

## GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

The GSA acknowledges that the University of Alberta is situated on the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

**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

A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm.

#### OPEN SESSION

#### Attached Numbered Pages

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 23 January 2017 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 12 December 2016 GSA Council Special Meeting  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 12 December 2016 GSA Council Special Meeting **3.0 - 3.7**
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*)

#### Councillor Announcements

5. Councillor Announcements

#### Action Items

6. 2017 U-Pass Referendum Question  
**Carolina Martinez (GSA Chief Returning Officer) will present the item.**  
*Attachments:*
  - i. Outline of Issue **6.0 - 6.1**
  - ii. Draft 2017 U-Pass Referendum Question **6.2 - 6.3**
7. Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections and Referenda  
**Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) will present the item.**

**GSA ERC Members Who Are Members of GSA Council:** Ahmed Najar (Councillor-at-Large)

**GSA ERC Members Invited to GSA Council as Guests:** Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA ERC); Sarah Prescott (Vice-Chair of the GSA ERC); Jennifer Bertrand; Kurtis Broda; Carolyn Gibson; Runzhi Xu

*Attachments:*

- |      |   |             |
|------|---|-------------|
| i.   | Cover Letter from L Spanner, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee | 7.0         |
| ii.  | Outline of Issue  | 7.1         |
| iii. | Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections: Double Column            | 7.2 - 7.16  |
| iv.  | Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Referenda: Double Column            | 7.17 - 7.32 |

**Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates**

**8. GSA Council Elections**

**Antonio Bruni (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.**

GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

*Attachment:*

- |    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| i. | Nominees for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (1 vacancy) | 8.0 |
|----|--|-----|

b. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board

*Attachment:*

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| i. | Nominees for the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (5 vacancies) | 8.1 - 8.2 |
|----|---|-----------|

c. GSA Nominating Committee - **Sulya Fenichel (GSA Speaker) will present this portion of the item**

*Attachment:*

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| i. | Nominees for the GSA Nominating Committee (2 vacancies) | 8.3 - 8.4 |
|----|---|-----------|

**For Discussion:**

**9. GSA Board 2016-2017 Strategic Work Plan: Update**

**Sarah Ficko (GSA President) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- |     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| i.  | Letter from the GSA President                                 | 9.0        |
| ii. | 2016-2017 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan – January 2017 Update | 9.1 - 9.16 |

**Reports**

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

- |      |   |             |
|------|---|-------------|
| i.   | President's Report  | 10.0 - 10.4 |
| ii.  | GSA Board   | 10.5        |
| iii. | GSA Budget and Finance Committee                                      | 10.6        |
| iv.  | GSA Governance Committee ( <b>no meetings this reporting period</b> ) |             |

**11. GSA Nominating Committee (Radim Barta, GSA Nominating Committee Administrative Chair)**

- |    |                                 |             |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------|
| i. | GSA Nominating Committee Report | 11.0 - 11.1 |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------|

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

- |    |                                  |             |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------|
| i. | Vice-President Academic's Report | 12.0 - 12.1 |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------|

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

- |     |                                  |             |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------|
| i.  | Vice-President External's Report | 13.0 - 13.1 |
| ii. | GSA Awards Selection Committee   | 13.2        |

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

- |      |   |             |
|------|---|-------------|
| i.   | Vice-President Labour's Report  | 14.0 - 14.1 |
| ii.  | GSA Negotiating Committee ( <b>no meetings this reporting period</b> )      |             |
| iii. | GSA Labour Relations Committee ( <b>no meetings this reporting period</b> ) |             |

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

Prepared by J Tanguay and C Thomas for GSA Council 23 January 2017

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- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **15.0 - 15.1**
  - ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (Joint Chair: Vice-President External) **(no meetings this reporting period)**
- 16. Senator (Jane Traynor, GSA Senator)**
- i. Senator's Report **(no written report at this time)**
- 17. Speaker (Sulya Fenichel, GSA Speaker)**
- i. Speaker's Report **(no written report at this time)**
- 18. Chief Returning Officer (Carolina Martinez, GSA Chief Returning Officer)**
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report **18.0**
- 19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)**
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **19.0**
- 20. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, GSA Executive Director)**
- i. Executive Director's Report **20.0 - 20.2**

**Question Period**

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

**22. Oral Questions**

**Adjournment**

**GSA Council Special Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, December 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sarah Ficko (President)	Ahmed Najar (Councillor-at-Large)	David Li (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Mischa Bandet (Neuroscience)
Firouz Khodayari (VP Academic)	Swai Mon Khaing (Biochemistry)	Lorna Sutherland (Elementary Education)	Upinder Singh (Nursing)
Sasha van der Klein (VP Labour)	Francesca Jean; Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences)	Shaina Humble (English & Film Studies)	Kelsey Peterson (Occupational Therapy)
Masoud Khademi (VP External)	Graham Little (Biomedical Engineering)	Neil Prather (History & Classics)	Radim Barta (Oncology)
Ali Talaei (VP Student Services)	Trent Nabe (Business MBA)	Mohammed Abdul-Bari (Human Ecology)	Ashley Bahry (Paediatrics)
Sulya Fenichel (Speaker)	Katie Lafreniere (Business PhD)	Jocelyn Beyer (Humanities Computing)	Stephen Hunter (Phys Ed & Rec)
Preshit Verma (Deputy Speaker)	Umme Aulia Munira (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Faisal Hirji (Lab Medicine & Pathology)	Joshua Yong (Psychology)
Jane Traynor (Senator)	Anis Fahandej-Sadi (Chemistry)	Kris Joseph (Library & Info Studies)	Colin Reynolds (Public Health)
Michelle Campbell (Councillor-at-Large)	Fereshte Talaei (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Fae Karey-McKenna (Linguistics)	Bethany Hartman (Rehab Med)
Alicia Capello (Councillor-at-Large)	Hamman Samuel (Computing Science)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Owain Bamforth (Religious Studies)
Colin More (Councillor-at-Large)	Dorian Lang (Drama)	Fahed Elian (Medical Genetics)	Remonia Stoddart-Morrison (Secondary Education)
Nicole Noel (Councillor-at-Large)	Brette Harris (Earth & Atmo Sciences)	Connie Le (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Antonio Bruni; Wenlong Huang (Surgery)
Phil Oel (Councillor-at-Large)	Melody Li (East Asian Studies)	Melisa Silva (Medicine)	
Robert Reklow (Councillor-at-Large)	Marcia East (Ed Policy Studies)	Jay Friesen (MLCS)	
Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)	Amanda Radil (Ed Psych)	David Parent (Native Studies)	

**GUESTS:** Steven Dew (Provost & Vice-President (Academic)); Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President (Finance & Administration)); Philip Stack (Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services)); Sourav Chowdhury (Chemical & Materials Engineering); Alleson Mason (Educational Policy Studies); Babak Soltannia (Mechanical Engineering); Bijaya Pokhasel (Nursing); Chen Chen (Physical Education & Recreation); Jacqueline Noga (Public Health); Houyuan Luo (Educational Psychology); Ana Anoveros (AFNS); Amrit Bhullar (AFNS); Bozhin Traykov (Sociology); Pradeep D. (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences); Mohammad Daryaei (Electrical & Computer Engineering); Nima Amouzegar Ashtiani (Electrical & Computer Engineering); Jingjie Xiao (AFNS); Lebogang Disele (Drama); Amelia Shi (Psychology).

Speaker Sulya Fenichel in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.



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

At Speaker's request, attendances were noted by GSA Council Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda****2. Approval of the 12 December 2016 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 12 December 2016 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 9 December 2016. N Prather **MOVED**; A Talaei **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. 1 Opposed.

**Approval of Minutes****3. Minutes from the 21 November 2016 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 21 November 2016 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 2 December 2016. A Radil **MOVED**; D Smirnow **SECONDED**.

N Prather requested an amendment to the minutes to reflect that at the History & Classics book sale, you could have your picture taken with the artifacts if you made a purchase, they were not charging any fees for the pictures. N Prather also requested a further clarification that the History & Classics celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held in the Old Arts Building on January 18, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Presentation****4. 2017-2018 Graduate Tuition Fees**

S Ficko introduced the guests Steve Dew (Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President (Finance & Administration)), and Phillip Stack (Associate Vice-President of Risk Management Services) to GSA Council. She explained that the GSA sent a submission to the Board of Governors (BoG) regarding the proposed increase to the international graduate student tuition.

S Dew began his presentation by outlining the three current motions related to international graduate student tuition: 1) an increase of 3.02% to international tuition; 2) an increase of \$4000/year to international graduate student tuition to be offset by a \$4000/year in financial support; and 3) a differential fee for the specialized Integrated Petroleum Geosciences (IPG) program. S Dew specified that none of these increases were applicable to domestic students whose tuition was frozen by the Alberta Government.

