed changes and additions, any other relevant sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy that intersect and/or are contradictory or superfluous will be amended accordingly by the GSA Governance Committee and reported to GSA Council."**

As per GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.2.a.ii, the GSA Governance Committee will "make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee".

Accordingly, on May 28, 2015, **the GSA Governance Committee made the following editorial changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy**:

- GSA Bylaw, Part II, Members, Section 3.4, which contained an inaccurate reference to the GSA Policy formerly titled "Performance of GSA Committee Members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees".

- GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, which contained a similarly inaccurate reference to this now retitled Policy.

- GSA Bylaw, Part VIII, Section 6.2, which referenced "None of the Above" and was changed to "None of the Candidates."

- GSA Policy, Elections, Section 13.1, which currently references "None of the Above" and needs to be changed to "None of the Candidates".

Additionally, as CRO Virginia Pimmett reports in more detail, there have been two joint meetings of the GSA GC and GSA ERC since the last meeting of GSA Council; an additional meeting is scheduled for June 26. Virginia's report captures the business dealt with at those meetings and I encourage you to read it.

I would be happy to answer any questions via email.

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

GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Michele DuVal
Date: June 19, 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 Council-Elected Officers

1) 2015 GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO Elections
Nominations for the GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) opened on Friday, May 1, 2015. The nomination period lasted one month, with nominations closing on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon). We received one application for each position. A call for additional nominations was sent to GSA Council on June 5, 2015, with a deadline to receive any additional nominations of Friday, June 12, 2015 at 12:00 PM (noon). We received one additional nomination for the DRO position. **SEE ITEM 8 – NOMINEES FOR GSA COUNCIL-ELECTED OFFICERS, PAGES 8.1 - 8.5.**

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Labour and Relations Committee
There is currently a vacancy for one (1) to three (3) members on the GSA Labour and Relations Committee. These vacancies were advertised through the GSA Newsletter on June 12, 2015, and two (3) nominations were received by the nomination deadline of Friday, June 19, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon). The GSA NoC will review the nominations received and a call for additional nominations will be sent to GSA Council next week. Contact the GSA NoC (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) if you are interested in and would like to learn more about these vacancies.

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) Student Group Services Granting Committee (1 position)
This position was advertised to all graduate students through the GSA Newsletter on May 29, 2015, and four (4) nominations were received. The GSA NoC elected **Amritpal Bhullar (Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences)** to serve on the Student Group Services Granting Committee.

2) Green and Gold Student Leadership and Professional Development Grant Adjudication Committee (1 position)

The NoC elected representative from 2014-2015 expressed in serving a second term on this committee. The NoC elected **Amin Ghazanfari (Electrical & Computer Engineering)** to serve a second term on this committee for 2015-2016.

GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Harsh Thaker
Date: June 19, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

On this day in history: the summer solstice last took place on June 22 in 1971 and this is a relatively rare occurrence since the next time it is forecasted to happen is in 2203. Now that summer is officially here, governance committees have started to wind down for the end of this academic year.

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

Board Safety, Health and Environment Committee
A few weeks ago I attended the final BSHEC meeting for the academic year and there were a number of annual reports that were reviewed by the committee. Some of you may have noticed the posters promoting proper use of PPE displayed throughout our campus (featuring two current graduate students) that are **part of a larger PPE initiative with the goal of getting the university to 100% compliance (currently at around 80%) in order to minimize workplace injuries**. Also discussed were a number of **key priorities for the upcoming year** including, but not limited to, developing material for health and safety training for supervisors, updating EHS e-learning modules and adding one for engineering lab practices, and implementing a chemical inventory system in the Department of Chemistry. I should be able to report more on these items in the fall term.

GFC Academic Standards Committee
At the most recent ASC meeting, we were provided with some positive news by Olive Yonge (Interim Provost) regarding the **restoration of funding to post-secondary institutions in the province and the roll back of market-modifiers that were approved by the previous government**. We were also notified that the Professional Development requirement for graduate students was approved at the last APC meeting and this will **take effect in 2016 for all graduate students**.

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 May 25, 2015 to June 22, 2015. I was away on research leave June 1 to June 5, 2015.

