

GSA Council Meeting Consolidated AGENDA

Monday, June 20, 2016 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm

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

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

Speaker Sulya Fenichel in the Chair

OPEN SESSION

**Attached Numbered
Pages**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 20 June 2016 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 16 May 2016 GSA Council Meeting
Attachments:
 - Minutes from the 16 May 2016 GSA Council Meeting
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
 - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

3.0 - 3.9

Councillor Announcements

5. Councillor Announcements

Action Items

6. GSA Rolling Budget and Business Plan: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part IX), GSA Policy (Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures), and GSA Policy (GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee)

Sarah Ficko (GSA President) will present the item.

GSA BFC members who are members of GSA Council: Sarah Ficko (GSA President and GSA BFC Chair); Sasha van der Klein (GSA Vice-President Labour and GSA BFC Vice-Chair); Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)

GSA BFC voting members invited to GSA Council as guests: Karen Turpin and Sina Yansori

Attachments:

- Cover Letter
- Outline of Issue
- Double Column Document Showing Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part IX), GSA Policy (Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures), and GSA Policy (GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee)

6.0

6.1

6.2 - 6.3

Prepared by J Tanguay, C Thomas, and E Schoeck for the Council Meeting of 20 June 2016

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Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

7. GSA Council Elections

Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.

a. GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), Speaker, and Deputy Speaker

Attachments:

- Nominees for GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), Speaker, and Deputy Speaker

7.0 – 7.7

b. GSA Governance Committee (2 vacancies)

Attachments:

- Nominees for GSA Governance Committee

7.8

For Discussion:

8. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2016-2017: Discussion

Sarah Ficko (GSA President) will present the item.

Reports

9. President (**Sarah Ficko, GSA President**)

- President's Report
- GSA Board
- GSA Budget and Finance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period – GSA BFC will meet on July 5, 2016**)
- GSA Governance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period – the next GSA GC meeting will be set soon**)

9.0 – 9.2

9.3

10. GSA Nominating Committee

- GSA Nominating Committee Report (**Michele DuVal, GSA Nominating Committee Administrative Chair**)

10.0 – 10.1

11. Vice-President Academic (**Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic**)

- Vice-President Academic's Report

11.0 – 11.1

12. Vice-President External (**Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External**)

- Vice-President External's Report
- GSA Awards Selection Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)

12.0 – 12.1

13. Vice-President Labour (**Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour**)

- Vice-President Labour's Report
- GSA Negotiating Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
- GSA Labour Relations Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)

13.0 – 13.1

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

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

14.0 – 14.1

15. Senator (**Jane Traynor, GSA Senator**)

- Senator's Reports
 - 2015-2016 Senator (**no written report at this time**)
 - 2016-2017 Senator (**no written report at this time**)

16. Speaker (**Sulya Fenichel, GSA Speaker**)

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

Prepared by J Tanguay, C Thomas, and E Schoeck for the Council Meeting of 20 June 2016

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| 17. Chief Returning Officer (Virginia Pimmett, GSA Chief Returning Officer) | |
| i. Chief Returning Officer's Report | 17.0 |
| 18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair) | |
| i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report | 18.0 |
| 19. GSA Management (Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director) | |
| i. Executive Director's Report | 19.0 – 19.5 |

Question Period

- 20. Written Questions (**none at this time**)
- 21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, May 16, 2016 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Ficko (President)	Michael Woolley (Art & Design)	Ryan Kisslinger (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Kelsey Peterson (Occupational Therapy)
Firouz Khodayari (VP Academic)	Cameron Smithers (Biochemistry)	Lorna Sutherland (Elementary Education)	Radim Barta (Oncology)
Sasha van der Klein (VP Labour)	Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences)	Shaina Humble (English & Film Studies)	Ashley Bahry (Paediatrics)
Masoud Khademi (VP External)	Graham Little (Biomedical Engineering)	Eve Robidoux (Faculte Saint-Jean)	Ines Zuna (Pharmacology)
Sulya Fenichel (Speaker)	Sarah Prendergast; Trent Nabe (Business MBA)	Neil Prather (History & Classics)	Kathy Tang (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Virginia Pimmett (CRO)	Yi Fang (Business PhD)	Evgeniya Kuznetsova (Humanities Computing)	Jay Worthy (Philosophy)
Alicia Cappello (Councillor-at-Large)	Avinash Sheshachalam (Cell Bio)	Mahalakshmi Kumaran (Lab Medicine & Pathology)	Will Giang (Physics)
Colin More (Councillor-at-Large)	Sahar Saadat (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Carla Lewis (Library & Information Studies)	Michal Juhas (Psychiatry)
Alphonse Ndem Ahola (Councillor-at-Large)	Anis Fahandej-Sadi; Joseph Cheramy (Chemistry)	Michelle Michelle; Jude Kong (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Joshua Yong (Psychology)
Nicole Noel (Councillor-at-Large)	Darian Brennekamp (Communication Science & Disorders)	Hirad Soltani (Mech Eng)	Colin Reynolds (Public Health)
Phil Oel (Councillor-at-Large)	Roshan Shariff (Computing Science)	Vanessa Carias (Medical Genetics)	Owain Bamforth (Religious Studies)
Ned Onwugbufor (Councillor-at-Large)	Samira Diar-Bakirly (Dentistry)	Melissa Silva (Medicine)	Ryan Stanfield (Renewable Resources)
Robert Reklow (Councillor-at-Large)	Jane Traynor (East Asian Studies)	Jay Friesen (MLCS)	Tasha Jayatunge; Kelsi Barkway (Sociology)
Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)	Atase Adjarho (Ed Policy Studies)	Grant Norman (Neuroscience)	Antonio Bruni (Surgery)
Sabrina Lopresti (AFNS)	Brittany Budzan (Ed Psych)	Upinder Singh (Nursing)	

GUESTS: Ian Reade (Director of Athletics); Cheryl Harwardt (Director of Campus and Community Recreation); Pooran Appadu (Senator Nominee); Faisal Hirji (incoming Lab Medicine & Pathology Councillor); Ruqayyah Almirzaq (incoming Lab Medicine & Pathology Alternate); Nisarg Tripathi (CME); Ahmed Najar (Councillor-at-Large Nominee); Jessica Peck (Senator Nominee; Councillor-at-Large Nominee); Swai Mon Khaing (incoming Biochemistry Councillor).

Speaker Sulya Fenichel in the Chair.

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

Roll Call

Prepared by J Tanguay and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 16 May 2016
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Item 3 - Minutes GSA Council 16 May 2016.docx

1. Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance

Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of the 16 May 2016 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 16 May 2016 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. S Fenichel **MOVED**; N Prather **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

3. Minutes from the 18 April 2016 GSA Council Meeting

Members had before them the 18 April 2016 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 6 May 2016. S Fenichel **MOVED**; G Norman **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

4. Changes in GSA Council Membership

i. Introduction of New Councillors

This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors: S Mon Khaing (Biochemistry); O Bamforth (Religious Studies); A Fahandej-Sadi (Chemistry); S Lopresti (AFNS); F Hirji (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)

ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors

This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: C Smithers (Biochemistry); M Kumaran (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)

Councillor Announcements

5. Councillor Announcements

C Smithers suggested that a group of graduate students should get together to go to the Faculty Club (the GSA recently worked with the Faculty Club to grant graduate students free access from May 1 to August 31, with drink specials and discounts on other items, including the buffet). C Smithers noted that he had contacted the Faculty Club and they were willing to provide an additional discount to a group, provided it is of a significant size. He added that if you are interested in this, you could contact him at csmithers@ualberta.ca.

F Khodayari shared a link where interested parties could sign up to volunteer to help Fort McMurray evacuees. Additionally, F Robertson pointed out that Triffo Hall was set up to accept donations for the Edmonton Emergency Relief Services.

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

6. Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement

Sarah Ficko (GSA President) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RATIFY**, on the recommendation of the GSA Negotiating Committee, the attached Memoranda of Settlement related to the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement and the Graduate Student Support Fund, effective September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2018.

S Ficko noted that the process of the negotiations for the Collective Agreement started last summer with the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) meeting in August and that she was happy that negotiations had concluded. She added that other campus groups have had significant issues during their negotiations but the GSA's had gone relatively smoothly.

S Ficko noted that the GSA was established by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* as a separate corporation from the University and that the GSA had a seat on the Board of Governors, was tasked with representing all graduate students, and had the sole right to negotiate with the University on behalf of academically employed graduate students. She also mentioned that the GSA was governed by GSA Council, was graduate student led, and professionally managed with the GSA management and Staff teams doing a lot of work behind the scenes to support the GSA. S Ficko then reviewed the structure of the University (headed by the Board of Governors), which directs the President and the Provost/Vice-President Academic; the other Vice-Presidents being under the President, while the Deans running the faculties and departments are under the Vice-President Academic; General Faculties Council (GFC) is the second highest decision-making body on campus and makes decisions concerning academic matters.

S Ficko then reviewed, noting that some of this information had been shared with GSA Council during the January meeting, her previous portfolio as the GSA VP Labour, including collective bargaining and assisting students employed as TA/RAs. She noted that a Collective Agreement is a legally binding written agreement, usually negotiated “collectively,” between two parties, that regulates the terms and conditions of the employment of represented employees in a workplace, their duties, and the duties of the employer. She also briefly described the GSA’s collective bargaining and added that it was outlined in the Collective Agreement.

S Ficko noted that the GSA LRC worked to develop the opening position with the GSA VP Labour and that the GSA Board sets the membership of the GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC). She noted that this past year the membership of the GSA NC consisted of the GSA VP Labour as Chair in addition to C More, D Smirnow, M Bal, and H Thaker. She then noted that the Board of Governors has its own negotiating committee. Last August, the GSA LRC began meeting to discuss issues facing graduate students and the GSA LRC and GSA NC met to finalize the GSA opening position before it was submitted to the University. She then reminded GSA Council that she and C More had previously presented to the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee (BHRCC) about graduate students and the benefits they bring to the institution. BHRCC decides on the University negotiating team’s mandate. S Ficko explained that once a mandate was set, negotiations began in a closed procedure as per labour relations common practice.

S Ficko then presented the Memoranda of Settlement (MoS) that were before GSA Council for ratification. She noted that they would also be presented to BHRCC. She explained that an MoS was a formal document executed by bargaining parties to set the terms of an agreement and required ratification (confirm by expressing consent). She indicated that, at this point, ratification was a yes or no question. S Ficko noted that the two signed MoS outlined a) the increase in funding to the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF), and b) the increased compensation rates and changes to the Collective Agreement. She specified that the GSSF funds GSA Academic Travel Awards (ATAs), GSA Child Care Grants (CCGs), GSA Emergency Bursaries (EBs), and GSA Recognition Awards and that the funding was increased by \$100 000. S Ficko indicated that the new Collective Agreement also includes an increase to the salary portion of stipend while the award portion was frozen as the freeze of tuition increases for domestic students by the provincial government also froze the award portion of the stipend (which increases by a rate equal to tuition increases).