S Dew explained that the \$4000 increase in tuition would be accompanied by a \$4000 in financial support so it was cost and revenue neutral. He specified that this 'sticker price' was not an attempt at finding a backdoor mechanism to increase tuition. He added that tuition would inevitably increase but these increases would go through the normal governance processes. He also noted that this proposal was about marketing. He explained that there was one school of thought that equated higher cost with the perception of quality. He indicated that the U of A tuition fees were very low and that application rates were falling. He explained that there was an issue around demand and that the University's peer institutions had adapted to that school of thought which seemed to have increased demand.

S Dew explained that the University's intake of thesis-based students was limited by the resources the University had to support them. He noted that the admission rates were slowly approaching registrations rates (registrations being students who decided to attend the University). He added that over the past three years, University Administration had noted a decrease in applications. He indicated that this decrease signalled a problem of demand around our programs. He explained that this seemed to be a local issue as every year more international students applied to institutions in North America.

S Dew noted that the University had good physical and anecdotal data that suggested the association between tuition a perception of quality. He explained that when the University increased undergraduate tuition the University Administration noticed an increase in international applications.

S Dew specified that international undergraduate students tuition covered the cost of their education and that in that sense the University was not constrained in how many students they could admit. He mentioned, that as stated previously, this was not true for graduate students as the number of graduate students admitted was constrained by resources.

S Dew indicated that, when comparing the U of A to the other U15 universities, the U of A was less than half of the average (\$15,000). He explained that prospective international graduate students when researching the U of A had little information available if it was not for comparing it with other Canadian institutions. He added that one of the first things these students compared was cost and that the U of A's appeared to be cut-rate. He noted that the objective of the 'sticker price' proposal was to interest prospective graduate students long enough that they would examine U of A's qualities.

S Dew noted that the 'sticker price' proposal was not intended to increase tuition but to change perception. He explained that financial support received by graduate students (about \$70 million) reflected the contributions those students made to the University in teaching and research duties. He indicates that tuition had to stay low as many supervisors had research grants which would be used to pay graduate students' tuition. He explained that increasing tuition only transferred money from the research grants and departments to the University. He noted that this proposal addressed the perception problem without taking money away from researchers and departments. He specified that with a net \$4000 increase and a net \$4000 rebate there was no increased burden on students, researchers, or departments. He added that the \$4000 would be deducted directly off the Fee Assessment resulting in no hassle for graduate students.

S Dew explained that the 3.02% increase for both undergraduate and graduate international students was inflation-related but not related to the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) (which had been the inflationary rate used in the past) and that it was related to the Academic Price Index (API). He noted that the CPI was based on a "basket of goods" calculation from Statistics Canada and that it was a combination of expenditures to accommodate for increases and decreases in pricing on these goods. He also noted that the API represented the University's inflationary costs (salaries, benefits, maintenance, supplies, utilities, and services) and that these University's cost increased at a generally higher rate than the previously talked about "basket of goods" resulting in a decrease ability for the University to cover their costs and provide a quality education. He added that the inflationary increase was not an effort to move costs from one group to another but an attempt to reflect a fair share for all.

S Dew explained that the specialised program in petroleum geosciences is competing with 17 other programs in the world operating at significantly higher prices and that the proposed change would more than double the tuition differential.

S Dew concluded by outlining the consultation and approval route for any tuition changes. He noted that it began with the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee and flowed through the University's governance culminating at the BoG.

N Prather asked if it would be possible to have access to the presentation. S Dew noted that he would resend it to the GSA office as he made last minute changes to include further data and to specifically address the issue of international graduate student tuition. N Prather asked that the decision to implement the 'sticker price' was based on a marketing strategy, a part from an economic rationale what are the moral and the ethical rationales behind this proposal. S Dew noted that this kind of mechanism was a common practice in other universities. He added that what the 'sticker price' was trying to achieve was that prospective graduate students looking for a university would keep the U of A long enough in their list of consideration in order for them to do a sophisticated analysis and to realize that the U of A was a gem. As for the ethical rationale, S Dew noted that the University should be perceived as a top quality institution in the mind of graduate students that could benefit from the University and, likewise, could enrich it. N Prather also asked if there were any mechanisms for current students to provide feedback. S Dew replied that the GSA had consulted graduate students. He further stated that if anyone was asked if they would pay more, everyone would always say no but if you presented them with two different pair of glasses one expensive and the other one at a lower price, there would be a perception of quality associated with the more expensive ones. He added that he wanted to ensure that the prospective students would not discard the University due to its low cost. S Ficko noted that the figure 5 of the GSA submission to the BoG showed that only 18% of the responders noted that cost was a factor that contributed to their decision of attending the University of Alberta.

P Oel asked for an explanation on any adjustments that were made to address concerns that the University Administration received. S Dew noted that the first proposal was a tuition increase of 20% over the next 3 years and that, following feedback from students that this increase would unload the benefits of all students to the only group that could be targeted, the University Administration realised that each group should pay their fair share of the inflationary cost. He added that in an earlier version of the proposal there was the suggestion of creating an emergency fund and that they heard that this fund was not a priority so they took it out of the proposal. S Dew noted that the GSA representatives had asked for more data and that it had been added to the presentation.

H Samuel asked regarding the 'sticker price' proposal if the University was willing to commit to a certain guarantee that the rebate would not stop. S Dew noted that the motion before the BoG noted that the 'sticker price' was not subject to inflationary increase and that it would be offset revenue and cost neutral. He explained that the motion clearly linked the

rebate to the increase and left little room for the 'sticker price' to turn into an increase. He also noted that at this point it was in the hands of the Bog.

M Juhas asked that if the 'sticker price' was cost-neutral for graduate students why not increase it by more if that measure was supposed to increase the number of applications received. S Dew acknowledged that \$4000 was an arbitrary number and that it was an experiment. He explained that if this measure was to go in the direction the University Administration wished they would be happy but that if it failed it would be an easier mistake to undo. He added that the University was moving toward the norm of the other U15 while being cautious.

R Stoddart-Morrison noted that a good, solid, and concrete decision was not based on a perception. She added that it was necessary to market the University in the best way. She then asked whether the impact on the University's reputation had been considered taking into account that current international graduate students would go back home and report on their experiences at the University. S Dew noted that the objectives of the proposal was to increase the desirability of the University of Alberta for top graduate students and that this goal was multi faceted and that the 'sticker price' was only one piece of this bigger strategy. He added that the intent of the proposal was to bring the University closer to its peer institutions and allow prospective students to consider the U of A as a potential destination. He also noted that the intent was not to increase the net tuition for international graduate students, as this would unload the marketing strategy on supervisors and/or graduate students.

R Stoddart-Morrison then asked why this measure had to affect current international graduate student as they were already attending the University. S Dew noted that the University explored grand-parenting current international graduate students but it was decided against as there were no net cost and that it was determined that the University should make a very costly investments in an administrative structure for something that had no real cost as that would equate to a waste of money.

T Nabe asked about research that showed that this perception of higher cost would attract international graduate students. S Dew responded that there was not a lot of research done for graduate students but that the best review was done by Robert Wright (2015) capturing the analysis of many scholarly works. He also added that a major topic discussion with the World's Leading Universities was that link between tuition and perceived quality. He indicated that one the most chosen destinations for students was the United States and the United Kingdom which were the jurisdictions with the highest tuition which certainly pointed out to a good correlation. S Fenichel asked if it would be possible to share that list of references. S Dew agreed to share that list.

C More asked, in taking into account that the proposal was meant to be an experiment, what would be the indicators for failure and success of this experiment. He also asked what was the timeline to make this determination. S Dew replied that the application rates were the key indicators and that if it was noticed that the numbers of applications were increasing it would indicate that the 'sticker price' has had an effect. He added that, with respect to the timeline question, it would take some time for the reputation to be impacted and he specified approximately a 3 year period, unless huge negative changes could be observed.

A Radil asked about the process of the development of this proposal and whether marketing professionals had been consulted and why this proposal was chosen over another one. S Dew noted that the University has a marketing and communications team under University Relations and that the Dean of the Faculty of Business and other deans were involved and consulted. He also noted that he consulted with his colleagues at the other U15 universities. He added that the question of penalties paid for being locked into low tuition rates was key topic of conversation with his colleagues.

M Campbell noted if this 'sticker price' proposal could be viewed as false advertisement. S Dew replied that the University Administration was not making any claims about the University and that they were simply adjusting by the 'sticker price' the tuition for international graduate students.

F Jean asked, considering many graduate students had mental health issues, whether this proposal could increase stress and mental health issues in graduate students. S Dew noted that the 3.02% increase would not generate any new revenue, as it was only to keep up with the inflation in University's costs. He added that the University had strong support for mental health and that these resources remained available for students.