May 25	*SU VP Academic*
May 26	*Dean of FGSR*
May 26	*BSHEC*
May 27	*GFC Caucus*
June 8	*SU VP Academic*
June 8	*Land Reclamation International Graduate School*
June 10	*GFC Replenishment*
June 11	*Convocation (Nursing & FPER)*
June 11	*Professional Development Advisory Board*
June 12	*SU VP Academic*

June 15	*SU VP Academic*
June 16	*O Yonge Farewell Tea*
June 17	*Long Night Against Procrastination*
June 18	*GFC ASC*
June 18	*BoG Reception Dinner*
June 19	*BoG*
June 22	*SU VP Academic*

GSA Vice-President External
Report to Council for June 22, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola
Date: June 19, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you enjoy the summer. The month of June was filled with meetings and activities. **We made contact with the new Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education, Lori Sigurdson.** She was kind enough to call us to get acquainted and to let us know her will to work with us in addressing issues facing students.

Last week, the ab-GPAC Board elected the executive of ab GPAC. We have as Chair: Erica McLachlan from U of Calgary, Vice-Chair: Colin More from U of Alberta, Secretary: Ken McKinnon from Athabasca U, and Treasurer: Mike Webster from U of Calgary. **Given the new political context, we agreed to have the following as our priority for negotiations with the Minister in 2015-2016**:

1. **Sustainable Funding Including mental Health, Professional Development, part time student loans and international student fees.** We are not opposed to increase of the tuition according to the CPI but we also want to know what the funding is and how fees come back to students
2. **Permanent Residency / Provincial Nominee Program**
3. **Graduate Retention Program**

All schools agreed to pay $3/student for ab-GPAC based on the previously approved fee calculation. This has to be ratified at the next in-person meeting in November. For the collection, ab-GPAC directors agreed that Athabasca will use FTE's and everyone else will use pure headcount.

Concerning **student residences**, we are planning to address four important points during coming meetings, including fees, communication, consultation, and programming.

During the month, I also participated in the celebration of the **100 year anniversary of the U of A Alumni Association**. As usual at the end of the year, I was representing graduate students at **convocation ceremonies** sponsored by the Senate.

Alphonse Ndem Ahola

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2015 to May 25, 2015.

May 26	ab-GPAC Phone Meeting
May 29	L Sirgudson (Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education) Phone Call
June 3	Honorary Degree Reception
June 4	Residence MoU
June 5	ab-GPAC Phone Meeting
June 6	USchool Convocation
June 10	Convocation (Arts)
June 13	Understanding City Hall
June 14	ab-GPAC In-Person Meeting
June 16	O Yonge Farewell Tea
June 18	PaMS Fundraising
June 18	U of A Museums Opening Reception
June 19	Student Group Services Granting Committee

GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Sarah Ficko
Date: June 19, 2015

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone is looking forward to the first day of summer and are planning on enjoying some of the many events such as FIFA and festivals like Heritage Days over the next few months!

Since our last Council meeting, the majority of my meetings have been related to the mental health portfolio, which started out with a Wellness Summit in Calgary on June 2, 2015. This event was attended by over 200 people from across the province, with our Dean of Students Robin Everall playing an active role in the presentations at the conference. The keynote speech by Dr. Corey Keyes highlighted the idea that mental health and mental illness are located along two continua on an x-y axis. Absence of mental illness does not mean that one is mentally healthy, and absence of flourishing mental health has a huge impact on productivity and happiness in general. I really enjoyed this presentation and would be happy to discuss in more detail this topic with anyone who is interested! The rest of the summit saw a student panel from four universities (Keyano, SAIT Polytechnique, Mount Royal and University of Calgary) discuss the topic of how to mobilize students to take action around mental health and addiction issues on campus. The panel was followed by round table discussions on five topics related to the wellness summit project objectives of developing a provincially coordinated post-secondary mental health plan and developing knowledge exchange strategies to support the adoption of a post-secondary mental health framework (long-term). The topics were planning the approach, implementing action, evaluating progress, sustaining efforts and building momentum and support.

This month I have attended several meetings for the Transformational Research in Adolescent Mental Health Adolescent/Young Adult Connections to Community-driven, Early, Strengths-based and Stigma-free, Services (TRAM ACCESS) project that I reported on in my previous Council report. Key details about the project are starting to develop, after a teleconference call on June 11 with the project coordinator in Montreal reporting that provisional funds will become available to help with the development of initiatives on campus, and a meeting on June 17 to begin discussing how to develop working groups to implement change. While new graduate students fall outside the scope of the project directly, I had a meeting on June 15 with Kevin Friese who is the Executive Director of the Wellness Centre to discuss building capacity into the system to include new graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and exchange and international students so they can have the same benefits during their transition to the U of A.