S Ficko explained that the 2016-2018 Collective Agreement redefines graduate student research assistants into two categories: 1) those who work on research not related to their own research, up to 12 hours per week; and 2) those with funding for their own research related to their degree completion. She explained that this change provided needed clarification and further indicated that the new structure differentiates between Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs), Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs), and Graduate Research Assistant Fellowship (GRAF). She also specified that the award portion of the stipend was not taxed, whereas the salary portion was. S Ficko provided an overview of the GRAF category, defining it as a type of appointment whereby a graduate student is funded, with no specific work hours attached, to work on the graduate student’s own research or to complete thesis work. She specified that the GRAF appointment was not employment; it was non-taxable and holders would receive a T4A (“fellowship” meant funding but not a scholarship or bursary). S Ficko summarized the other changes to the 2016-2018 Collective Agreement including improved wording and definitions. For example, while the term Graduate Assistant serves as an umbrella term to include all three types of appointment (GTA, GRA, and GRAF) throughout the document, the consistent addition of the word “Graduate” before “Teaching Assistant” and “Research Assistant” was made so that GTA and GRA appointments can be clearly distinguished from other types of assistantships on campus. Among other changes, a better definition of graduate research and teaching assistants was added, clarification was made of the hours of work for GTAs and GRAs (the two can be combined for a total of up to 12 hours), and one week of Bereavement Leave was included.

S Ficko then described some of the appendices. For Appendix A, she noted that it dealt with letters of appointment. She specified that the 2016-2018 Collective Agreement included a list of mandatory expected items that must be covered in the letter and also provides a template including a list of “if applicable” statements, and a list of the funding package covered by the assistantship to help people understand how they were being paid over time. She noted that Appendix C outlined the Time Use Guideline in which a line for training hours was added (graduate students are entitled to training if needed), guidelines for supervisors to talk to their graduate students about their expectations with regards to their GRAF appointment, and a checkbox reminding the parties to discuss vacation dates. She noted that Appendix E described Short Term Academically-Related Employment (6 hours marking for a specific exam, for example) and was aimed at eliminating misuse of the term “casual” with respect to classifying employment.

R Barta thanked S Ficko for the presentation and asked what tied the award portion of the stipend to tuition increases. S Ficko turned to H Hogg who stated that the salary and award portions of the stipend were built into the Collective Agreement about 10-15 years ago and at the time it was a big win for the GSA. R Barta asked whether, if tuition increased, the award portion

would always increase and H Hogg responded yes and noted that removing this provision would be in the other side's interest, but not the GSA's.

J Kong stated his concern that the division of the RA into the GRAF and GRA might create problems for some departments. He added that most of his own work is as an RA and professors in his department are not obligated to pay students during the summer. S Ficko responded that the bigger issue was that there is no minimum funding on campus. She added that the GRAF appointment would not change minimum payments; it was just a name change. J Kong expressed concerns that most professors will choose not to sponsor students. S Ficko repeated that the category has not changed; only the name has changed. She added that if you are offered an amount of money in your funding letter, your supervisor must honour that. C More requested a Point of Information and asked for some background behind the decision of creating the GRAF category. S Ficko responded that the GRAF category was created due to concerns of not being compliant with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulations. She added that in the 2014-2016 Collective Agreement supervisors were not able to base the pay of students working on their own research on hours worked and that this has not changed. J Kong asked for clarification and S Ficko explained that the GRAF category is not employment, as a consequence there are no hours attached to the stipend. She added that the 2016-2018 Collective Agreement specified that the GRAF appointment was to be used to fund graduate students working on their own research. She then mentioned that the GTA and GRA categories were employment as holders were being paid to work on something other than their own research. S Ficko also asked that graduate students be encouraged to bring issues forward if they arose. She added that the GSA planned to work with the Provost and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) to educate staff and faculty on the Collective Agreement and its implementation.

A Adjarho stated this is the first time she had heard of GRAF and asked if it was applicable to all departments? S Ficko responded that it was new and would be applicable to all graduate students offered funding to work on their own research should council choose to ratify.

R Barta followed up on J Kong's previously noted concerns. He stated that his understanding was that in the 2014-2016 Collective Agreement it was confusing when a graduate student was being paid to work on some else's project or to work on their own research. He noted that the 2016-2018 Collective Agreement was clearer as a GRA appointment is for other research and a GRAF appointment is clearly designed to fund graduate students to work on their own research. He added that this can be a benefit to graduate students since the GRAF stipend was non-taxable.

J Kong asked if there was a way to increase the award portion of the stipend as it could help a lot of graduate students and it was noted that in the big scheme that was risky as it also meant that the award portion would no longer automatically increase commensurate with tuition increases.

J Kong noted that by creating the GRAF category international students were losing work hours that were counted in applications for Permanent Residency. S Ficko replied that even under the 2014-2016 Collective Agreement funding received to work on your own thesis were not attached to hours and not considered as employment and hence could not be used to apply for Permanent Residency. S Ficko also noted that the GSA met with Tony Santiago from University of Alberta International extensively about this issue; if a graduate student was here on a study permit they should be studying, not working. D Smirnow added that if the CRA audited a graduate student claiming it as work hours, they could face consequences.

A Adjarho asked for clarification as to why there was competition for GRA and GTA positions and S Ficko stated that the University's funding structure was very complicated and every department was different, the process and number of positions available was different in different departments. She noted that some faculties, such as Science and Engineering, offer more positions due to additional industry funding; supervisors receiving large grants are also able to fund more graduate students. C More added that, in the past, through some formula now unknown, it was determined how many TA positions were needed in each department and that decided the percentage of funding received from the Provost's Office. He added that the percentage of funding received by faculties had not changed in a long time. He also noted that once a faculty received their part of funding, Deans were in charge of distributing it to departments how they saw fit. He added that GRA funding was part of faculty budgets but did not come from the Provost's Office.

A Capello asked if the \$100,000 increase in the GSSF will change the amount of grants allowed per graduate student or just allow for more graduate students to receive grants. S Ficko responded that the amount per student would not change as the amount is prescribed in GSA Policy.

C Reynolds stated, in a follow-up to J Kong's earlier concerns about Permanent Residency applications, that if graduate students were currently using their RA hours to apply for Permanent Residency, this information needed to be shared as it is highly problematic. He raised concerns about research work being considered "work" at all. He then asked if it was the plan to have

guaranteed funding worked into the Collective Agreement. S Ficko responded that if the 2016-2018 Collective Agreement was ratified, the 2016-2017 DEOs would work over the summer, with the Provost and FGSR, to educate faculties, departments, and graduate students on its implementation. She noted that graduate students do not fit well into boxes, as they are not fully students and not fully staff. She added that receiving funding for work on one's research was a win. She also thanked C Reynolds for his point and indicated that graduate students received a degree for their work on their own projects but not for their work on other's projects and contributions should be compensated. She added that the 2016-2017 DEOs would work to address the minimum funding issue but this work will take time. C More explained that two or three years ago there was an Interim Provost who was asked by the then President to look into minimum funding as it was seen as a key factor in strong graduate student work and communities. They discovered that it was just not an easy thing to implement. He added that minimum funding had been looked at and would continue to be looked at but nothing would move fast. C Reynolds asked to be contacted because his faculty had some "interesting" ways of doing things that should be discussed. S Ficko encouraged him to email her or S van der Klein.

Speaker reminded GSA Council that this discussion was for the purpose of a yes or no vote; changes could not be made to the document.

J Kong asked about the listed duties of GRAs and pointed out that all graduate students do these things. S Ficko clarified that the distinction was that if the work was related to a graduate student's own research or not, for example, in Humanities Computing, students do not receive funding for their own research (GRAF) so they are hired to do research unrelated to their own work (GRA). R Barta asked, if a grant covered more than one student, could it be a GRA and S Ficko responded that this might qualify as a Short Term Employment category.

M Kumaran offered a Point of Interest regarding Permanent Residency concerns, specifying that whether or not it was named "employment" =in the 2016-2018 Collective Agreement, the CRA did not recognize experience gained during study permits as "work". He added that this was a recent change and the CRA now expected graduate students to graduate and then work.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RATIFY**, on the recommendation of the GSA Negotiating Committee, the attached Memoranda of Settlement related to the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement and the Graduate Student Support Fund, effective September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2018. S Ficko **MOVED**. S van der Klein **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; 1 opposed.

Presentations

7. Athletic and Recreation Fee Advisory Committee Presentation

Sarah Ficko (GSA President) introduced the guests, Ian Reade (Director of Athletics) and Cheryl Harwardt (Director of Campus and Community Recreation).

I Reade noted that last year Athletics and Recreation decided that they wanted to come at least once a year to present on what they do to both the GSA and the SU. I Reade outlined the five principles governing the administration of the Athletics and Recreation Fee: transparency, accountability, partnership, collaboration, and consultation. It was specified that the responsibility for the allocation of funds and provision of services was delegated by the Dean of the Faculty of the Physical Education and Recreation to the Director of Athletics and the Director of Campus and Community Recreation. I Reade highlighted funding partners, including the University of Alberta, alumni, and students and emphasised that the Athletic and Recreation fee was not the only source of revenue. He noted that University of Alberta teams did not pay to use facilities. I Reade also noted that a big part of revenues went to paying staff but also to travel cost for teams. He also mentioned that scholarships for athletes were funded externally. I Reade specified that the Athletic and Recreation Fees Policy Advisory Committee facilitated collaboration and consultation with partners. This committee was chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and there were student representatives from both the SU and the GSA on it. I Reade then showed some statistics of the attendance at on-campus sports events and noted that they showed a high-student engagement level.

C Harwardt then explained that her role was to offer services to students and the external population and manage those services. She reviewed the budget of Campus and Community Recreation and explained that revenue was raised from membership fees space rentals. She noted that all the facilities on North Campus were available for student use.

G Norman stated that many universities have their facilities open all year, he then asked why at the University of Alberta the facilities were closed on most holidays. C Harwardt replied that they were constantly exploring how to increase services but staffing costs and availabilities was an issue.

C Reynolds asked if there were any way to avoid paying a fee associated with forgetting their ONEcard. C Harwardt responded that someone forgiving the fee on a one-time basis could become a cascading problem.

J Kong raised questions about Spring and Summer the Athletic and Recreation Fee (including as assessed at the desk, as assessed on BearTracks, and the amount of the fee (same fee as the community membership fee)). C Harwardt replied that she would make some inquiries about the fee and its assessment and would follow-up with the GSA President.