D Smirnow noted that, when the GSA negotiated the stipend in their Collective Agreement (CA) with the university, they negotiated for the CPI but now the University Administration has used the API, which would create a disparity in the increase of graduate students' stipend and tuition. S Dew noted that he was unaware of the details of the Collective Agreement but that using API could be a possibility. S Ficko noted that the CPI was what was currently being employed by the CA..

J Traynor asked whether any other strategies were considered and, if yes, why were they not pursued. S Dew replied that the 'sticker price' proposal is part of a larger strategy but this was the only piece that needed approval by the BoG. He added that this bigger strategy would be rolled out by University Administration.

F Karey-McKenna asked what the University had done to keep the U of A prevalent for prospective graduate students. She added that prospective graduate students were sophisticated consumers and typically more mature. She asked whether the U of A outreach had dropped or is it on par with previous years. S Dew responded that the University Administration needed a multi-pronged approach and that they had not done anything differently; it had been business as usual but that this was not enough anymore. He added that the University's peer institutions had raised their tuition and that the University was trying to respond in this in a no net cost manner. F Karey-McKenna followed up specifying that when she was considering and researching institutions in Canada, tuition was part of her decision but not all of it and that other factors included papers published at the U of A in her field and specific connection to someone working here. She asked whether there was any kind of outreach happening where the U of A representatives actually interacted with those potential consumers. S Dew explained that the University Administration concern was missing that first glance by prospective graduate students. He noted that the University Administration was trying to ensure that the U of A was not eliminated in preliminary graduate school research. He added that the objective was that prospective graduate students would keep the U of A in the running long enough to research U of A's supervisors and facilities. S Ficko indicated that the U of A was currently ranked at number five for Canadian universities. S Dew responded that he hoped students were looking carefully at rankings but that rankings were only one factor in that decision process and that many students applied to less well-ranked universities than the U of A. S Ficko added that in the GSA survey, rankings were one of the highest factors that students relied upon to make their decision.

D Lang asked if the current BoG motion connecting the 'sticker price' with the corresponding financial support would prevent future motions that would make the 'sticker price' permanent without the offset. S Dew replied that he could not make commitments on the BoG's behalf but that he personally had no aspirations to compromise his integrity. He added that the BoG was the final approver and that currently the motion made it clear that the 'sticker price' was linked to the financial support. G Kulczycki added that no change in tuition could happen without going through the governance process. S Ficko specified that the rebate in its current form was added at the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee meeting. S Dew further noted that, if the motion was approved, the BoG's intent would be clear and that afterward doing anything different would circumvent that first intent.

L Sutherland expressed appreciation for how much the U of A had grown in the past few decades but also expressed concern that the proposed solution lacked creativity. She asked to speak to other ideas that were explored and the rationale for how to bring better research and stronger innovation. S Dew responded that this proposal was one part of a larger strategy, outlined in the Institution Strategic Plan (ISP). He added that a number of objectives in the ISP spoke to building stronger institutions, building excitement, and world-class excellence and he mentioned the new working groups targeting implementation of these goals. He indicated that there was a bigger ambition and that the 'sticker proposal' was an element of a bigger plan with a lot of details to work through.

C Reynolds asked if in doing this there was any fear of a negative effect on the perception of the institution and could this proposal be perceived as a back door increase or artificial inflation even if it was not the intention. S Dew explained that raising tuition had been used across the country, and that most institutions also included financial supports to avoid losing students. He added that this was a fairly explicit tactic although to explicitly link the increase to financial support was a bit unusual. He further noted that, generally, the return was in the form of redistribution so while this exact formula was new, virtually every other U15 institutions had used a similar strategy. S Ficko pointed out that there was a decreasing trend in the percentage of international students as tuition increases. She added that the U of A and the University of Saskatchewan had the lowest tuition and the highest number of international students. She asked whether there was a risk that the 'sticker price' would screen out certain students. S Dew responded that our number of students was constrained by our resources to support them and that if the real price was increased, fewer people could come. C Reynolds followed up by asking if the University Administration considered how to handle a negative perception, if it was to happen. S Dew stated that the criticism they had seen was limited, as seen in the recent Edmonton Journal articles.

J Beyer noted that there was a financial check in the student visa process where the entire cost of the program was considered and this proposal could represent an additional \$8,000 that students must demonstrate they have. She asked whether this could prevent some students from attending simply because they could not make that demonstration. S Dew explained that this was an offset and it would be listed as such in the invoice given to students. He added that the University admission letter would outline all of the supports the student would receive including the 'sticker price' associated financial support. J Beyer asked for clarification that students would not have to demonstrate that they could pay they extra \$4,000. S Dew explained

that the 'sticker price' associated financial support would be documented so an immigration officer would see that it would be provided, along with other scholarships and supports. He noted that the students would be aware of all their financial support including the 'sticker price' associated financial support. P Stack also pointed out that this would be included in the sample fee schedule available online.

H Samuel stated that there was a perception among international students that they were already being treated unfairly and that as the University was facing higher costs due to the domestic tuition freeze, University administration decided to increase international tuition. He further noted that international students paid more tuition without receiving any additional services. He asked if the University Administration considered how these negative perceptions among international students and alumni would affect the University's reputation in the long run. S Dew responded that the Alberta Government provided the majority of the University's operating funds and that international students who had not been taxpayers here needed to pay for their education. He added that the argument was made by the Government that the share of domestic student increases comes from the operating grant the University received so all parties were contributing the same amount either through tuition or through their tax dollars. H Samuel asked if there was consideration for this negative perception. S Dew responded that the University Administration could not control how someone perceived their actions but that they did not foresee it as an issue.

J Young specified that he was a domestic student. He noted that this meeting felt like the University Administration was telling the students without consulting with them. He asked that, with the 3.02% increase taking into account that many graduate students could barely make ends meet currently, what advice would the University Administration have for those students. S Dew noted that the University provided support to students and that the 'sticker price' proposal recognized that graduate students should not be burdened by further financial concerns.

A Bahry asked why the University Administration was establishing the 'sticker price' if the numbers of graduate students coming to the University was not decreasing. She also asked, considering the granting crisis, would this increase impact supervisors' ability to support their students. S Dew started by replying to the second question by asking for clarification as to what was meant by the granting crisis and he noted that there were some grants, such as CIHR ones, that were becoming more restrictive and less easy to secure. As for the first question, he replied that the desire of the University Administration was to be a top institution worldwide and a destination for top students. He explained that with a lower number of applications we are getting a lower number of top graduate students.

M Juhas asked if, for students who are sponsored by their home country to study at the University, the 'sticker price' meant that the University would lose potential revenue from foreign countries. Subsequently, he asked on what the 3.02% increase was calculated. To the first question, S Dew replied that these sponsorships had their own policies and that these would govern how the foreign country calculated which amount was given to the students and that if the 'sticker price' were given back to them that would be great for the students. To the second question, he replied that the \$4000 would be excluded from any inflationary calculations.

K Lafreniere noted that, as a marketing student, she could understand the logic that there was sometimes a perception that price was an indicator of quality. She asked what other strategies would be pursued to get the U of A to encourage increased applications, noting that prospective students often looked at a series of tiered criteria when selecting a school to attend. S Dew noted that the 'sticker price' strategy would influence a prospective applicant's initial decision to apply to the U of A if they thought, at a basic level and based on relative price, it was a comparator to other top Canadian schools (ie, without looking further at things like rankings, programs offered, etc). He suggested that a higher cost (achieved through the 'sticker price' increase) would ensure the U of A was included on a 'short list' by potential applicants and that, once they had decided to apply, they would notice that the 'sticker price' was rebated.

J Traynor asked whether there were more students choosing the United States because there was some idealisation of the destination. S Dew specified that he would like to provide Canada specific data but specific data was hard to obtain as institutions agreed to divulge data as long as they were aggregated with many institutions and not only a few. J Traynor noted that her questions more specifically about the idealisation of certain schools (eg Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford). S Dew agreed that certain factors as reputation and awareness were to play a role; that certain universities have a very popular 'brand.' He also noted the increase in applications from international students could be seen across the University's peer institutions. J Traynor added that the examples that she chose were extreme examples but more broadly a diploma from the United States was seen more valuable than a Canadian one and that could be why graduate students would apply more often to American universities and in turn American universities could charge more. M Khademi noted that other Canadian peers' universities showed a decrease in applications. S Dew agreed that there are other factors influencing the number of applications and that the University Administration was not pretending to tease them all out however the 'sticker price' proposal was one strategy that could be used to increase the University's number on international applications. F Khodayari noted that for all these

arguments S Dew had only expressed one study where the GSA had found multiple that did not necessarily support the University Administration's points.