Over the past two weeks I have attended several meetings for the new professional development plan to be implemented in Fall 2016. I am on the Professional Development Advisory Board, the graduate professional development committee and the Individual Development Plan (IDP) Focus Group, which are all working towards developing a practical and useful tool to help graduate students plan for their time on campus and future careers. It is exciting to be involved in this initiative and Council will hear more about the implementation of this plan from Renee Polziehn at Monday's meeting.

In addition, I will report on a few things I will be working on this summer. Last week the first call went out for applications to the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC), which will meet in July and August to begin discussing issues to bring forward for negotiations of the Collective Agreement. If you are interested in learning more about being a member of GSA LRC please feel free to email me or Michele DuVal, Administrative Chair of the Nominating Committee. In GSA President Colin More's absence, as Vice-Chair of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee I will be meeting with the GSA Auditor on June 23, followed by a meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee on June 24th. Council will get an update on our financial position in July, though it seems like we are in

good standing! I am also involved in discussions between the joint ERC/GC committees working on the new Appeals and Complaints Board which will come to Council in July. Last week I attended a goodbye tea with Interim Provost Olive Yonge, and look forward to meeting the new Provost Steve Dew in July.

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

Happy summering,

Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 25, 2015 to June 22, 2015. I was away on research leave from May 25 to May 26, 2015.

May 27	*Suicide Prevention World Cafe*
May 28	*President's Installation Executive Planning Committee*
June 2	*Wellness Summit*
June 8	*ACCESS TRAM*
June 8	*Professional Development Advisory Board*
June 8	*Land Reclamation International Graduate School*
June 11	*ACESS National Conference Call*
June 11	*Professional Development Advisory Board*
June 12	*GSA GC (Joint meeting with GSA ERC)*
June 16	*O Yonge Farewell Tea*
June 17	*ACCESS TRAM*
June 18	*GSA GC (Joint meeting with GSA ERC)*
June 18	*PaMS Fundraising*

GSA Vice-President Labour
Supplemental Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Sarah Ficko
Date: June 19, 2015

Dear All,

As many of you have probably heard, the provincial government has recently released details on how it plans to invest in post-secondary institutions. On June 17th at 11 pm, the Minister of Education held a phone meeting with the 26 presidents of post-secondary institutions in Alberta. This morning (June 18th) following Deans' Council, Heather Zwicker, the incoming Dean of FGSR came to the GSA immediately afterwards and had a short meeting with myself and Ellen Schoeck to elaborate on Bill 3 and what it means for the U of A.

The summary of the meeting is:

1) Restore the 1.4% cut that was assessed in the 2015-2016 budget.
2) Increase base funding by 2% in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017
3) Restore targeted enrolment funding
4) Freeze domestic tuition to 2014-2015 levels for the next two years. Tuition loss will be offset for 2015-2016 but not for 2016-2017.
5) Roll back approved market modifiers but base fund all the expected market modifier revenue up front in 2015-2016
6) Amend the Tuition Fee Regulation to eliminate market modifiers as a future possibility.
7) Freeze MNIFs for two years - no offset funding.

While this provides good news for graduate students in the short term, it does raise many questions that will have to be followed up over the next few months. We'll keep Council informed as more information becomes available from the Ministry by the end of the month.

Regards,

Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour

GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to Council for June 22, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Ali Talaei
Date: June 19, 2014

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope all is good and you are all enjoying the sunny summer in Edmonton. As with last time, I have some exciting news from the activities that I have been involved in over the past few weeks. Below is the summary and I look forward to discussing them with you during and after Council. In a nutshell, the meetings were about Permanent Residency (PR) application for international students, Mental Health and gender neutral washrooms.

Meeting with University of Alberta International for PR Applications and Immigration to Canada
We had an informative meeting with the U of A International Student Office (UAI) to try to figure out the **impacts of new immigration regulations on graduate students** and assess how the GSA and UAI could help mitigate the adverse effects of new regulations on graduate students. UAI is currently involved with some provincial lobbying groups advocating for students in general. UAI is also committed to provide updates about immigration regulations through their website and by conducting regular workshops for students to inform them about the latest immigration laws. **We came to an agreement to conduct graduate student oriented workshops on a regular basis (i.e. once or twice a term) and we will also provide the latest news in our weekly newsletter.** As an institute, we have plans to work together with other institutes and advocate for graduate students' PR applications through the **Provincial Nominee Program**. Also in collaboration with FGSR and UAI, the GSA is planning to provide a guideline to departments and students' supervisors which could be used to write support letters for students who are applying for permanent residency.