F Khodayari thanked C Harwardt for her presentation and asked about the fee that needs to be paid by participants in outdoor clubs when no facilities or staff were used. C Harwardt indicated that this was an insurance fee. F Khodayari also asked why some of the facilities were rented by teams when students would like to use the facilities. C Harwardt replied that that was a controversial issue and that there were many aspects to consider and it was impossible to satisfy everyone.

M Khademi asked about services offered to students living in residences. C Harwardt replied that they were assisting residences to develop small fitness centres and that some programs were offered in residences.

C Smithers asked if the procedure to opt-in to the Athletic and Recreation fee online could be simplified. C Harwardt replied that she was not aware it was problematic but that she would consult with the Office of the Registrar, which managed this.

V Pimmett asked as to why the facilities on South Campus were not included in the Athletics and Recreation Fee. C Harwardt explained that these facilities were built as revenue generating and added that it would be possible to propose an increase in the fee to facilitate access.

There were some more questions about the cost of the Athletic and Recreation fee for the Spring and Summer term and the concerns that it was sometimes doubly assessed. S Fenichel summarized the questions raised by Councillors regarding the Spring/Summer fee and C Harwardt reiterated that she would follow-up on this matter.

8. GSA Council Elections

M DuVal (Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item.

a) Nominees for GSA Senator:

There was one GSA Senator position to be filled; four nominations were received.

Nominees for GSA Senator:

1. Pooran Appadu (AFNS)
2. Alicia Cappello (Humanities Computing/Library and Information Studies)
3. Jessica Peck (Library and Information Studies)
4. Jane Traynor (East Asian Studies)

M DuVal outlined that the GSA Senator sat on the University of Alberta Senate as the GSA representative and that the GSA Senator should have prior experience acting as a representative of the GSA. To determine the order in which candidates would address GSA Council their names was drawn out of a cup. Candidates were asked to wait outside until it was their turn to address GSA Council.

Candidates were asked two questions and had 45 seconds to respond to each. Questions were provided in advance.

1. According to GSA Policy, Officers Portfolios, Section 9.2, "The Senator should have prior experience acting as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University." What experience do you have as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University?
2. As the GSA Senator, your role is to represent the GSA on Senate, which represents the University to the outside community. Keeping this in mind, what, in your opinion, is the role of the University in the community?

J Peck answered the first question by stating that she had been the GSA Councillor for Library and Information Studies for the last two years, she was the GSA representative on the Student Library Council and she had been the co-chair of her departmental GSA. She replied to the second question by saying that she believed that the University played a unique role in the community as it acted as a source of knowledge and further perpetuated its own community.

J Traynor, who spoke next, answered the first question by stating that in this past academic year she has acted as a GSA representative on the committee working on the University's Institutional Strategic Plan. She added that this experience allowed her to work with various members of the University Administration. She noted that she had a good time representing the GSA on that committee and that she would gladly do it again in a different setting. J Traynor replied to the second question by saying that the University was a great hub for critical thinking and was composed of people from very different backgrounds and that it delivered essential things to the community.

A Cappello, who spoke third, answered the first question by stating that last year she represented the GSA on GFC, on FGSR Council, on the Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee, on the Faculty of Arts Council, and on the Protective Services Commission. She added that she was also the VP External for the Humanities Computing Association. A Cappello replied to the second question by saying that she attended a session last September with the Senate and GFC on a similar question and there was a lot of debate. She noted her belief that the University should to be a role model for the community.

P Appadu, who spoke last, answered the first question by stating that he served on FGSR Academic Appeals Committee and on GSA Council. He added that as GSA Senator he would foster a collegial environment in the Senate and encourage collaboration with the GSA, the University, and the community. P Appadu replied to the second question by saying the University was a role model and worked to inspire the community and help it flourish.

- b) Nominees for GSA Board
Alicia Cappello (Humanities Computing/Library and Information Studies)

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council, acting on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Council member for the position on the GSA Board, as noted below.

MOTION: That GSA Council, acting on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Council member for the position on the GSA Board, as noted below. M DuVal **MOVED**. S Ficko **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously

- c) Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:

There was one GSA Councillor-at-Large position to be filled due to the resignation of one Councillor-at-Large elected during the GSA General Election; two nominations were received.

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:

1. Ahmed Najar (Renewable Resources)
2. Jessica Peck (Library and Information Studies)

To determine the order in which candidates would address GSA Council there was a coin tossed. Candidates were asked to wait outside until it was their turn to address GSA Council.

The candidates were asked two questions and had 45 seconds to respond to each. Questions were provided in advance.

1. Taking **45 seconds**, please introduce yourself and tell Council what motivated you to run for this position?
2. Taking **45 seconds**, please tell Council how would you be an effective additional voice on GSA Council?

For the first question, J Peck, who spoke first, stated that she had finished her second year of her Master in Library and Information Studies and had been the GSA Councillor for Library and Information Studies and served on the GSA Governance Committee. She added that her term as GSA Councillor ended and that she was interested in continuing her involvement with the GSA. For the second question, J Peck pointed out that she had past experience being involved with GSA Council and that she had a good background for the position.

For the first question, A Najar, who spoke last, listed things that motivated him to run, including the opportunity for learning and growth and to further his volunteering with the GSA. For the second question, A Najar mentioned that he wished to convey some of the stories that he had heard regarding labour issues. He added that he has his grievances and his issues but was committed to supporting the institution.

d) Nominees for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board:

M DuVal noted that this was a little addendum as the nomination process was not completed in time to be included in the GSA Council package or agenda. M DuVal mentioned that the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) interviewed the nominee and the GSA NoC voted via email over the weekend.

MOTION: That GSA Council, acting on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Council member, Jane Traynor (East Asian Studies), for the position on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Committee. M DuVal **MOVED**. R Barta **SECONDED**.

Motion **CARRIED**; 1 Abstention.

Reports9. **President**i. **President's Report:**

Members had before them a letter from the President, a written report from the 2015-2016 President, and a written report from the 2016-2017 President, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

S Ficko highlighted the key points of her letter. She noted that she would hone in on student engagement and advocacy to improve the life of graduate students. She added that she and her team were accountable to GSA Council and noted that her written report consisted of a summary of her first week in office.

S Ficko then updated GSA Council on was the GSA Board Health and Dental Plan Subcommittee. She noted that at the May GSA Council meeting, GSA Council moved from the floor to create an *ad hoc* committee to review the GSA Health and Dental Plan. She then noted that this Motion was carried without thoroughly consulting the relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy. Once consulted, GSA Bylaw and Policy showed that oversight of the GSA Health and Dental Plan was under the purview of the GSA Board and *ad hoc* committees can only be struck to deal with matters not already in the purview of a GSA standing committee. As a result, the GSA Board voted instead to strike a subcommittee of GSA Board and approved terms of reference. M DuVal noted that the GSA NoC advertised positions to serve on that subcommittee through the GSA Newsletter and that only three (3) graduate students expressed interest in serving. As quorum for the subcommittee was set at four (4) members, plus the Chair or Vice-Chair, scheduled meetings could not proceed. M DuVal indicated that the subcommittee was working with a very tight timeline and that by losing the next month to re-advertise positions, the subcommittee would not be able to meet its deadline of writing a final report and making recommendations by the end of the summer. At S Ficko's request, C Thomas spoke about the timeline to present a referendum question regarding the GSA Health and Dental Plan to graduate students during the 2017 General Election.

S Ficko suggested a number of potential alternatives to consult graduate students in advance of any referendum, including town halls that would be open to all graduate students, and having some GSA Board meetings opened to graduate students, and the development of a survey for GSA Councillors to distribute to their constituents. C More noted that he thought that doing town halls was an excellent idea as they would possibly bring together a more representative cross section of graduate students and carried the possibility to receive feedback on various matters in addition to feedback on the GSA Health and Dental Plan. D Smirnow noted that she supported the GSA Board doing the legwork. C Reynolds noted that he liked the idea of a town hall. Following a question by P Oel, S Ficko noted that the GSA Board would update GSA Council on the outcomes of the town halls and on all aspects of the ongoing discussion concerning the Plan. C More mentioned the desirability of investigating whether a subset of graduate students could be brought together to bounce ideas off of, mirroring the consultation process undertaken by the University during the development of the Institutional Strategic Plan.

G Little said that he liked the idea of town halls but was concerned about student engagement and whether they would be well attended. At S Ficko's request, C Thomas noted that the town halls on tuition held several years ago were well attended. C Reynolds noted that there were less students on campus in the summer and asked that that be considered. S Ficko replied that the town halls could be scheduled over the summer and the fall.

R Shariff suggested providing backgrounding information to those attending the town halls. S Ficko thanked him for his suggestion and M DuVal added that Studentcare representatives could also attend to answer questions.

S Fenichel explained that it was not in the power of GSA Council to dissolve the GSA Board Health and Dental Plan Subcommittee as it was a GSA Board Subcommittee and, accordingly, S Ficko noted that that GSA Board would consider a

Motion to dissolve it at their next meeting while moving forward with pursuing alternate means of collecting feedback from graduate students, as discussed. She encouraged GSA Councillors with any further thoughts to contact her.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

iii. Budget and Finance Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

10. GSA Nominating Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

In addition M DuVal stated that there were vacancies on the Arts Faculty Council and on various Arts Faculty subcommittees. She also added that nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO were still open; nominations will be accepted until noon on 30 May 2016.

11. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report from the 2015-2016 VP Academic and a written report from the 2016-2017 VP Academic, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

In addition F Khodayari stated that at its last meeting FGSR Council discussed the addition of the Professional Experience or Development Leave to the three existing leave categories (Medical, Parental, and Compassionate). F Khodayari mentioned that, if approved, the new category would allow graduate students, for a maximum of a year, to take advantage of professional development opportunities when they arise and then return to their programs.

12. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report from the 2015-2016 VP External and a written from the 2016-2017 VP External, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

In addition M Khademi stated that ab-GPAC met in Calgary. He explained that ab-GPAC was the provincial advocacy group that the GSA was part of, along with the other research institutions in the province. He stated that the first part of the meeting was aimed at transitioning the new team and the second part discussed how to unify graduate students' voices across the province. He also mentioned that the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) recently met with the President of Concordia University.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee's Report

No meetings this reporting period.

13. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report from the 2015-2016 VP Labour and a written report from the 2016-2017 VP Labour, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

In addition S van der Klein stated that she had only been in office for five days when she wrote her report and that she was looking forward to working with the new Collective Agreement and on mental health issues.

ii. GSA Negotiating Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

14. Vice-President Student Services**i. Vice-President Student Services' Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

15. Senator**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time. Senator was not present and will report at next meeting.