P Verma pointed out that increasing the 'sticker price' suddenly could backfire and ask if there were example where a similar surge was successful. S Dew responded that the \$4,000 amount was an artificial number and that specifically because it was not such a large increase they did not believe they would see people dropping away for that sole reason.

P Oel referred back to a previous application drop in 2013 and the possible contributing factors and suggested to keep in mind the current state of the world, especially in the US and the UK, and that Canada and Australia were likely going to notice an increase in demands considering the situations of the US and the UK.

D Smirnow asked if the presenters could speak to the decline in quality of applicants and if there were any indications of this. In addition, D Smirnow pointed out that the GSA had produced a report with recommendations and if these would be considered. S Dew, using the recommendations in the summary section of the report, first addressed the suggestion to grandfather current students and pointed out that there was nothing to grandfather since the 'sticker price' proposal was cost neutral. He further noted that API was a more accurate determinant and that the inflationary increase in major source countries tended to be 6-7% so the smaller API increase was not outrageous. He added that the inflationary cost was transferred across the board. He also noted that these were business decisions and not usually made based on academic literature and that business wisdom came from forums in which information was usually exchanged, between provosts, presidents, and vice-presidents finance. As for engaging in a comprehensive review of graduate student funding, he noted that the University Administration agreed that this was a good idea but that did not preclude the proposal to move forward. For the memorandum of understanding, he noted that he was not a BoG member so that he personally could not make that decision. D Smirnow reiterated the first part of her question regarding the decline in quality of applicants. S Dew responded that the issue they were examining was demand and that there was a quality implication that was inferred at this point but the University Administration were assuming that our pocket of applicants was relatively uniform.

H Samuel stated that in general, international graduate students like the idea of the U of A being higher quality but that they were apprehensive about tuition being used as the sole marketing metric and that University's ranking included tuition and many other metrics. H Samuel noted that he hoped that the University Administration had a good perspective on how their ranking could affect students' choices. S Dew clarified that generally ranking did not include tuition.

F Elian asked if this strategy would affect supervisors' positions on selecting international students rather than domestic students. He added that the 3.02% increase was fair considering that international students had not paid taxes but increases seemed to happen often and that it was harder for international students to obtain loans and funding. S Dew stated that at first glance they did not expect this to have an impact on supervisors. F Elian asked if supervisors were surveyed. S Dew responded that they held roundtable discussions with faculty at several different Council meetings. They also discussed it with FGSR and other institutions. F Elian added that, in reference to the 3.02% increase, his tuition had already increased since he started and he asked if there was a purpose for these continual increases on international students. S Dew explained that there were year over year increases in tuition for international students, typically of 2-3%. He added that he would not deny that this was an incremental cost that could constrain a tight budget but these increases covered the inflationary costs inherent in delivering a program. He further noted that the University could cover their costs or decrease the quality of experience and that the University Administration decided not to wither their programs but to protect them via inflationary increases.

N Noel asked if the same decline in the number of applications from domestic students could be observed. S Dew responded that the domestic application rates were fairly flat to slightly declining and the fluctuations were noticeable in international applications.

R Reklow asked if the 'sticker price' could be used to cut services or other sources of funding. S Dew noted that the University was not looking to eliminate funding to graduate students as it would decrease productivity, in turn decreasing the impact of the University and then undermining the reputation of the University.

N Prather noted that the GSA survey results showed that thesis-based students were more concerned with the affordability of their degree and asked, that if the University objective was to receive more PhD applications, whether this part of the survey was of concern. S Dew replied that the University did not wish to shift the distribution of applicants at this point. He also noted that the blue curve represented the number of applications at the PhD level and that it was declining, which was, not desirable. He added that applications for Thesis-Based Masters were declining a little bit and that applications for course-based Masters were flat.

K Joseph asked if there was mechanism that would isolate the effects of the 'sticker price' proposal to provide specific insight. S Dew noted that the University could not predict future events that could influence that trend. He added that if the University Administration observed an overall positive trend in applications Administration would be less concerned with the who of that increase but would be if the measure failed to increase applications. K Lafreniere offered that the Department of Marketing in the School of Business could do an experiment for the Board of Governors. S Dew noted that Board of Governors had members from the School of Business.

A Cappello noted that one of the immediate effects that she could envision with the 'sticker price' proposal would be that it would shift the applications received to higher level socio economic country as students from lower socio-economic would not consider the University since it would be too expensive. A Cappello added that this proposal could disadvantage very bright students and asked if the University had any concerns about this. S Dew noted that was a worthwhile concern but that data did not show this. He added that most research regarding this topic was done at the undergraduate level. He summarized the three different conclusions of this research: higher tuition would turn off debt adverse socio-economic group, mostly Aboriginal students and that is a concern to us but this effect has been offset with targeted student aid; one showed that applications from both ends of the spectrum increase and the middle decreases; the last study was not grounded in Canadian data and these effects were not seen in Canada but it showed that prospective students from lower economic background were turned off and it probably could be explained by the level of education of their parents. He added that it was a valid question and that it was hard to predict what would happen but he hoped that the level of sophistication of prospective graduate students would prevent the University from a certain degradation. A Cappello followed up by asking who was the University really targeting by this proposal noting that the word sophisticated had been used multiple times. S Dew replied that the University's objective was to make the short list of institutions that would be considered valuable to look at more closely. A Cappello asked if it would be possible to determine if following the introduction of the 'sticker price' there might be a decrease in applications from students coming from developing countries. S. Dew responded that they do not track those socio-economic factors. P Verma noted that one approach would be to develop more collaboration with institutions internationally.

R Stoddart-Morrison expressed that we must think about the human side of these issues and we must not equate quality with one's ability to pay. She noted that if the University only admitted those with the ability to pay a certain amount we would lose out on quality graduate students. She urged University Administration to be mindful of this.

D Parent asked the presenters' thoughts on how this would affect access for international Indigenous students, particularly as the U of A has the only Native Studies Faculty in North America and had become a magnet for Indigenous scholarship. S Dew was unsure if there would be a different impact for international Indigenous scholars but he expressed that this was something that University Administration would monitor and respond to.

C Reynolds asked if the presenters could provide information about differences in numbers of applications for different faculties. He noted that, in the School of Public Health, a decrease in applications was noticed one year simply due to a new digital application process that did not function well. S Dew stated that he had that data but not to-hand nor memorized. He added that he would need to verify but recalled that it was fairly even across the board. C Reynolds requested that that data be shared.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

## Outline of Issue (GSA Council)

### 2017 U-Pass Referendum Question

#### Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That the GSA Council **APPROVE** the holding of a referendum on the U-Pass, to run concurrently with the 2017 GSA General Election and using the proposed question as attached.

#### Background:

The GSA, along with other student associations in Edmonton, recently concluded negotiations for the continuation of the U-Pass program through 2021. As per the negotiated agreement, the U-Pass program has to be presented for a referendum vote to the members of the student associations.

As per current GSA Policy, the 'asker' referred to below is the GSA itself, accordingly the attached question was drafted in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). The CRO and DRO met and reviewed the 2017 U-Pass referendum question on Thursday, December 8, 2016. The U-Pass Administration Committee also reviewed the draft question on December 16, 2016.

The GSA Board voted to recommend to GSA Council the holding of a referendum on the U-Pass and using the attached proposed question on January 11, 2017.

#### Jurisdiction\*:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.7.2.

*" (...)The CRO and 'asker' shall work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from GSA Board and GSA Council."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.7.2.a

*"A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and accountability for the money collected. The criteria provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.7.5

*"GSA Council will approve or not approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.7.5

*"If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy."*

*Jurisdiction listed is current GSA Bylaw and Policy. GSA Council is considering, as Item 7, proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections and Referenda and, while the proposed changes do not affect the portion of the process outlined above, the revised sections as they would appear pending approval, are listed below.*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.9.3.

*"The CRO and Asker will work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from the GSAB and GSA Council."*



GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.9.2.a

*"A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and accountability for the money collected. The criteria provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.9.6

*"GSA Council will approve or not approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.9.8

*"If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy."*

## 2017 U-PASS REFERENDUM QUESTION

### U-Pass Background Information

- U-Pass is the student group discount program that provides students with unlimited public transit offered by Edmonton, Strathcona County, and St Albert. Effective January 1, 2017, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, and Spruce Grove were added.
- In 2006, the GSA, along with the UofA Students' Union and the MacEwan and NAIT student associations, negotiated to implement U-Pass. The first GSA U-Pass referendum was approved in 2007 to cover Fall/Winter 2007 to 2010. Again by a 2010 GSA referendum, U-Pass was extended to April 2013. A Spring/Summer U-Pass for graduate students was approved by another GSA referendum and began in May 2011.
- The University subsidizes the U-Pass fee for its students in order to promote public transit use (the only post-secondary institution to do this).
- The current U-Pass agreement is due to expire. After negotiation, an agreement was reached that, after factoring in the subsidy provided by the University, would see the current U-Pass fee of \$141.67/term increase by \$3.33 per term for 2017-2018, by another \$3 in 2018-2019, another \$5 in 2019-2020, and a further \$5 in 2020-2021 (current cost of a regular monthly pass is \$91.50, or \$366.00/term). There are no other major changes to the agreement.
- More information on U-Pass is available on the UofA website: [www.upass.ualberta.ca](http://www.upass.ualberta.ca).
- In **January 2017** GSA Council approved the wording for the 2017 U-Pass referendum.