Mental Health/Health and Dental Plans

- **CCS:** In the meeting with representatives of Counselling and Clinical Services (CCS), we discussed **how graduate students benefit from CCS services**. Currently 20% of the students visiting CCS are graduate students who are benefiting from services such as availability of counsellors after office hours (to 7 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesday), and relatively long-term counselling which is provided by CCS. GSA has also invited CCS to participate in Fall Orientation in August.

- **Unwind your Mind:** When Megha Bajaj was in the office, the GSA was awarded some funding to conduct Unwind Your Mind activities to help graduate students to de-stress and relax from work pressure. **The planning for these events (to be held bi-weekly over the fall term) has already started and the GSA met with M Visconti from The Wellness Project to discuss the type and time of the activities that will be beneficial for graduate students in this regard.**

- **Student Psychology Network: Studentcare has started the Virtual Psychology Network through which counselling will be provided to members at discounted rates.** From June 17th to 19th, I'll be attending Studentcare's stakeholder meeting for graduate students where there will be opportunities for me to discuss and share the U of A experience for mental health with other attending institutes and bring back ideas from their successful experiences.

Gender Neutral Washrooms
I met with representatives from the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, The Landing, the SU, Facilities & Operations, and the University Architect to discuss gender neutral washrooms on campus. **The majority of the meeting consisted of discussing ways of making standardized signage for gender neutral washrooms across campus. We also discussed places where gender neutral washrooms are needed.** There was also discussion about the possibility of creating all-gender washrooms on campus. The SU is looking at adding one in SUB, while for the University proper, consideration of all-gender washrooms is mostly a space (where to put them) and budget (extra costs as they cannot count towards building code requirements so traditional male/female washrooms are still necessary). **We will be meeting again shortly, and Ben Louie (University Architect) would like to know where on campus graduate students feel gender neutral or all-gender washrooms are needed. If you would like to submit areas on campus where washrooms are needed, kindly email me at gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca, and I will convey your opinion to the committee.**

Best wishes and look forward to meeting you all at Council,
Ali Talaei, Vice-President Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 25, 2015 to June 22, 2015. I was away on research leave from May 25 to May 29, 2015.

June 1	Student Financial Support Strategy
June 4	Counselling and Clinical Services
June 5	UAI Immigration Team
June 6	Edmonton Pride Parade
June 9	Convocation (Engineering)
June 10	Gender Neutral Washrooms
June 11	Unwind Your Mind
June 15	SU VP Student Life
June 16	O Yonge Farewell Tea
June 17 - 19	Studentcare Stakeholder Meeting: Graduate Students' Associations

GSA Senator
Report to Council for June 22, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: June 19, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I have been out of town for an academic conference and a wedding, so have not attended any Senate related business meetings as of yet. I have not missed any scheduled meetings, however.

Otherwise, I have been in touch with Derek Roy Brenneis (Executive Officer & Assistant to the Chancellor) about the position and have **agreed to serve on the Executive and Honorary Degrees Selection Committee**. He will offer me more information about the aforementioned committee after Spring Convocation.

Leigh Spanner, GSA Senator

GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the June 22, 2015 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Virginia Pimmett
Date: June 19, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

As reported, last month the "omnibus" package of proposed changes presented to you in November was broken into smaller pieces to be reviewed. In the last month the GSA ERC and the GSA GC tackled the establishment of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB).

To this end the GSA ERC and the GSA GC met jointly on June 12 and June 18 to discuss the composition, jurisdiction and procedures of the GSA ACB.

At this first meeting, Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director, made a powerpoint presentation of the major elements of procedural fairness. This presentation initiated a lot of discussion among members of both committees concerning the GSA ACB including: the number of members of the GSA ACB, actions taken if there is a serious complaint against DEO(s), availability of GSA ACB decisions on the GSA website, and the removal of office of DEOs by a five (5) person GSA ACB hearing committee. This was a very intensive hour and half of discussion that laid the basis on which to revise the GSA ACB proposal.