16. Speaker**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

19. GSA Management**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 May 2016. The report stood as submitted.

In addition, C Thomas, Acting Executive Director, stated that the GSA had a wonderful staff team. C More asked what C Thomas did in her position and she noted that the GSA management and staff teams support the Directly-Elected Officers and the GSA's governance structure and services; she provided, as a small cross section example of some of the work done by the GSA office, the example of preparing material for GSA Council meetings after meetings of the GSA Board and other GSA standing committees, booking space for GSA Council meetings, preparing minutes, etc. N Prather noted that he appreciated the staff and the job that they do and was thanked by C Thomas and H Hogg.

Question Period**20. Written Questions**

None at this time.

21. Oral Questions

C Reynolds mentioned to GSA Council that students could claim the Athletic and Recreation fee on their taxes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.



Dear GSA Council Members,

June 10, 2016

While I currently serve as Chair of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC), this proposal was considered and recommended to be brought forward to GSA Council by the GSA BFC and the GSA Board in my term as VP Labour, when I was Vice-Chair of the GSA BFC.

When the GSA BFC met in January of 2016 to consider the GSA's 2016-2017 budget and rolling five-year budget/business plan, members queried whether a five-year plan was appropriate as so much information was subject to change. Members discussed whether a three-year rolling plan would be a better guide. The five-year rolling plans were first implemented in 2010; prior to that no forecasting was undertaken. At the time, the University's model of using five years was utilized but it was an artificial number.

The GSA BFC then met again on February 9, 2016 to further discuss this. At this meeting, they consulted with the GSA Financial Team (led by Executive Director Ellen Schoeck and including Accountant Shirley Ball, Financial Manager Dorte Sheikh, Director of Operations Heather Hogg, and Director of Services and Governance Courtney Thomas) and agreed that a three-year plan was more clear as the development of the rolling plan was based on the mechanical application of CPI and factors such as actual CPI and enrolment levels were unknown when the rolling plan was done. At a meeting on March 14, 2016, members voted to recommend these proposed changes to GSA Council.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ficko
GSA President and Chair of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board

cc
Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director and Lead, Financial Team
Shirley Bal, GSA Accountant
Financial Team

Outline of Issue (GSA Council)

GSA Rolling Budget and Business Plan: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part IX), GSA Policy (Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures), and GSA Policy (GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee)

Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:

That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, **APPROVE** proposed changes to GSA Bylaw (Part IX), GSA Policy (Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures), and GSA Policy (GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee), as noted in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy.

NOTE #1: The force of this Motion is to change from a five-year rolling budget and business plan to a three-year one.

NOTE #2: Proposed changes to GSA Policy are currently presented for information and will re-appear alongside the second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw at the July GSA Council meeting.

Background:

At their meeting of January 26, 2016 (where members reviewed and advised upon the Annual Operating and Capital Five-Year Budget/Business Plan (2016-2021) and the Restricted and Other Funding Five-Year Budget/Business Plan (2016-2021)), GSA BFC members "queried whether a five-year plan was appropriate as so much information was variable to change and members discussed whether a three-year plan would be a better guide. Members agreed to discuss this at their next meeting and review GSA Policy accordingly."

At their meeting of February 9, 2016, GSA BFC "**AGREED** that a three-year plan was more clear as the forecasts constituted a mechanical application of CPI and factors such as actual CPI and enrolment levels were unknown when forecasting was done." At their meeting of March 14, 2016, GSA BFC reviewed a proposal moving the GSA from a five-year rolling budget and business plan to a three-year one and recommended it to GSA Council. On March 30, 2016, the GSA Board also voted to recommend this proposal to GSA Council.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 4.2.b.ii:

"The GSA BFC shall fulfil the following advisory functions ... Advising the President and GSA Council on budget principles, policies, and procedures and on any other related financial policies."

GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 4.2.f:

"The GSA BFC shall consider any matters referred to it by GSA Council, the GSA Board, the President, or management."

GSA Rolling Budget and Business Plan

Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part X), GSA Policy (Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures), and GSA Policy (GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee)

Current GSA Bylaw (<i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i>) and Proposed Changes (<i>additions underlined</i>)	Rationale/Background
GSA Bylaw, Part IX, Finances	
1 Budget	<i>No change.</i>
1.1 The Executive Director, GSA Accountant, GSA Financial Manager, and the President, in consultation with the GSA Board and Budget and Finance Committee, shall draft an annual budget as part of a five-year <u>three-year</u> , rolling budget and business plan, to be reviewed by the <u>GSA BFC</u> no later than the <u>GSA BFC</u> 's last meeting in the February prior to the April in which the annual budget will take effect.	<i>A three-year plan provides greater clarity and potentially more accuracy as the plans constitute a mechanical application of CPI and factors such as actual CPI and enrolment levels are unknown when the rolling plan is prepared.</i> <i>Editorial.</i>
1.2 <u>GSA</u> Council will receive a recommendation on the annual operating and capital budgets, together with a recommended five-year <u>three-year</u> budget and business plan, no later than its March regular meeting.	<i>See above-noted rationale.</i>
No further changes.	

Current GSA Policy (<i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i>) and Proposed Changes (<i>additions underlined</i>)	Rationale/Background
Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures	
1.1.a – 1.1.d ...	<i>No change.</i>
1.1.e In planning and managing its budget, the GSA shall ... facilitate long-term planning by developing a five (5)-year <u>three (3)-year</u> rolling budget and business plan for revenue and expenditure.	<i>See above-noted rationale.</i>
1.1.f – 1.1.j ...	<i>No change.</i>

Current GSA Policy (<i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i>) and Proposed Changes <i>(additions underlined)</i>	Rationale/Background
Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures	
2.1 The Unrestricted and Restricted Operating Budget shall be organized into broad budget divisions which are presented to the GSA BFC, the GSA Board, and GSA Council in both the quarterly reports and the annual five (5)-year <u>three (3)-year</u> rolling budget and business plan.	<i>See above-noted rationale.</i>
No further changes.	

Current GSA Policy (<i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i>) and Proposed Changes <i>(additions underlined)</i>	Rationale/Background
Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)	
1 – 4.2.e ...	<i>No change.</i>
4.2.d The GSA BFC shall review and advise on the annual five (5)-year <u>three (3)-year</u> rolling budget and business plan.	<i>See above-noted rationale.</i>
No further changes.	

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

The GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) advertised these positions to all graduate students in the GSA Newsletter on May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2016, and received **two** nominations for Speaker, **one** nomination for Deputy Speaker, **one** nomination for CRO, and **one** nomination for DRO by the deadline of May 30, 2016 at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA NoC forwarded **ALL** bios and resumes received to GSA Council on June 8, 2016. GSA Council was invited to make additional nominations by the deadline of Wednesday June 15, 2016 at 12:00 (Noon) and no additional nominations were received (GSA Policy, Nominating, 6.6).

There will be four separate anonymous paper ballot votes at the June 20, 2016 GSA Council meeting to elect the GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO for 2016-2017.

If you are unable to attend the June 20 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for each position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 20, 2016 in order to cast your votes in advance of the GSA 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. Clara Fallone (Oncology)
2. Sulya Fenichel (Elementary Education)

GSA Deputy Speaker

1. Preshit Verma (Construction Engineering and Management)

GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

1. Carolina Martinez Sanchez (Business)

GSA Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)

1. Darcy Bemister (Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science)

GSA Policy governing the GSA 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 Speaker (2), Deputy Speaker (1), CRO (1), DRO (1), are ATTACHED on pages 7.1 - 7.7. Biographies and brief resumes have been attached as received (i.e. not edited).**

Biographies and Resumes of Nominees:

GSA SPEAKER AND 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)

3.3.1 “The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council and General Meetings.”

3.3.4 “Duties of the Deputy Speaker and DRO are to assist the Speaker and CRO as needed.”

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 NOMINEES

1. Clara Fallone

Clara Fallone’s Bio:

I completed an engineering degree at the University of Alberta (2008) and worked for 3 years in a refinery (ESSO), prior to beginning my graduate studies in Medical Physics in 2015. I participate in martial arts and also enjoy playing the violin, exercise and soccer, and mountain hiking. I love to travel and experience different cultures and cuisine. I bring a long history of volunteer experience. During my undergraduate degree, I served on the Chemical Engineering Students’ Society, where I organized social events for the students, as well as looked after the group’s accounting. While I was working in industry, I took part in the Network Advisory Program at my work place, which aimed to promote mentoring between new and senior

engineers, operators, and managers. For the last several years, I have been an active volunteer for the United Way of Alberta. In 2013, I chaired a month-long United Way campaign at my workplace, where we raised more than \$150,000 for United Way charities. Currently, I also volunteer as a mentor for W.P. Wagner High school, assisting high school students in preparing for and applying to post-secondary institutions. I am also involved in volunteering for Alberta Cancer Foundation fund-raising events, such as the “Mud Hero” athletic event, and the upcoming Craft Beer Festival. In addition, I give presentations at Discover E summer camps, which aim to teach academically- inclined grade-school children about science and engineering.

Clara Fallone’s Resume:

I am currently working on my MSc in Medical Physics. My research centers on improving MRI methodology for deciphering and quantifying body composition. I am interested in being a Speaker for the GSA as I have been considering becoming involved with the GSA, and this is a good place to start. I enjoy meeting new people and would like to play a bigger role in the graduate student community. The Speaker position seems to be a good fit for me as I have lots of experience running meetings, and forming and adhering to an agenda from my past work. As far as I am currently aware, I am available for all of the meetings listed above (although I noticed the dates are 2014-2015). I am generally available weeknights, as long as I have enough notice such that I can schedule my other volunteer activities on different days. I hope you see me as a valuable addition to the team.

2. 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. Her most recent teaching experience is here at the University, where she has co-created curriculum for, and co-lead, a 400 level Teacher Education course. 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 with varying backgrounds who have worked in fields as widely divergent as food service to air traffic control. With additional communications experience in the areas of film, acting, community based advertising, graphic design, photography, writing, and editing, she has finally finished her doctoral coursework and is on her way towards her candidacy examination. She served with the GSA as a Departmental Councilor for Elementary Education from September of 2013 until June of 2015, has held a seat on GSA Governance Committee since early summer 2014, and has been Speaker for the GSA since July 2015. Also since July 2015, her role as Speaker has offered her the privilege of a non-voting role on GSA Board where a lot is shared, considered, and decided as regards communication with GSA Council and overall graduate student experience at the University of Alberta.