### U-Pass Referendum Question

**Do you support the continuation of the Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions?**

- 1) The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of regular transit systems in Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Spruce Grove, St. Albert, and Strathcona County within the participating municipalities' service area during the Fall, Winter, and/or Spring/Summer (May-August) terms to all continuing graduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit in a term (includes thesis registrations).
- 2) The cost of the U-Pass fee to each graduate student after the UofA's subsidy is factored in would be mandatory and follow the price structure per term, below:
  - a) **2017-2018: \$145.00/term**
  - b) **2018-2019: \$148.00/term**
  - c) **2019-2020: \$153.00/term**
  - d) **2020-2021: \$158.00/term**
- 3) Under certain circumstances, some graduate students would continue to be exempt or eligible to opt-out of the U-Pass program. Click here for an excerpt of the draft agreement.

**Redirected from the U-Pass Referendum Question (Excerpt from the 2017-2021 U-Pass Agreement)**

The following graduate students would be exempt from the U-Pass program:

- “a) a Student who is not enrolled in any course for credit located on a University of Alberta campus within any of the Municipalities for that School Term;
- b) a Student who is enrolled only in the Executive MBA program;
- c) a graduate Student who is designated as an off-campus thesis student by the University;  
*and*
- d) a Student who is enrolled only in a program of study offered by the University's Faculty of Extension, which program of study leads to a certificate.”

The following graduate students would be eligible to opt-out of the U-Pass program:

- “a) a Student who has a valid Disabled Adult Transit Service (DATS) registration, Strathcona County Mobility Bus registration, or St. Albert Handibus registration, Spruce Grove Specialized Transit Service (STS) registration, Fort Saskatchewan Special Transportation Services Society (STSS) registration, or Leduc Assisted Transportation Services (LATS) registration; and is able to prove their registration with a valid photo ID card;
- b) a Student who has a valid CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) registration and is able to confirm such registration with a valid CNIB-issued photo ID card;
- c) a Student who is currently an employee of a transit system owned and operated by any of the Municipalities and is able to provide written confirmation on official letterhead of their employment at the beginning of each School Term; *and*
- d) a Student who, pursuant to official University regulations, policies or procedures (as may be amended from time to time) respecting registration and fees assessments, has the option of being assessed the athletics and recreation fee or the health services fee by the University, and who is in a cooperative work experience program or work internship and who is registered only in one or more courses designated as “Work Experience” for that School Term, and who is either:
  - i. For Fall and Winter Terms - fulfilling their course requirements outside the boundaries of the Municipalities for the majority of the School Term; or
  - ii. For Spring/Summer Term – fulfilling the majority of their course requirements outside of the boundaries of the Municipalities; or
- e) a Student who is enrolled at another post-secondary educational institution and is required to participate in a transportation program similar to the U-Pass Program (if any) being offered to students of this other post-secondary educational institution by said institution and the Municipalities.”



To: GSA Council  
From: Leigh Spanner  
Date: November 10, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

As I reported to you last month (accompanied by the offer to receive any feedback or questions you may have), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) has met multiple times this fall to engage in a detailed review of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections and Referenda in advance of the GSA General Election 2017, as well as an upcoming referendum concerning the continuation of the U-Pass program. The committee has worked hard, and had very detailed discussions, in order to generate the recommended proposed changes that are now before you for consideration. Please note that the substantive changes have been highlighted in the attached double column documents and, in brief, the major recommended changes include:

- Enabling DEOs not running in an election to endorse candidates, if they wish, as individuals rather than as GSA Officers but specify that they may not use the GSA office or any GSA office resources;
  - Clarifying that DEOs (as elected representatives) may take a position on referenda questions without formally registering either a 'yes' or 'no' campaign;
  - Making changes to Referenda Bylaw and Policy to parallel already approved changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections (eg allowing campaigning during the voting period of a referendum);
  - Distinguishing between campaigning conducted on University physical or electronic resources and campaigning conducted off-campus, using non-University physical or electronic resources;
  - Adjustments to the scope of responsibilities of the CRO and DRO resulting from the awareness that various forms of campaign materials (such as campaigning done through social media or face-to-face interactions) cannot necessarily be directly overseen by the CRO or DRO;
  - Changes to limitations placed on candidates in an election and Campaign Representatives in a referendum with respect to using mailing lists (ie prohibiting the use of mailing lists moderated by University employees and used to send official University communications, and permitting the use of mailing lists moderated by graduate student groups and departmental GSAs);
  - Provision for campaign materials in languages other than English to be accompanied by an English translation when submitted to the CRO for approval and noting that the CRO is not responsible for the accuracy of translations;
  - Reorganization and elimination of current "do" and "don't" lists to place individual items with already existing sections;
- and*
- To parallel previously approved changes to the Officer Portfolios for CRO and DRO and the mandate of the GSA ERC, multiple provisions for them to consult with the GSA ERC during the course of an election or referendum were added.

I look forward to presenting these changes to you in November and welcome any questions you may have.

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

## Outline of Issue (GSA Council)

### Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections and Referenda

#### Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections and Referenda, as shown in the attached double column documents and effective immediately.

**NOTE 1:** The proposed changes apply to Section I: Elections and Section J: Referenda

**NOTE 2:** Substantive changes that GSA Council is asked to consider are highlighted in yellow

**NOTE 3:** This is the second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw.

#### Background:

Following several meetings over the fall of 2016, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee voted to recommend the attached proposed changes to GSA Council via email vote on November 1, 2016.

The GSA Governance Committee approved editorial changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda at a meeting of October 31, 2016.

GSA Council voted to approve the attached proposed changes to GSA Bylaw (first reading) on November 21, 2017. At that meeting attached proposed changes to GSA Policy were presented for information.

Please see the attached cover letter for additional information.

#### Jurisdiction:

Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.3.2.a

*"The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council."*

Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.20.3

*"The GSA ERC will review GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council through the GSA Board."*

Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a.ii

The GSA GC will *"make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee."*

### Elections

#### Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw, Elections, and GSA Policy, Elections

Current Bylaw ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
<b>I.BYL.1 Guiding Principle</b>	<i>No change.</i>
1.BYL.1.1 The fundamental principle underlying GSA elections is 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.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>I.BYL.2 Election Timeline</b>	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.2.1 Elections will consist of a nomination period, a campaign period, and a voting period.	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.2.2 The timeline for elections will be set out in GSA Policy.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>I.BYL.3 Nominations</b>	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.3.1 The requirements for the nomination forms will be set out in GSA Policy.	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.3.2 Candidates for Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) positions will <u>be graduate students in good academic standing and will</u> declare whether they are running as a member of a slate or as an individual. Platforms and slates are not a requirement for running in a GSA General Election. While candidates are able to campaign as a slate, candidates cannot be elected as a slate. Each position will be elected on a per ballot basis.	<i>Addition to accord with GSA Policy on Officer Portfolios, which references the matter of academic standing.</i>
I.BYL.3.3 Candidates are not allowed to run for multiple positions.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>I.BYL.4 Voting</b>	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.4.1 All voting in the GSA General Election and By-Elections will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>I.BYL.5 <del>Conflict of Interest</del> Campaign Restrictions</b>	<i>Covers a number of items not related to conflict of interest so the title has been changed accordingly.</i>