At the second meeting, members of both committees had the GSA ACB proposal before them and there was a powerpoint presentation by Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director. **This presentation explaining the major elements of the GSA ACB will be shown to you at the June Council meeting.** Members reviewed the GSA ACB proposal and discussed elements of the proposal such as confidentiality of GSA ACB hearings, and the removal of the Council-Elected Officers. Members met for two and a half hours.

The GSA ERC and GSA GC will meet again jointly on June 26 to discuss the proposal further.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the Council meeting this month. However Justin Leifso, GSA ERC member will be there and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you have any further questions, please email me!

Respectfully,
Virginia Pimmett, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

GSA Executive Director
Report to Council for June 22, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Ellen Schoeck
Date: June 19, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Continuing Councillors will have seen this table before. It is a list of the GSA's key corporate documents, which define us as a Corporate Entity. I will be happy to answer any questions at Council. **Highlights include: NASA Collective Agreement covering GSA Staff (20.1), the new Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (20.2), and the 2014-2015 GSA Audit (20.3).**

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

Best,
Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director

Documents that Define the GSA as a Corporate Entity

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Agreements with Expiry Dates		
North Power Plant and Dewey's	**2009 Memorandum of Agreement** with the Students' Union regarding the operation of Dewey's	**Expired August 2012** - conversations and negotiations are currently ongoing
	2010 Memorandum of Understanding with the U of A for use of North Power Plant Space for the Tory Building decant	**Expired** - Tory Decant complete
	1997 Memorandum of Agreement with the U of A guaranteeing graduate social space in North Power Plant or at another location; **2004 Letter of Confirmation** on this MoU from the Dean of Students	**No Expiration** - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP underway as part of this MoA
Collective Agreement (AEGS)	Sets out terms of employment for certain graduate students and terms for use of AEGS funds.	**Current agreement expires August 31, 2016.**
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. **Current agreement expires December 31, 2014 but is described by Administration as a rolling plan. Reviewed annually with Administration.**
Officers/Directors' Insurance	As a separate corporation from the university, we carry insurance that covers the elected officials, and management.	We doubled our coverage in 2013. **Current agreement expires January 28, 2016**.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Photocopier Lease with Xerox	Covers two photocopiers.	**Current agreement expires March 31, 2018.**
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. **This agreement expired April 30, 2015, and has been renegotiated and signed.**
Liability Insurance	As a separate corporation from the university, we carry our own General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance.	We doubled our liability insurance in 2012. **We are not covered for alcohol use and yet have GSA students groups who have self-reported that they use alcohol: discussions in 2013-2014 with Administration and insurance experts. General Liability insurance expires May 17, 2015.** We will meet with M Middleton, the University's new Insurance Director, this summer. **Directors and Officers insurance expires January 28, 2016.**
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for Health and Dental Plan.	Re-signed in 2014. Provider changed in 2012. **Current agreement expires August 31, 2020 (renegotiated agreement was signed in October 2014). Review service levels annually.**
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. **Current agreement expires April 30, 2016.**
Triffo Lease	Detailed lease covering our use of Triffo office space.	First-ever lease was signed in June 2011; 5-year term, four renewals. **Current agreement expires May 30, 2016 (notification of desire to renew must be given 6-12 months before expiry).** We will be providing notice shortly.
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance as well as some funding for GSA events.	**Current agreement expires October 7, 2016. Funding for the TD Student Service Award continues until 2017.**
U-PASS Transit Agreement with the U of A	Governs U-PASS.	Referendum held in March 2013. New agreement signed in September 2013. **Current agreement expires in 2017 when the U of A agreement with the City of Edmonton expires.**
Agreement with the City of Edmonton	Governs U-PASS.	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. **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.
AGREEMENTS WITH NO EXPIRY DATE (ONGOING)		
NAME	**SUMMARY**	**STATUS**
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 *Societies Act.*	Registered in March 2015 with U of C, U of L and AU GSAs. No expiration date; annual *Societies Act* filing required. (The former Alberta Graduate Council disbanded in2013).
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 Food Bank.	GSA gives $9000/annum to Campus Food Bank. **MOU expires April 30, 2015 and was renewed for three years.**
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's 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. Need to negotiate business terms with SU **(discussion began in December 2013 and continues).**
Student Financial Services (formerly UBEF)	UBEF administers the GSA's emergency bursary funds.	2006 AEGS Memorandum of Settlement between GSA/BoG provides for establishment of bursary program with terms of reference developed by GSA and "distributed through the University Bursary Program."