Sulya Fenichel’s Resume:

I have learned a lot from the rich complexities of being Speaker for the GSA over this past school year and have found a wealth of connection between the neutrality and meditational nature of being Speaker and my work as a doctoral student. I have recently completed a collaborative research project in formative assessment with school administrators and have just begun another shared project with beginning educators into the role of relational pedagogies (e.g. Narrative Inquiry, Indigenous Pedagogies) in their lives and teaching. Both projects, while obviously attentive to outcomes, attend most deeply to the “how” of sharing knowledge in educational communities. When my doctoral experience is considered in combination with my experience as Speaker, I feel as though I have more I can offer to support the important work of the GSA. Moving forward in my research, I intend to explore the ways in which the language we use (e.g. particular wording) influences key, and sometimes ideologically entrenched, ‘stakeholder’ groups and to seek ways to improve communication, interconnection, and collaboration in processes of education, research, and administration. Moving forward with the GSA, I would like to build on the past year’s efforts to continue to

do my part to nurture a healthy, informed, and mutually respectful GSA Council and graduate student community. I am grateful that my schedule continues to have the space for me to pursue this position for a second year.

Sulya Fenichel currently serves on the following committees: As acting Speaker I have non-voting seats on both GSA Governance and GSA Board

GSA DEPUTY SPEAKER NOMINEE

1. Preshit Verma

Preshit Verma's Bio:

I, Preshit Verma, graduated from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India, student of India's best technological and engineering institute and I am currently pursuing Graduate MSc (Thes.) studies at University of Alberta in Construction Management. I gained exposure through various experiences at the Undergraduate and Graduate level:

- I have personally acted as an Arbitrator for one of the Construction contract hearings for our course project for the City of Edmonton as a part of my Graduate studies. I enhanced my negotiation, mediation and arbitration skills during the course of contract administration and this helped me to act as a neutral moderator for the whole process making sure that the meeting is objective oriented and the opinions are well placed forward as per the meeting schedule to reach conclusive decisions.
- In the past during my undergraduate studies, I was the Institute Company Coordinator, Placement Team-IIT Bombay whereby I built, motivated and lead a 2 tier multidisciplinary team of 140+ placement members and was entrusted to map placements for 1600+ students by connecting potential employers with talented students and conducting the complete process in a fair and efficient manner providing all an equal opportunity to choose their desired careers.

Preshit Verma's Resume:

I am the Co-Founder of PARKERR, with a vision to solve the parking problem involving 935 million cars globally and eliminate traffic congestion through smarter parking approaches. We are a part of the Accelerate program 2016 at Entrepreneurship Hub, start-up incubator at University of Alberta. We conducted market research, validated our ideas based on customer surveys, developed our Business model canvas and are currently working on our platform development, business strategy development, organizational structural development moving forward. The Deputy Speaker position will help me to understand the organizational framework better, communicate well to moderate the proceedings efficiently and help the student community.

My current research as a Research Assistant in Construction Management mainly includes developing classroom occupancy based resource management systems for the University of Alberta based on real-time data collected using heat sensors/Wifi location trackers. The overall perspective is to make data driven decisions, optimize resource usage through ease of communication of information to the management and improve the standard of living, study and participation in classroom activities through the development of smarter and sustainable classrooms improving the way in which the management operations are conducted at the facilities department at the University.

I believe that the prestigious position of Deputy Speaker at GSA will help me enhance my organizational and communication skills. Most importantly it will help me to learn more about the strategic planning and conducting processes from a neutral stand point leading the conversation toward a fruitful and objective

oriented outcome. It is therefore, integral for my growth as an individual and a leader in the society. It will help me to make a contribution to influence the lives of Graduate students at the University of Alberta for the better.

GSA CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER AND 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.”

3.3.4 “Duties of the Deputy Speaker and DRO are to assist the Speaker and CRO as needed.”

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. [...]”

8.3 “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.”

8.4 “Restrictions for CRO and DRO

- e. The CRO and DRO may not hold any other elected position in the GSA.
- f. “The CRO, DRO, Speaker, and members of the ERC shall not campaign for or endorse any candidate whatsoever” (GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section 5.3).
- g. 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).
- h. 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.
 - v. 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. Carolina Martinez Sanchez

Carolina Martinez Sanchez's Bio:

I am an advocate of objectivity, equality and justice, therefore I have always tried to be as involved as possible in the community that surrounds me. Before I came to Edmonton for my MBA, I was volunteer Board Member and was actively involved in affairs between government, private business and society, in addition, I was also an election representative member with the goal of making sure that the candidates and election process was done within the established protocols and rules. I have learned and developed strong abilities to be able to make sure that my contributions are within a framework of fairness, regulations and always in benefit of those involved.

Now, as an MBA Student, I am the Chair of Governance External for the MBA Program. I am currently an Intern at the City of Edmonton (Enterprise Risk Management) which has given me the opportunity to learn and focus on the links between Canadian government and Canadian society. One of the most meaningful experiences has been noticing how the measures of efficiency and effectivity are positive when any process is applied with transparency and legality.

Carolina Martinez Sanchez's Resume: I have a business background, a BA in Business Administration, an MSA in International Business and now my MBA which is still in progress, I am

also interested in pursuing a Doctorate Degree after the completion of my MBA. I consider that my managerial experience and as an entrepreneur along with my conviction for ethics, equality and fairness would be of use for the GSA under the position of CRO. I am committed to bring my skills, my availability and professionalism to the already highly valued and well respected Graduate Students Association

GSA DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER NOMINEE

1. Darcy Bemister

Darcy Bemister's Bio: I grew up in a small town north of Winnipeg, MB, and after completing high school I took four years off and gained a broad exposure to many sectors within agriculture. I completed the first year of my undergrad at the U of Manitoba, before attending the U of Alberta, and have begun my MSc. in January 2016. I am currently a member of the GFC, and an executive on the ALES GSA.

Darcy Bemister's Resume: My thesis is focused on disease resistance within wheat, and the identification of resistance QTLs. My research is being conducted in the field as small plots, and therefore the continued cooperation of Mother Nature is much appreciated. In Fall 2016 I will be TAing my supervisor's class focused on cereal, oilseed, and pulse crops.

I am interested in this position to further increase my involvement with students and the university, and my Winter schedule is well suited for this because I will not be enrolled in any classes. I look forward to providing an impartial voice to the GSA Elections, and assisting with another smooth and successful election year.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA Governance Committee Vacancies: Newly-Elected Members

Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:

That GSA Council, acting on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Council members for the two positions on the GSA Governance Committee, as noted below.

Newly-Elected GSA Council Member on GSA Governance Committee:

1. **Maryse Ndilu Kiese (GSA Councillor, Religious Studies)**
2. **Justin Leifso (GSA Councillor, Political Science)**

Background:

In an email to GSA Council on May 27, 2016, the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) advertised for two (2) vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee. The deadline for the first call for nominations was June 3, 2016 and two nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on June 10, 2016. The deadline to receive additional nominations was Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at Noon, and no additional nominations were received. Since the GSA NoC did not receive any additional nominations, the nominees were declared elected.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.1.a.iv
“Three (3) members of Council elected by Council.”

No additional nominations were received by the deadline provided of 12 (noon) on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 (GSA Policy, Nominating, 6.6). The nominees presented in this report are therefore declared **elected**.

GSA Governance Committee: Vacancies: TWO MEMBER OF GSA COUNCIL

In accord with GSA Policy, 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 make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee” (GSA Policy, Standing Committee, Section 3.2.a).

GSA Council Members Leaving the GSA Governance Committee: Susan Cake (Sociology), Jessica Peck (Library and Information Studies)

GSA Council Members Staying on the GSA Governance Committee: Shelby Sanders (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)

**GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sarah Ficko
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Councillor Friends and Colleagues,

The past month has just flown by, and I can't believe it is nearing the end of June already! For those of you who don't know, I love plants and gardening (no surprise that I'm doing revegetation work for my PhD, right?!). Earlier this year my housemates and I put in a 7 x 8 m garden, and all the vegetables sprouting makes me very happy! I hope everyone else has found a reason to enjoy being outside too.

Much of the work that I have done over the past month and a half has fallen into three categories – building a team, making decisions, and communication.

1) Building a team – Board Strategic Work Plan

When a new GSA team starts, one of their first tasks is to develop a Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). This document anchors the team and their activities over the next year. As any good grad student would do when facing a new challenge, I did some reading and consultation on SWPs, and one idea that came up was that the elected team should have an annual action plan, with a more long term Strategic Work Plan that is updated on a 3-5 year cycle to help provide continuity and direction to the elected officers. To that end, I've been working with my team to develop the tasks we wish to focus on this year, as well as reorganizing the SWP, which I will be presenting on in more detail in Council. As representatives of all grad students, I believe that we need to hear from diverse perspectives as we develop this Plan so that grad students feel more engaged in the process and empowered by their representatives. To get a broader understanding of the range of topics affecting grad students and their concerns, we are going to break up into smaller groups for a discussion on key issues affecting grad students, and specific actions the GSA could take this year and over the next 3-5 years to tackle them on behalf of grad students. To follow up on this conversation, I encourage everyone to talk to their department and send me any further feedback, as well as attend the GSA hosted Roundtable Discussions on either July 11 or August 4 (more information is available in the GSA newsletter).

2) Making Decisions

For anyone who knows me, being decisive is not something I'm known for! However, this job is actually really helping me work on that, as there are decisions that need to be made on almost a daily basis. Decisions/taking action can include everything from signing cheques for things like GSA Emergency Bursaries and other funding, collaborating with the office team on wording for posts on social media, planning details for our upcoming Professional Development event and departmental orientations, overseeing development of the Strategic Work Plan, directing information and emails to appropriate people, and leading discussions with my team.

3) Communication

In terms of communication, this includes everything from answering (what feels like a bajillion) emails to attending meetings and events both internal and external to the University. Highlights of meetings internal to the University this month include attending General Faculties Council, two Board of

Governors meetings and four Board of Governors committee meetings, as well as meetings with the University President Dave Turpin, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Heather Zwicker, and the Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors Shenaz Jeraj. My job is to bring forward issues facing grad students to the right audience, including matters such as the need for sustainable funding, poor conditions in residences, mental health challenges, compliance with the Collective Agreement, increasing professional development and internship opportunities, and policies affecting international students. I also use these opportunities to ask questions and learn from other people in positions of leadership on things they have done right (or wrong!) over the years.

As President, I'm also invited to many events. As Sasha also notes, it is generally beneficial to attend these to develop relationships with key stakeholders, demonstrate the GSA's involvement in the community, and show our support for new and ongoing initiatives. Events I have attended this month included two convocations, a reception hosted by FGSR for convocating doctoral students with Sasha and Masoud, the installation ceremony and reception for the University 21st Chancellor, Douglas Stollery with all the VPs, a Board of Governors dinner, a reception for honorary degree recipients, and a dinner hosted by the Friends of the University with Sasha. These events generally have good food and interesting people to talk to, and I've made several useful connections to date, including talking to Mayor Don Iveson and the Minister of Advanced Education, Marlin Schmidt.