Current Bylaw ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
<p><del>I.BYL.5.1 If a Any member individual associated with of the GSA office environment (whether standing as a candidate or not) is also a candidate standing for election, he/she shall not use the GSA office or any GSA office resources (eg email accounts and/or staff) for campaign purposes on behalf of any candidate. This includes any current Directly Elected Officer(s) running in a General Election or By Election.</del></p>	<p><i>Proposed change to make explicit that this means not just the physical office, but also resources, such as email accounts and staff. Clarify that this applies to anyone involved in campaigning (whether a candidate or a campaign member).</i></p> <p><i>Remove mention of this applying to current DEOs as is captured at the beginning of the section.</i></p>
<p><del>I.BYL.5.1 I.BYL.5.2 DEOs running in a GSA General Election or By Election (whether standing as a candidate or not) will not campaign on behalf of any candidate during any GSA or University committee meetings or events at which they are acting as elected representatives of the GSA.</del></p>	<p><i>To provide clarity that, while DEOs (whether running in a GSA election or not) must continue to perform their duties in the campaign period, they are not permitted to campaign for any candidate during meetings or at events.</i></p> <p><i>Renumbering.</i></p>
<p><del>I.BYL.5.2 I.BYL.5.3 If a current Directly Elected Officer not standing for election chooses to endorse a candidate(s) or slate, he/she shall not use the GSA Office, resources (eg GSA email accounts), DEOs may endorse candidates provided they do not do so in their capacity as elected representatives of the GSA, and shall they do not speak for the GSA as an organization.</del></p>	<p><i>Clarify that DEOs may endorse candidates but not as representatives of the GSA and recommended removal of language now captured in Sections I.BYL.5.1 and I.BYL.5.2.</i></p> <p><i>Renumbering.</i></p>
<p><del>I.BYL.5.3 I.BYL.5.4 The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the GSA Nominating Committee, members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee will remain neutral and not campaign for or endorse any candidate whatsoever.</del></p>	<p><i>Recommended addition to emphasize the neutrality required in these positions during a GSA General Election or Referendum.</i></p>
<b>I.BYL.6 By-Elections</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<p><del>I.BYL.6.1 The procedures governing a By Election shall be the same as those governing regular elections, except the dates of nominations, campaigning, and voting periods shall be determined by the CRO.</del></p>	<i>Moved to Section I.POL.17, below.</i>
<p><del>I.BYL.6.2 I.BYL.6.2 In the event that a DEO position or Councillor-at-Large (CAL) position is not filled by the end of the General Election (ie no candidates run for a position or "None of the Candidates" is elected), or a DEO position or CAL position is vacated any time prior to December 1 (or the next working day), the CRO and GSA Council will follow GSA Policy on By-Elections (see Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections).</del></p>	<i>Renumbering.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
<b>I.POL.7 <u>General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections</u></b>	<i>Recommended change to move up elements of existing Section I.POL.12 and to amend the section title to reflect that.</i>
I.POL.7.1 “The fundamental principle underlying GSA elections is 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” (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.1.1).	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.7.2 <u>Candidates will abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning elections, and any other applicable policies or laws, and will ensure that campaign volunteers do the same. It is the responsibility of candidates to familiarize themselves with GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy.</u>	<i>Currently existing Policy; moved from current Sections I.POL.12.1.b, I.POL.12.1.d (above), and I.POL.12.1.e.v (below).</i>
I.POL.7.3 <u>Candidates will treat the CRO, DRO, GSA Officers, management, staff, and fellow candidates with respect.</u>	<i>Currently existing Policy, moved from current Section I.POL.12.1.e.iii, below.</i>
<b>I.POL.8 Nomination Forms</b>	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.1 Nomination forms will be made available to graduate students in hard copy at the GSA office. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO). The CRO and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), <u>in consultation with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC),</u> will have the discretion to determine the form and layout of the nomination forms.	<i>The CRO will consult with the GSA ERC members on as many aspects of an election as possible, as stipulated elsewhere in currently existing Policy.</i>
I.POL.8.2 On the Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) nomination forms, candidates will include a minimum of five (5) signatures from currently registered graduate students. The purpose of the signatures is to attest that the nominators, in their view, believe the candidate has the ability and/or experience for the office for which they are running.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.3 Councillor-at-Large (CAL) candidates are not required to include signatures in their nomination forms.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.4 Written nominations for DEO or CAL positions will be submitted to the GSA office to be reviewed and signed by the CRO or DRO in order to verify both completeness and that the nomination form has been submitted on time. The original will be filed in the GSA office and one copy provided to the candidate, <u>normally electronically.</u> If a nomination form is incomplete or late, the CRO or DRO will not accept the nomination form. Candidates cannot appeal this decision.	<i>In practice for the past few years the CRO has been providing an electronic copy of a candidate’s nomination form.</i>
I.POL.8.5 Candidates can change the position they wish to run for, but must do so before the close of nominations. If a candidate changes the position they are running for, the candidate will be required to	<i>No change.</i>



Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
fill out and submit a new nomination form for the new position prior to the nomination deadline and must meet the requirements as set out in Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.8.4, above.	
I.POL.8.6 Once the CRO or DRO verifies nomination forms, the names of candidates who have submitted their nomination forms will be provisionally listed on the GSA website <u>and in hard copy at the GSA office.</u>	<i>In case the GSA website is temporarily unoperational, a hard copy list will be kept at the GSA office. In practice, during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 GSA General Election, an up-to-date list was kept in hard copy at the GSA Office (the CRO approved this list).</i>
I.POL.8.7 The following will be attached to the nomination form for the GSA General Election and any subsequent By-Elections:	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.7.a Preamble	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.7.a.i The GSA Council has approved General Principles and Rules of Conduct governing the GSA General Election and any subsequent By-Elections. The GSA has Elections Bylaw and Policy posted in full on the GSA website.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.7.b Definitions	<i>No change.</i>
<del>I.POL.8.7.b.i “CRO” means CRO or DRO or any person Council designates or elects as Acting CRO or Acting DRO.</del>	<i>Redundant as this is covered in GSA Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Bylaw on GSA Officers – recommend removal.</i>
I.POL.8.7.b.ii “Working Day” means a day the GSA office is open.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
I.POL.8.7.c GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy and Acknowledgement by Candidates	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.7.c.i The GSA Council has approved Bylaw and Policy related to the GSA General Election and any subsequent By-Elections. By signing the nomination form, all candidates acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy which are posted in full on the GSA website.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.7.c.ii By signing the nomination form, candidates ALSO acknowledge that they have read and are aware of the terms of an appeal within the GSA of any decisions on issues/breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy, including the fact that the CRO, <u>in consultation with the GSA ERC, decides on penalties, remedial actions, and or/referrals for any issues/breaches and that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) decides on any appeals. Any concerns with potential bias on the part of the CRO, the DRO, and members of the GSA ERC in making such decisions, and</u> members of the GSA ACB in making <del>such</del> decisions on appeals, will be filed with nomination forms.	<i>Include CRO, DRO, GSA ERC, and GSA ACB members in the filing of bias considering their role in making decisions and hearing appeals.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
I.POL.8.7.c.iii The current <u>CRO, DRO, members of the GSA ERC, and</u> members of the GSA ACB will be updated each year on the nomination forms.	<i>See rationale above.</i>
I.POL.8.7.c.iv Any changes to these names will be emailed to candidates who will have twenty-four (24) hours to file any objections with the GSA Speaker.	<i>No change.</i>
<del>I.POL.8.7.c.v The deadline to file any concerns of bias on the part of members of the GSA ACB in shall be updated each year on the nomination forms.</del>	<i>Conflicts with Section I.POL.8.7.c.ii</i>
<b>I.POL.9 Timeline</b>	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.1 Except as specified below, the timeline for elections is at the discretion of the CRO, <u>in consultation with the GSA ERC.</u>	<i>The CRO will consult with the GSA ERC members on as many aspects of an election as possible, as stipulated elsewhere in currently existing Policy.</i>
I.POL.9.2 "Elections consist of a nomination period, a campaign period, and a voting period" (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.2.1).	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.3 Nominations for the GSA General Election will open on or about January 30.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.4 The nomination period will last at least fourteen (14) calendar days. The nomination period will end on a working day.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.5 Within twenty-four (24) hours after the close of the nomination period, the CRO will hold the All-Candidates' Meeting as described in Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.10.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.6 The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates' Meeting.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.7 Voting:	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.7.a Campaigning is permitted during the voting period.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.7.b The CRO will ensure that the voting period starts on a working day and lasts at least forty-eight (48) hours.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.8 Voting will be completed no later than April 15, or the next working day.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>I.POL.10 All-Candidates' Meeting</b>	<i>No change.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
I.POL.10.1 The CRO is responsible for organizing a meeting of all candidates running in an election to provide them with an overview of GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy.	No change.
I.POL.10.2 Failure by a candidate to attend the All-Candidates' Meeting without adequate prior notification to the CRO is grounds for disqualification from the current election. 'Adequate prior notification' is defined as notice communicated electronically to the CRO at least one (1) hour in advance of the meeting. If a candidate misses the All-Candidates' Meeting due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, such as a last-minute emergency, any consequences may be waived at the discretion of the CRO, <u>following consultation with the GSA ERC</u> . There is no appeal of this decision.	<i>The CRO will consult with the GSA ERC members on as many aspects of an election as possible, as stipulated elsewhere in currently existing Policy.</i>
I.POL.10.3 At the meeting described in Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.10.1, above, the CRO will provide each candidate with information concerning campaigning, the General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections, and the GSA ACB Policy.	No change.
<b>I.POL.11 Campaigning</b>	No change.
I.POL.11.1 "The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates' Meeting" (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.9.6).	No change.
<del>I.POL.11.2 Candidates are responsible for removing all campaign materials after voting has closed.</del>	<i>Proposed change to reorder the section so that definitions of campaigning come first, followed by information about campaign materials and CRO approval processes, followed by information about the length of the campaign period, and, finally, the campaign spending limit. Content struck through has been moved below, starting at Section I.POL.11.12.</i>
<del>I.POL.11.3 Candidates are authorized to spend up to \$150 on campaign material over the course of the election. If candidates are running as part of a slate, the cost of joint campaign materials shall normally be divided equally amongst all of the candidates in the slate. Candidates running as part of a slate are able to distribute individual campaign materials, so long as candidates do not exceed their total spending limit of \$150 per candidate. Campaign costs are not reimbursed.</del>	<i>Proposed change to reorder the section so that definitions of campaigning come first, followed by information about campaign materials and CRO approval processes, followed by information about the length of the campaign period, and, finally, the campaign spending limit. Content struck through has been moved below, starting at Section I.POL.11.12.</i>
<del>I.POL.11.4 Candidates shall report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts no later than the close of the campaign period.</del>	<i>Proposed change to reorder the section so that definitions of campaigning come first, followed by information about campaign materials and CRO approval processes, followed by information about the length of the campaign period, and, finally, the campaign spending limit. Content struck through has been moved below, starting at Section I.POL.11.12.</i>
<del>I.POL.11.5 Exceeding the spending limit or failure to report and submit campaign expenses and receipts</del>	<i>Proposed change to reorder the section so that definitions of campaigning come first,</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
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<del>constitute grounds for disqualification from the current election.</del>	<i>followed by information about campaign materials and CRO approval processes, followed by information about the length of the campaign period, and, finally, the campaign spending limit. Content struck through has been moved below, starting at Section I.POL.11.12.</i>
I.POL.11.6 I.POL.11.2 Campaigning is defined as any form of promotion of an individual or slate. This includes all verbal, electronic, and visual forms of communication. <u>All campaign materials, including but not limited to posters, websites, e-mails to moderated graduate student mailing lists, or other printed or electronic material (including but not limited to all forms of social media) shall be reviewed by the CRO prior to their distribution.</u>	<i>Elements of the last part of section have been moved below to proposed Section I.POL.11.3.</i>  <i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.11.6.a. <del>The CRO will review campaign materials to ensure they do not conflict with Elections Bylaws and Policies and do not contain any factually incorrect information (eg regarding the election procedures or timeline). The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of campaign materials (eg grammar, punctuation).</del>	<i>Section has been moved below.</i>
I.POL.11.7. <del>All forms of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) shall not contain misinformation, slander, inappropriate, discriminatory content, or <i>ad hominem</i> attacks of individuals or slates.</del>	<i>Section has been moved below to proposed Section I.POL.11.2.a.</i>
I.POL.11.8. <del>Candidates shall not use unmoderated mailing lists for campaigning, including but not limited to departmental mailing lists.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as now covered in other sections.</i>
I.POL.11.2.a <u>No form of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) will contain misinformation, slander, inappropriate, discriminatory content, or <i>ad hominem</i> attacks of individuals or slates.</u>	<i>Reordered Section I.POL.11.7, above – reworded slightly to provide greater clarity.</i>
I.POL.11.2.b <u>Candidates will ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and federal laws.</u>	<i>Currently existing Policy; moved from current Section I.POL.12.1.e.i, below.</i>
I.POL.11.3 <u>Campaign materials include both those posted or circulated on University physical or electronic property, including but not limited to communications sent to mailing lists moderated by graduate student groups and departmental GSAs, and those posted or circulated on non-University physical or electronic property, including any elections-related materials shared on personal social media accounts or other online platforms.</u>	<i>New section that incorporates elements of new Section I.POL.11.2, as proposed above, and makes a distinction between various forms of campaign material informed by the awareness that campaigning often happens speedily on social media that cannot necessarily be directly overseen by the CRO.</i>
I.POL.11.4 <u>The CRO will approve campaign materials posted or circulated on University physical or electronic property prior to their distribution. The CRO will review such materials to ensure they comply with Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.11.2.a, above, and any relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy. The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of such campaign materials (eg grammar, punctuation).</u>	<i>New section that incorporates elements of current Section I.POL.11.6.a, and reworded to make consonant with proposed Section I.POL.11.3 (ie, distinguishing between various forms of campaign materials and the associated approval/oversight of said materials).</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
I.POL.11.4.a Such campaign materials prepared in a language other than English will be accompanied by an English translation when submitted to the CRO for approval. The CRO is not responsible for the accuracy of translations.	New section to address campaign materials in languages other than English and to facilitate CRO approval of said materials.
I.POL.11.4.b The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.	Currently existing Policy; moved from current Section I.POL.12.1.e.iv, below.
I.POL.11.5 The CRO will be provided access to campaign materials posted or circulated on non-University physical or electronic property, and reserves the right to penalize candidates for any violations associated with Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.11.2.a, above, and any relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy.	New section that incorporates elements of previous Section I.POL.11.6.a, and reworded to make consonant with new Section I.POL.11.3 (ie, distinguishing between various forms of campaign materials and the associated approval/oversight of said materials).
I.POL.11.6 Candidates may utilize mailing lists moderated by graduate student groups and departmental GSAs to distribute CRO approved campaign materials. Candidates will not utilize mailing lists moderated by University employees and regularly used to distribute communication from the University.	Currently existing Policy; moved from current Sections I.POL.12.1.e.vi and I.POL.12.1.e.xiv, below. Candidates may use mailing lists moderated by departmental GSAs but will not contact University administrators to distribute campaign materials.
I.POL.11.7 Candidates will get permission, where appropriate, to campaign in instructional spaces, such as classrooms, lecture halls, and office spaces. Candidates will not campaign in unsafe spaces that require permission to access and proper safety equipment. The CRO will talk about safety issues, including campaigning in labs, at the All-Candidates' Meeting.	Currently existing Policy; moved from current Sections I.POL.12.1.e.viii and I.POL.12.1.e.xvi, below. Recommended changes to ensure candidates arrange in advance, where appropriate, to enter spaces such as classrooms and other areas not open to the general public, and changes to deal with issues in previous years where candidates have gone into Chemistry labs, for example, without permission.
I.POL.11.8 Candidates may not use resources for campaigning that are not publicly accessible to all candidate(s) and slates(s). For example, do not use Departmental or Supervisor photocopiers to print campaign materials.	Currently existing Policy; moved from current Section I.POL.12.1.e.x, below and slightly reworded.
I.POL.11.9 Candidates will not use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.	Currently existing Policy; moved from current Section I.POL.12.1.e.xii, below.
I.POL.11.10 Candidates will not accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalents (eg campaign posters or a friends and family discount for printing) from student groups or colleagues.	Currently existing Policy; moved from current Section I.POL.12.1.e.xviii, below.
I.POL.11.11 Candidates are encouraged to ask the CRO, before acting, if they have any questions about particular GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy (including questions related to the development of campaign materials and the planning of campaign events), and to report any breaches of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy to the CRO.	Currently existing Policy; moved from current Section I.POL.12.1.e.xi, below.