Other Corporate Documents		
NAME	**SUMMARY**	**STATUS**
Audit (based on Council-approved budget)	As a separate corporation from the university, we hire our own auditor. Requirement of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.	Audit occurs annually in May-June. Audit field officers were on site June 15-17, 2015.
Council Bylaws and Policies	Enabled by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act.*	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, May 27, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 20, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** GSA Council, action arising from GSA Council, release of the Board SWP 2015-2016, office clean up and file organization, ab-GPAC next steps, GFC Caucus, issues, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Senator, GSA ERC replenishment, GSA Bylaw and Policy review, forward thinking and planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations, Pharmacy election, Anthropology election, AFNS election, discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment regarding graduate student groups.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial and Policy and Board Policy associated with travel, is ongoing.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, a GSA staff member recently attended some of the SGS training sessions for student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 565 likes (down 1 from May 20). Our Facebook posts reached 133 users this week, up 34 from May 20. Twitter = 391 followers (up 4 from May 13).

- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 to June 30, period is 60% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	$91,406.13	$571.30	0	186 (0 pending processing)
CCG	$54,640.28	$640.28	0	32 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	$3,562.50	0	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	$158,528.99 ***(no periods)**	$140,472.49	3	42 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC and the GSA GC,** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (GSA ERC) **and for several positions** (CALs, Senator, CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc). Assisting with elections in Pharmacy, AFNS, and Anthropology.

- Assistance with **GSA Council**.

- Updating the **GSA website**.

- **Grants processing** and forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.

- Attending select **student group training sessions hosted by SGS.**

- **GSA Agenda/Handbook preparation.**

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 3, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 27, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (preparing for joint meetings of the GSA ERC and the GSA GC, discussions with the GSA lawyers, drafting a proposal), action arising from GSA Council (drafting letters connected to the attendance policy), ab-GPAC next steps, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, forward thinking and planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations, events planning, Pharmacy election, Anthropology election, GSA website overhaul.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial and Policy and Board Policy associated with travel, is ongoing.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver (discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment), ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, a GSA staff member recently attended some of the SGS training sessions for student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 567 likes (up 2 from May 27). Our Facebook posts reached 488 users this week, up 355 from May 27. Twitter = 392 followers (up 1 from May 27).

- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 to June 30, period is 68% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	$91,102.37	$571.30	0	186 (0 pending processing)
CCG	$53,114.28	$640.28	0	32 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	$3,562.50	0	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	$149,362.80 ***(no periods)**	$138,472.49	1	43 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC and the GSA GC,** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (Arts Faculty Council, Student Group Granting Committee) **and for several positions** (CALs, CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc). Assisting with elections in Pharmacy and Anthropology.

- Updating the **GSA website**.

- **Grants processing** and forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.

- Attending select **student group training sessions hosted by SGS.**

- **GSA Agenda/Handbook preparation.**

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 10, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on June 10, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** meeting with the GSA Auditor in preparation for the annual audit, planning a GSA BFC meeting regarding the audit, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (preparing for joint meetings of the GSA ERC and the GSA GC, discussions with the GSA lawyers, drafting a proposal), ab-GPAC next steps and review of the group's financial policy, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, forward thinking and planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations, events planning, Pharmacy election, Anthropology election, GSA website overhaul.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial and Policy and Board Policy associated with travel, is ongoing.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver (discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment), ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, a GSA staff member recently attended some of the SGS training sessions for student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 571 likes (up 4 from June 3). Our Facebook posts reached 628 users this week, up 140 from June 3. Twitter = 394 followers (up 2 from June 3).

- **GSA Agenda/Handbook** preparation and preparing front desk stats.

- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 to June 30, period is 76% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications This Period
PDA	$91,102.37	$571.30 **CLOSED**	0	186 (0 pending processing)
CCG	$53,114.28	$640.28 **CLOSED**	0	32 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	$3,562.50	$0.00 **CLOSED**	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	$149,362.80 ***(no periods)**	$122,662.30	2	8 (2 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC and the GSA GC,** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (FACRA Board, etc) **and for several positions** (CALs, CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc). Assisting with elections in Pharmacy and Anthropology.

- Updating the **GSA website**.

- **Grants processing** and forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.

- **Events planning.**

- **GSA Agenda/Handbook preparation.**