The past month has also seen some activity in terms of building relationships with the provincial government through our provincial lobby group, ab-GPAC. As Vice-Chair of this group, I attended, with the Chair, Yangyang Jiao (VP External at the University of Calgary), an information session for the three groups representing Alberta's students (CAUS and ASEC are undergrad focused). On June 16 and 17 there was another meeting, this time for student leaders from all post-secondary institutions, with the Minister of Advanced Education. Sasha, Masoud, and I attended; the meeting focused on building an understanding of the provincial government's structure and relevant provincial legislation. In the afternoon there was a session with the Minister to highlight key issues facing students in Alberta.

As I end this report, one of my highlights this month is attending the defence of a PhD student who had come to us earlier this year when I was VP Labour. The student's supervisor was actively delaying the student's progress, so we pulled together a team to assist the student. It was a pleasure and honour to be there to support the student, who I'm proud to say passed and will convocate in the fall!

Warmest regards,
Sarah Ficko, GSA President

GSA President's Meetings Attended (Sarah)

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 17, 2016 to June 20, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

May 17	Meeting with the Community Social Worker
May 20	Meeting with a Councillor re the GSA Health and Dental Plan
May 24	Meeting re Graduate Students' Rights Document
May 25	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) representative at the Student Leaders' Meeting
May 25	Meeting with the Chair of Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-

	GPAC)
May 26	Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
May 26	Meeting with President Turpin
May 27	Board Safety, Health and Environment Committee (BSHEC)
May 30	Board of Governor's Special Meeting
May 30	General Faculties Council (GFC)
May 31	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
June 1	Friends of the University AGM
June 2	Board University Relations Committee (BURC)
June 2	Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC)
June 3	Meeting with Community Social Worker
June 3	Meeting with a Teaching Assistant from the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC)
June 6	Meeting with the Graduate Student Ombudsperson
June 7	Meeting with Shenaz Jeraj, Board of Governor Vice-Chair
June 8	Graduate Students' Rights Document
June 8	Meeting with the Speaker
June 8	Honorary Degree Recipient Hors d'Oeuvres Reception
June 10	Faculty of Extension Convocation
June 10	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Doctoral Reception
June 12	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Call
June 13	Meeting with the Graduate Student Ombudsperson
June 15	Platform Party Chancellor Installation Ceremony
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Reception
June 16	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) meeting with the Government about Labour Rights
June 16	Student Leaders' Orientation to the Government
June 16	Board of Governors Recognition Dinner
June 17	Board of Governors Meeting
June 17	Meeting to Discuss the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfers (ACAT)
June 17	Student Leaders' Orientation to the Government
June 18	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Exec Meeting
June 20	Meeting with the Associate Dean of Students
June 20	Meeting with K Dokis-Jansen to Discuss Indigenous Initiatives

**GSA Board (GSAB)
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 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: 17 June 2016

The GSA Board (GSAB) 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, and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 19 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 19.1-19.5.

18 May 2016 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Dissolution of the GSA Board Health and Dental Plan Subcommittee Terms of Reference

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the dissolution of the GSA Board Health and Dental Plan Subcommittee. SF **MOVED**. MK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

25 May 2016 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan; Draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2016-2017: Draft 6

Motions and Agreements:

No Motions at this time.

1 June 2016 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan; Draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2016-2017: Draft 6; Reporting to GSA Council: Monthly Reports from Directly-Elected Officers and Updates on the GSA Board Strategic Plan; The Inquiring Mind Program

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: Members **AGREED** to approve the Agenda of May 4, 2016, which had been previously distributed after amending ES' away dates to leaving May 12 and returning May 24. SF **MOVED**. SvK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

8 June 2016 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Senate Student Mental Health Endowment: Request for an External Grant; Attendance at GU15 August 10-12, 2016, in Hamilton, ON: Estimated Expenses; GSA Health and Dental Plan; Draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2016-2017: Draft 7

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** an external grant of \$300 for the Senate Student Mental Health Endowment, as requested in the attached email from the President of the Alumni Association. SF **MOVED**. MK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for two (2) representatives of the GSA to attend GU15, August 10-12, 2016, in Hamilton, ON, as noted below. SF **MOVED**. SvK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

15 June 2016 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

U of A Career Center 2015-2016 Summary Report on GSA Subsidized Workshops; Campus Food Bank: Second Quarterly Support Payment from the GSA in 2016-2017; Draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2016-2017: Draft 7; GSA Health and Dental Plan

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2016, after amending in the President's Report, "W. Doughty" to "W Rogers," which had previously been distributed. SF **MOVED**. AT Seconded. **CARRIED**.

MOTION: That the GSA Board **receive for information** the attached summary report (page 3.1), as submitted by the U of A Career Centre. AT **MOVED**. FK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

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**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Michele DuVal
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) this month is a summary of discussions/decisions the GSA NoC has made since its last report, together with a list of all vacancies filled and those which will be filled shortly.

GSA Bylaw governing the GSA NoC is located in Part V (Standing Committees). GSA 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 NoC has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Michele DuVal, Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee

GSA Council-Elected Officers

1) 2016 GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO Election (4 Graduate Student Positions)

Vacancies for the GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) were advertised in the GSA Newsletter on May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2016. The deadline for the first call for nominations was May 30, 2016 and five (5) nominations were received; two (2) nominations were received for Speaker, and one (1) nomination was received for each of the other positions. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on June 8, 2016. The deadline to receive additional nominations was Wednesday, June 15, 2016 and no additional nominations were received. **See Item 7a – Nominees for GSA CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker**

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Governance Committee (2 GSA Council Member Positions)

In an email to GSA Council on May 27, 2016, the GSA NoC advertised for two (2) vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee. The deadline for the first call for nominations was June 3, 2016 and two nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on June 10, 2016. The deadline to receive additional nominations was Wednesday, June 15, 2016 and no additional nominations were received. As per GSA policy, **Maryse Ndilu Kiese (Humanities Computing)** and **Justin Leifso (Political Science)** have been declared elected to the GSA Governance Committee. **See Item 7b – Nominees for GSA Governance Committee**

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) Museums and Collections Committees: Policy and Planning (1 Graduate Student Position), Art Acquisition (1 Graduate Student Position)

There were two (2) vacancies for graduate students to serve on the Policy and Planning Committee and the Art Acquisition Committee with Museums and Collections. As per the committees' terms of reference, **Meining Wang (Art History)** on the Art Acquisition Committee, and **Scott Wilson (Ecology)** on the Policy and Planning Committee who served on the committees last year, were eligible to serve a second term. The GSA consulted with the Coordinators of the Committees and, after the representatives expressed interest in serving again, the NoC approved both individuals to serve on their respective committees for the 2016-2017 year.

2) Vargo Teaching Chair Selection Committee, University Cup Selection Committee, Distinguished University Professor Selection committee (1 Graduate Student Positions Each)

There were three (3) vacancies for graduate students to serve on the Vargo Teaching Chair (Vargo), University Cup (UCup), and Distinguished University Professor (DUP) Selection Committees. These committees require GSA Directly-Elected Officers or Delegates to serve. As per the committees' terms of reference, the individuals who served last year on the DUP and the UCup Committees were eligible to serve a second term and both expressed interest in serving again for 2016-2017. Following this, the GSA NoC conducted a directed search and was able to identify a qualified, informed candidate to serve as on the Vargo Teaching Chair Selection Committee. In consultation with the GSA President, **Amin Ghanzanfari (Electrical and Computer Engineering)** was approved to serve a second term on the University Cup Selection Committee, **Michael Wong (Electrical and Computer Engineering)** was approved to serve a second term on the Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee; and **Babak Soltannia (Mechanical Engineering)** was approved to serve on the Vargo Chair Selection Committee.

2) Arts Faculty Council, Arts Academic Affairs Committee, Arts Grade Appeals Committee, Arts Research and McCalla Professorship Committees (10 Arts Graduate Student Positions)

There were ten (10) vacancies for Arts graduate students to serve as representatives on the Arts Faculty Council and Committees. These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletter on April 15, 2016 and on April 22, 2016 and six (6) nominations were received. Following this, the GSA NoC conducted a directed search and was able to identify a further two (2) qualified Arts graduate students engaged in their faculty who were interested in serving. After careful consideration, the GSA NoC approved all eight (8) nominees to serve in the vacant Arts Faculty Council and Committee positions. **Alicia Cappello (Humanities Computing and MLIS)**, **Amanda Daignault (English)**, and **Shumaila Hemani (Music)** were approved to serve on the Arts Faculty Council. **Alicia Cappello (Humanities Computing)**, **Jane Traynor (East Asian Studies)**, and **Michael Woolley (History of Art)** were approved to serve on the Arts Academic Affairs Committee. **Alphonse Ndem Ahola (Anthropology)** was approved to serve on the Arts Grade Appeals Committee, and **Shumaila Hemani (Music)** was approved to serve in the joint Arts McCalla Professorship Committee and Arts Research Committee position.

Current Vacancies

GSA VP Academic
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Firouz Khodayari
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

First of all I am glad that we got some rain in the city and province which has made the summer more beautiful. Secondly, I should thank all of you, graduate students, who have been volunteering to help evacuees from Fort MacMurray, our community's response has been wonderful. As a graduate student and Vice-President Academic, I have attended several meetings and been involved with some discussions during the last month and I will share the highlights with you in this report.

PD4Grads

This meeting was held by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and different ideas were discussed (from graduate students' and FGSR's points of view) including how professional development events can be more efficient and how we can make them more attractive and useful for graduate students. We also had some discussions regarding this at GSA Board. There are some novel ideas on the table, but nothing is finalized yet, so I will report back with more details in the future. I would be more than happy to hear from the Councillors and graduate students from different departments about their ideas on this topic.

Meeting with President Turpin

During this short meeting I tried to address academic-related issues facing graduate students at our university, including Professional Development (PD) opportunities and the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP).

General Faculties Council (GFC)

The proposal for changing the division of Critical Care Medicine to the Department of Critical Care Medicine was approved and the existing free standing Division of Critical Care Medicine is now the Department of Critical Care Medicine. The Division currently operates much like a Department with a director. Also the decision to move the Centre for Writers (C4W) from the Faculty of Arts to under the Dean of Students was deferred for up to a year by the University Provost and Vice-President Academic, to allow time for more consultation.

General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)

Based on a Motion, which was approved on GFC, this committee is going to review the Teaching Evaluation and the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI). The committee has started the discussion on this topic and the final report will be back to GFC by 30 April 2017. The topic itself is a complicated one due to the different parameters involved including the percentage of student

participation, the methodology, the timing, the use of the outcomes, the power of Departments Chairs to make changes based on the outcomes, and so on. I personally talked about the timing of the evaluations. I believe that doing them at the end of the semester is not that efficient because the semester is already over and some students might not see the use in participating! Again, I would be more than happy to hear from the Councillors and graduate students from different departments about their ideas on this topic.

Convocation

Convocation is one of the best times on campus! Everybody is happy; students, faculties, administration, and of course parents. You see many happy faces, which is fantastic. The best part for me was seeing the graduation of students in my department for whom I was TA for 3 semesters!

I am happy to answer any questions or comments that you might have regarding this report. Also I would be more than happy if you would like to share your suggestions or concerns on any academic-related issue.

Thanks,

Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 17, 2016 to June 19, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

May 19	General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC)
May 19	PD4Grads
May 26	General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
May 26	Meeting with a Graduate Student
May 26	Nasir Khusraw: the Ruby of Badakhshan: A Portrait of the Persian Poet, Traveller and Philosopher
May 26	Meeting with President Turpin
May 30	General Faculties Council (GFC)
June 1	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
June 7	Business Convocation
June 8	Engineering Convocation
June 10	Medicine Convocation
June 14	Healthy Campus Alberta
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Ceremony
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Reception
June 16	General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC)

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Masoud Khademi
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

As we are heading to the end of spring, I hope you all have enjoyed the wonderful weather and the sunny days that we have had through past few weeks. As you might already know, the University of Alberta held its spring convocation ceremonies over the past two weeks, and I had the honor of attending some of them as a GSA representative. Besides all the regular convocation stuff that usually happens in these types of ceremonies, there were some unique moments, which I think are worth sharing with you. The interesting part of the convocation ceremonies for me was the honorary degree recipients' speeches, which were about their personal lives or careers. In my perspective, listening to the stories of such great people is truly inspiring, and I was personally impressed by some of them.

In my first convocation (U-School convocation), Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England) talked about how you should always pursue your dreams, and the importance of working hard on something that you really love. In his words, to be prosperous in any career, first you need to find the job that you really enjoy doing; then try as hard as you can to be top-notch in it. He said that he came from a financially poor background but he always had big dreams and he was never intimidated by those who were more privileged than him. He always proved himself by his determination and hard work.

In the other convocation I attended (Science Convocation), Jocelyn Bell Burnell (Professor of Physics at the University of Oxford) talked about the imposter syndrome and how it can affect our functionality. This syndrome is the feeling that you are inadequate for the position you are holding. She said she felt this way (imposter syndrome) when she was first accepted at Cambridge University. However, she never let her fear defeat her, always did her best, and never lost her hope. She added that if we do the same we will finally achieve our goals too.

In the Arts convocation ceremony, Stephen Mandel (Edmonton's 34th Mayor) talked about how we should always have a vision for the future. He also addressed the importance of planning and finding the best approach before starting to do something. Moreover, President Turpin talked about resilience and its importance in today's world, and he noted that to be prosperous in such an uncertain world one needs to be resilient. He also mentioned that we all need to acknowledge the importance of diversity in our community. In Chancellor Douglas Stollery's installation ceremony, he addressed the importance of compassion and kindness in today's world and how they can affect the quality of our lives in a positive way. I believe lots of the points that were made in those speeches are based on life-long experiences and definitely can be useful for all of us as graduate students.

Aside from all these convocations, in the first week of the past month I attended GFC FDC (Facilities Development Committee) meeting, in which they discussed the new design of the Lister 5 complex and East Campus Village. In that meeting they mentioned that part of the East Campus Village residence is

going to be allocated to graduate students. But a decision about the percentage of allocated rooms is not reached yet since the project is still in its early phases.

I also attended the Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association in which they addressed many things ranging from their last year's budget, programs, services, and preparation for the convocations to how they reacted to the Fort Mac wild fire crisis.

On June 16 and June 17, I attended (with Sasha and Sarah) the Provincial Government Student Leaders' meeting which was about orientating student leaders to the government and the role of student leaders in provincial government legislations.

Sincerely,
Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 17, 2016 to June 19, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

May 18	U of A Alumni Association AGM and Spring BBQ
May 19	PD4Grads
May 26	General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC)
May 26	Meeting with President Turpin
June 7	U-School Convocation
June 8	Honorary Degree Recipient Hors d'Oeuvres Reception
June 10	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Doctoral Reception
June 14	First Science Convocation
June 14	Second Science Convocation
June 14	Honorary Degree Recipient Hors d'Oeuvres Reception
June 15	Arts/PhysEd Convocation
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Ceremony
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Reception
June 16	Student Leaders' Orientation to the Government
June 17	Provincial Government Student Leaders' Meeting

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

Interesting, complex stuff. In three words the first real month as VP Labour! First of all, I started meeting with Departmental Councillors, directly running into a significant pile of interesting complex stuff. Sometimes also good stuff, unfortunately not often enough. Most meetings ended with a follow up of some kind, so that has been the majority of my work. If you haven't received my email yet about a meeting, I will try to meet with all Departmental Councillors before Christmas, so please bear with me. However, if you have urgent or burning things, don't hesitate to contact me!

I also attended a couple of receptions, dinners, and convocations. However odd it might sound, those opportunities to network can be very valuable; never underestimate the power of soft skills. I had some good conversations with University Senators and Deans, not always too serious, but it's great to have an idea about their view on the University, graduate students, internationalization, etc. As we often don't have 'real' power to negotiate when problems arise, knowing the right people and having good connections with them is sometimes the only way to solve issues in favor of graduate students. I am not going to lie, the first few of these events I was pretty scared. I directly discovered that one of the skills I need to develop is actually getting comfortable being in places where I know less than 10% the people present. Fortunately, Sarah was there most of the times to introduce me, otherwise I would have been seriously lost.

Regarding mental health issues, Firouz and I attended the Wellness Summit in Calgary. The summit was aimed at changing the culture of substance use on campus. Most of the conversation was around drinking problems, but the discussion about the approach to these problems was very much applicable to other graduate student issues, including mental health. The short conclusions were that (mental) health issues are always complex and that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' model. We are all different, so strategies tackling mental health issues should be taking that into account.

Sarah and I also started working on an initiative to create a platform on which graduate students can get information about their rights. Apart from the GSA, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Office of Safe Disclosure & Human Rights will also be involved. The role of the GSA is to provide information and resources on issues regarding the Collective Agreement. This information will be distributed during orientation events, and there will also be a website. I think this will be a great platform for graduate students to learn about their rights here at the U of A.

When you couldn't find me at the GSA office this month, I was at either South Campus checking my chickens, or in the lab doing analysis. Normally even on weekends but now summer has started so I sometimes allow myself to drive to the countryside and go for a horse ride. For mental health purposes, it is really important you take these kinds of breaks too; seriously!

Let me know if you have questions, and feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 17, 2016 to June 19, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

May 18	Adolescent/young adult Connections to Community-driven, Early, Strengths-based and stigma-free Services (ACCESS)
May 19	Meeting with a Councillor
May 19	PD4Grads
May 24	Meeting re Graduate Students' Rights Document
May 26	Meeting with President Turpin
May 31	Meeting with Student
June 1	Meeting with Student
June 1	Friends of the University AGM
June 8	Graduate Students' Rights Document
June 8	Honorary Degree Recipient Hors d'Oeuvres Reception
June 9	First Education Convocation
June 9	Meeting with Students
June 9	Second Education Convocation
June 10	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Doctoral Reception
June 14	Healthy Campus Alberta
June 15	Meeting with a Student and the Graduate Student Ombudsperson
June 15	Meeting with a Student
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Ceremony
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Reception
June 16	Student Leaders' Orientation to the Government
June 17	Provincial Government Student Leaders' Meeting
June 20	Meeting with the Associate Dean of Students

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Ali Talaei
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope all is fine and you are doing well. I am so excited to share the feeling of happiness I have since I met several of our community members who have successfully graduated in the past two weeks. Yes, it is convocation time!!! According to the statistics, more than 6,000 students graduated in the spring convocation and I could see happiness and accomplishment on the faces of each and every one of them. Also, on June 15, Mr. Douglas R. Stollery was installed as the U of A's 21st Chancellor and the other Directly-Elected Officers and I are all excited about working with him. Chancellor Emeritus, Ralph B. Young was and is a great friend of the GSA and I had the privilege to know him and work with him in the past few months as well.

The highlights of my activities in the past few weeks are as follows:

- I had a meeting with the organizers of the Alberta Student Leadership Summit, which happens each year in January. The summit is a successful and well-attended event but is very undergraduate focused. We recognized this gap and I had discussions with the organizers about how to involve graduate students. We are evaluating various possibilities and I will be able to provide more details at the next Council meeting.
- U-Pass and transit related news: I had a positive talk with the Provost and Vice-President Academic regarding the Michener Park direct transit route and their drafting of an Institutional Support Letter. We are also discussing getting support letters from the Dean of Students and Students' Union so that we could take everything to ETS again.
- In the U-Pass Admin meeting we discussed the upcoming U-Pass negotiations and it was highlighted that the internal discussions need to take place as soon as possible. This means that the GSA, SU, and the University need to negotiate things internally and then have a united stand-point when negotiating with the City. Ellen, GSA Executive Director, arranged for me to have a chat with the 2012-2013 VP Students Services, Naseeb Adnan, and I received very useful input from him for negotiations. It will be very busy in the coming months and possibly I will have more details to share next Council meeting after the U-Pass Advisory meeting later in June.
- I will updated you personally on meetings I've had with the Campus Food Bank and the Dean of Students at Council as these meetings will happen later this week and early next week.

Sincerely,

Ali Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 17, 2016 and June 19, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

June 6	Meeting re Alberta Student Leadership Summit
June 8	Engineering Convocation
June 15	Chancellor Installation Ceremony
June 15	Chancellor's Installation Reception
June 16	U-Pass Admin Meeting
June 17	Campus Food Bank Update
June 20	Meeting with the Associate Dean of Students

**GSA Chief Returning Officer (GSA CRO)
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Virginia Pimmett
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

As reported by Leigh in the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) report, and as discussed with GSA Council in the previous months, the GSA ERC is discussing an array of related matters to the 2016 General Election and has established a list of issues and recommendations to consider in advance of the next GSA General Election. As CRO, I have been an active participant in these discussions.

Again, as Leigh also reports, these discussions are ongoing and we will shortly turn our attention to matters such as questions relating to campaigning, the structure of the All-Candidates Forum, and structure of the ballot used in the General Election.

Sincerely,
Virginia Pimmett, Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

As is also reported by the Chief Returning Officer, and as discussed with GSA Council over the past few months, the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) has established a list of “takeaways” and potential recommendations to consider in advance of the next GSA General Election. Discussions are ongoing; the GSA ERC met in late May and will meet again soon.

Some of the issues discussed thus far include: the workloads associated with the CRO and DRO portfolios, attendance of GSA ERC members at the All-Candidates Meeting, the response time required of complainants in GSA Policy, and the posting of CRO decisions on the GSA website.

GSA ERC will also be reviewing GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda over the summer. Proposed changes will be brought forward to GSA Council after comprehensive review and consideration by the GSA ERC.

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

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the June 20, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Ellen Schoeck
Date: June 17, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA is currently going through our annual external audit as required by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*. Two field auditors are in the office as I write this, delving into our finances, our HR files, and reading the past year's minutes from GSA Board and GSA Council meetings.

As part of the audit, the field auditors always have questions for the Executive Director, and these questions are normally about non-financial matters. I will report to you orally at the June meeting if there is anything significant.

Best,
Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, May 18, 2016

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 11, 2016:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Beginning to plan fall GSA events (orientation, PD event, etc), organizing a GSA Elections and Referenda Committee meeting, CA information sessions, review of insurance, review of the agreement with TD, planning for audit, action arising from GSA Council meeting, planning for upcoming GSA Budget and Finance Committee meetings, transition to Sitecore 3 (manually transferring content, etc), preparing for a GSA Governance Committee meeting (preparing a proposal re GSA Council quorum and working on another draft of the integrated GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy), planning GSA Coffee Breaks in the fall (ordering supplies, drafting emails, etc).
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors and integration of the two (a draft has been prepared and a GSA Governance Committee reviewed it for the second time at its last meeting; a third draft is ready for review, as noted above).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** creation of an alcohol liability waiver (meeting schedule with the manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment) and several other matters on the backburner.

Grants and Operations

- Designing the 2016-2017 **GSA Agenda/Handbook** and writing to potential advertisers.
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 768 likes (up 1 from May 11). Our Facebook posts reached 540 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 22. Twitter = 599 followers (up 2 from May 11). Our tweets earned 1,653 “impressions” over the last week.
- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 – June 30, period is 52% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
ATA	\$114,318.75	\$14,398.39	22	210 (27 pending processing)
CCG	\$104,714.85	\$12,714.85 CLOSED	0	53 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$0 CLOSED	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$135,125 (no periods)	\$131,625.00	0	2 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Grants processing.**
- Supporting the **work of the GSA NoC** (Faculty of Arts Council and various committees, GSA Board, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Senator, CRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy CRO, etc).
- Assistance with the **2016-2017 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and planning for **GSA Coffee Breaks and other events.**
- Work in collaboration with FGSR to coordinate relief efforts/donations for those affected by the Fort McMurray wildfire.

Management Report to the GSA Board, May 25, 2016

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 18, 2016:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** GSA Health and Dental Plan discussions, GSA Board Strategic Work Plan for 2016-2017, beginning to plan fall GSA events (orientation, fall term Coffee Breaks, fall PD event, etc), preparing for a GSA Elections and Referenda Committee meeting, review of the agreement with TD, planning for audit, scheduling upcoming GSA Budget and Finance Committee meetings, transition to Sitecore 3 (manually transferring content, etc), GSA Council handbook, departmental GSA elections in AFNS, Pharmacy, and Anthropology.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors and integration of the two (a draft has been prepared and a GSA Governance Committee reviewed it for the second time at its last meeting; a third draft is ready for review (along with a proposal with respect to GSA Council quorum) and the GSA Governance Committee will meet in June).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** creation of an alcohol liability waiver (meeting schedule with the manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment) and several other matters on the backburner.

Grants and Operations

- Designing the 2016-2017 **GSA Agenda/Handbook** and following up with potential advertisers.
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 775 likes (up 7 from May 18). Our Facebook posts reached 430 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 40. Twitter = 599 followers (up 0 from May 18). Our tweets earned 1,761 "impressions" over the last week.
- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 – June 30, period is 60% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
ATA	\$114,318.75	\$317.39 CLOSED	30	240 (31 pending processing)
CCG	\$104,714.85	\$12,714.85 CLOSED	0	53 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$0 CLOSED	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$135,125 (no periods)	\$131,625.00	0	2 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Grants processing** – ATAs have closed.
- Supporting the **work of the GSA NoC** (departmental GSA elections in AFNS, Pharmacy, and Anthropology, Faculty of Science Council, CRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy CRO, etc).
- Assistance with the **2016-2017 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and planning for **GSA Coffee Breaks (ordered supplies are starting to arrive) and other events.**
- Work in collaboration with FGSR to coordinate relief efforts/donations for those affected by the Fort McMurray wildfire.

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 1, 2016

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 25, 2016:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Staff cross-training on Sitecore, GSA Health and Dental Plan discussions, GSA Board Strategic Work Plan for 2016-2017, planning fall GSA events (orientation, fall term Coffee Breaks, fall PD event (funding from FGSR confirmed), etc), actions arising from a GSA Elections and Referenda Committee meeting, review of a new draft agreement with TD, planning for audit, transition to Sitecore 3 (manually transferring content, etc), GSA Council handbook (discussions with the GSA Speaker), replenishment of the GSA Governance Committee.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors and integration of the two (a draft has been prepared and a GSA Governance Committee reviewed it for the second time at its last meeting; a third draft is ready for review (along with a proposal with respect to GSA Council quorum) and the GSA Governance Committee will meet in June).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** creation of an alcohol liability waiver (meeting schedule with the manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment) and ongoing relationship building with Student Group Services.

Grants and Operations

- Designing the 2016-2017 **GSA Agenda/Handbook** and following up with potential advertisers (IST, which accounts for approximately 1/6 of ad revenue does not wish to advertise this year).
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 778 likes (up 3 from May 25). Our Facebook posts reached 495 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 17. Twitter = 605 followers (up 6 from May 25). Our tweets earned 2,500 “impressions” over the last week.
- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 – June 30, period is 68% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
ATA	\$114,318.75	\$317.39 CLOSED	29	239 (5 pending processing)
CCG	\$104,714.85	\$12,714.85 CLOSED	0	53 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$0 CLOSED	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$135,125 (no periods)	\$127,872.00	1	3 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Grants processing.**
- Supporting the **work of the GSA NoC** (departmental GSA elections in AFNS, Pharmacy, and Anthropology, opening of nominations for CRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy CRO, vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee, Museums and Collections committees, Vargo and University Cup committees, etc).
- Assistance with the **2016-2017 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and planning for **GSA Coffee Breaks (ordered supplies are starting to arrive) and other events.**
- Work in collaboration with FGSR to coordinate relief efforts/donations for those affected by the Fort McMurray wildfire – taking donations received in.

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 8, 2016

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on June 1, 2016:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Preparing for audit, planning GSA “roundtables” over the summer, preparing for GSA Council (first mailing is this Friday), getting information on the assessment of the Athletics and Recreation fee in spring/summer, PD event planning, GSA agenda/handbook design, GSA Health and Dental Plan discussions, GSA Board Strategic Work Plan for 2016-2017, preparing for meetings of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee meeting and the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, review of a second draft of the renewed agreement with TD, transition to Sitecore 3 (manually transferring content, training, etc), GSA Council handbook (discussion with the GSA Speaker).
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors and integration of the two (a draft has been prepared and a GSA Governance Committee reviewed it for the second time at its last meeting; a third draft is ready for review (along with a proposal with respect to GSA Council quorum) and the GSA Governance Committee will meet in June following its replenishment by GSA Council).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** creation of an alcohol liability waiver (meeting schedule with the manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment) and ongoing relationship building with Student Group Services, aiding CEEGSA in holding an election and revising their constitution.

Grants and Operations

- Designing the 2016-2017 **GSA Agenda/Handbook** and following up with potential advertisers.
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 785 likes (up 7 from June 1). Our Facebook posts reached 520 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 22. Twitter = 604 followers (down 1 from June 1). Our tweets earned 1,285 “impressions” over the last week.
- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 – June 30, period is 76% completed).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
ATA	\$114,318.75	\$317.39 CLOSED	0	239 (0 pending processing)
CCG	\$104,714.85	\$12,714.85 CLOSED	0	53 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$0 CLOSED	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$135,125 (no periods)	\$127,872.00	0	3 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Grants processing.**
- Supporting the **work of the GSA NoC** (Distinguished University Professor and University Cup selection committees, Museums and Collections’ Policy and Planning Committee and Art Acquisition Committee, GSA Governance Committee).
- Assistance with the **2016-2017 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and planning for **GSA Coffee Breaks, fall orientation, departmental orientations, and the fall PD event.**
- **GSA agenda/handbook** design.

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 15, 2016

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on June 8, 2016:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Preparing for audit (begins Wednesday, initial meeting with the auditor on Monday), planning GSA “roundtables” over the summer, preparing for GSA Council (second mailing is this Friday), getting information on the assessment of the Athletics and Recreation fee in spring/summer (meeting with C Harwardt), preliminary PD event planning (date set for November 3), GSA agenda/handbook design, GSA Board Strategic Work Plan for 2016-2017, action arising from a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee meeting and preparing for a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, review of a second draft of the renewed agreement with TD, GSA Council handbook (discussion with the GSA Speaker and getting it posted on the GSA website and ready for distribution to GSA Council).
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors and integration of the two (a draft has been prepared and a GSA Governance Committee reviewed it for the second time at its last meeting; a third draft is ready for review (along with a proposal with respect to GSA Council quorum) and the GSA Governance Committee will meet in June following its replenishment by GSA Council on June 20).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** creation of an alcohol liability waiver (meeting schedule with the manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment) and ongoing relationship building with Student Group Services.

Grants and Operations

- Designing the 2016-2017 **GSA Agenda/Handbook**.
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 785 likes (no change from June 8). Our Facebook posts reached 239 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 22. Twitter = 604 followers (no change from June 8). Our tweets earned 1,152 “impressions” over the last week.
- **Grants processing.**

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
ATA	\$114,318.75	\$317.39 CLOSED	0	239 (0 pending processing)
CCG	\$104,714.85	\$12,714.85 CLOSED	0	53 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	\$3,562.50	\$0 CLOSED	0	4 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$135,125 (no periods)	\$127,872.00	0	3 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- **Grants processing** and GSA Agenda/Handbook design.
- Supporting the **work of the GSA NoC** (Distinguished University Professor, Vargo Teaching Chair, and University Cup selection committees, GSA Governance Committee, CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker).
- Assistance with the **2016-2017 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and planning for **summer roundtables, Coffee Breaks, fall orientation, departmental orientations, and the fall PD event.**