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
I.POL.11.12 Candidates are responsible for removing all campaign materials after voting has closed.	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.11.2, above.</i>
<u>I.POL.11.13 Campaign Spending Limit</u>	<i>New subsection to address specifically campaign spending.</i>
I.POL.11.13.a Individual candidates are authorized to spend no more than \$150 on campaign material over the course of the election. If candidates are running as part of a slate, the cost of joint campaign materials will normally be divided equally amongst all of the candidates in the slate. Candidates running as part of a slate are able to distribute individual campaign materials, so long as candidates do not exceed their total spending limit of \$150 per candidate. In order to encourage candidates to think, in advance, about campaign expenditures, a written informal plan for campaign expenditures will be submitted to the CRO before the All-Candidates' Meeting (either electronically or in hard copy).	<i>Incorporates elements of current Section I.POL.11.3, above.</i>  <i>Statement re non-reimbursement of campaign costs is now Section I.POL.11.13.d below.</i>  <i>Recommended change to encourage candidates to think proactively about campaign plans and costs.</i>
I.POL.11.13.b Candidates will report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts (either electronically or in hard copy) no later than two (2) hours after the close of the voting period.	<i>Incorporates elements of current Section I.POL.11.4, above.</i>  <i>Proposed change to ensure receipts are submitted in a timely fashion and clarification that campaigning is allowed during the voting period.</i>
I.POL.11.13.c Exceeding the spending limit or failure to report and submit campaign expenses and receipts constitute grounds for disqualification from the current election.	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.11.5, above.</i>
I.POL.11.13.d Campaign costs are not reimbursed.	<i>Currently existing Policy; part of current Section I.POL.11.3.a, above. Recommend including as a separate statement.</i>
<b><u>I.POL.12 Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections</u></b>	<i>Elements this section moved to Section I.POL.7, above and recommended removal of the "do" and "don't" lists – see next line for rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.1 Preamble</u>	<i>Recommended removal of the "do" and "don't" lists because they do not necessarily contain all relevant regulations and thus can be confusing. If lists are removed preamble is unnecessary.</i>
I.POL.12.1.a Candidates will conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the fundamental principles of underlying GSA elections – "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 Bylaws, Part VII, Elections, General Principle).	<i>Other elements this section moved to Section I.POL.7, above. Recommended deletion of this as repetitive in the context of the proposed Section I.POL.7, above.</i>
I.POL.12.1.b Candidates will abide by GSA Bylaws and Policies concerning elections.	<i>Moved to proposed Section I.POL.7, above.</i>
I.POL.12.1.c As per GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios, Chief Returning Officer), "the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), oversees GSA	<i>Other elements this section moved to Section I.POL.7, above. Recommended deletion of this as repetitive in the context of the proposed Section I.POL.7, above.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
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Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda processes Furthermore, 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" (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, Section D.POL.11.1.a).	
I.POL.12.1.d It is the responsibility of the candidates to familiarize themselves with the GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy.	Moved to proposed Section I.POL.7, below.
I.POL.12.1.e The following are a series of principles and rules concerning candidate conduct during General Elections and By-Elections. These examples are non-exhaustive and include but are not limited to the following principles and rules:	Recommended removal of the "do" and "don't" lists because they do not necessarily contain all relevant regulations and thus can be confusing. If lists are removed this section is unnecessary.
I.POL.12.1.e.i Do ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and federal laws.	Moved to Section I.POL.11.4.b, above.
I.POL.12.1.e.ii Do run a clean campaign and when running in a slate, encourage good behaviour for all slate members.	Recommended removal as already captured in Sections I.POL.7 and I.POL.7, above.
I.POL.12.1.e.iii Do treat the CRO, DRO, elected officials, management, staff, and fellow candidates with respect.	Moved to proposed Section I.POL.7, above.
I.POL.12.1.e.iv Do respect the CRO and DRO's time. The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.	Moved to proposed Section I.POL.11.6.b, above.
I.POL.12.1.e.v Do ensure any election volunteers or colleagues comply, at all times, with the GSA Elections Bylaws and Policies and other applicable policies or laws.	Moved to proposed Section I.POL.7, above.
I.POL.12.1.e.vi Do use moderated graduate student mailing lists to distribute CRO approved campaign materials.	Moved to proposed Section I.POL.11.8, above.
I.POL.12.1.e.vii Do ensure any election platforms align with the GSA's multiple roles under the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)</i> .	Recommended removal as covered by proposed Section I.POL.11.2.a (specifically campaign material cannot contain misinformation).
I.POL.12.1.e.viii Do get permission from Professors or Instructors to campaign in any classrooms.	Moved to Section I.POL.11.9, above.
I.POL.12.1.e.ix Do monitor your electronic campaign materials (eg Facebook pages) for <i>ad hominem</i> attacks from other graduate students or individuals against other candidate(s) or slate(s). If you encounter such attacks, report them immediately to the CRO.	Recommended removal as covered by proposed Sections I.POL.11.2.a and I.POL.7, above.

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.x Do use resources for campaigning that are publicly accessible to all candidate(s) and slates(s). For example, do not use Departmental or Supervisor photocopiers to print campaign materials.</del>	<i>Moved to Section I.POL.11.10, above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xi Do ask the CRO, before acting, if you have any questions about particular Elections Bylaws and Policies.</del>	<i>Moved to Section I.POL.11.13, above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xii Don't use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.</del>	<i>Moved to Section I.POL.11.11, above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xiii As denoted in Section 5.7 "All forms of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) shall not contain misinformation, slander, inappropriate, discriminatory content, or <i>ad hominem</i> attacks of individuals or slates."</del>	<i>Recommended removal as covered in proposed Section I.POL.11.2.a, above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xiv Don't use an unmoderated mailing list.</del>	<i>Moved to Section I.POL.11.8 above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xv Don't tolerate, ask, or encourage campaign volunteers or fellow graduate students to violate any GSA Elections Bylaws and Policies (eg distributing materials to unmoderated mailing lists on your behalf), or other applicable policies or laws.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as covered in various portions of Section I.POL.11, above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xvi Don't campaign in unsafe spaces that require proper safety equipment such as laboratories.</del>	<i>Moved to Section I.POL.11.9 above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xvii Don't place campaign materials behind locked doors that only certain candidates have access to through a key or swipe card.</del>	<i>Proposed removal of this restriction, as it is difficult to enforce.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xviii Don't accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalents (eg campaign posters or a friends and family discount for printing) from student groups or colleagues.</del>	<i>Moved to Section I.POL.11.12, above.</i>
<del>I.POL.12.1.e.xix Don't violate any other GSA Bylaw s or Policy ies or other applicable policies or laws.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as covered in various sections above.</i>
<b><del>I.POL.13</del> <u>I.POL.12</u> CRO's Decision on Penalties, Remedial Action, and Referrals</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.1</del> <u>I.POL.12.1</u> The CRO will normally reach a decision on alleged breaches within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will consult with the GSA ERC regarding extensions.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2</del> <u>I.POL.12.2</u> When the CRO becomes aware of an issue or breach of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy, or other applicable policies or laws, or a third party complains to the CRO about an alleged issue	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>



Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
or breach of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy, the CRO will consult, where reasonable, with the DRO, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (ED) or delegate, concerning deadlines and other related matters (as noted in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer) and will:	
<del>I.POL.13.2.a</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.a</u> Decide whether informal resolution should be attempted and, if so, contact the complainant and candidate(s) or slate(s).	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.b</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.b</u> Email any written complaint to the candidate(s) or slate(s), or email the candidate(s) or slate(s) the details of the issue/breach in writing, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.c</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.c</u> Upon reaching a decision the CRO will inform the candidate(s) or slate(s) of their decision on penalties, remedial actions, or referrals, their reasons for the decision, and will state whether the candidate(s) or slate(s) can continue to campaign.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.d</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.d</u> The CRO may impose the following penalties, remedial actions, or make referrals:	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.d.i</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.d.i</u> Verbal or written reprimands.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.d.ii</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.d.ii</u> Reduction of spending limits.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.d.iii</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.d.iii</u> Disqualification from the current election.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.d.iv</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.d.iv</u> Any other penalty or remedial action.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.d.v</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.d.v</u> Any referrals.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.e</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.e</u> The ED or delegate will be copied on the emails described above.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.f</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.f</u> If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.2.g</del> <u>I.POL.12.2.g</u> The CRO will advise the candidate(s) or slate(s) that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered (see Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.3, for a definition of "Deemed Delivered") for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB, as denoted in Section H:	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.16.2.b.	
<del>I.POL.13.3</del> I.POL.12.3 If a disqualified candidate is a member of a slate, the slate will alter their campaign materials so that the materials no longer reference the disqualified candidate.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<p>I.POL.12.4 All decisions of the CRO will be reported to the GSA ERC as soon as they are reached. Subject to privacy legislation, the GSA ERC and CRO will decide whether a decision should be posted on the GSA website and will take into consideration the nature and severity of the issues of breach and balance in relation to public interest. Posted decisions should include:</p> <p>I.POL.12.4.a A summary of the alleged issue or breach.</p> <p>I.POL.12.4.b A list of parties to the alleged issue or breach (unless anonymity was granted, see Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.12.2.f, above).</p> <p>I.POL.12.4.c A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached.</p> <p>I.POL.12.4.d A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy.</p> <p>I.POL.12.4.e The decided upon penalties, remedial actions, and/or referrals.</p> <p>I.POL.12.4.f The time limit for the appeal.</p>	<i>GSA ERC to decide in consultation with the CRO whether to post decisions and recommended addition with respect to the elements a formally posted decision should contain.</i>
<del>I.POL.13.4</del> I.POL.12.5 Unless otherwise stated in GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy, decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA ACB.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14</del> I.POL.13 Voting	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.1</del> I.POL.13.1 "All voting in the GSA General Election and By-Elections will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use" (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.4.1).	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.2</del> I.POL.13.2 The CRO will communicate to graduate students the members of each slate and all individual candidates.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.3</del> I.POL.13.3 Candidates will be displayed in random alphabetical order on a per-ballot basis. The election software determines the random order of candidates on a ballot.	<p><i>Placing "None of the Candidates" in random order means that sometimes it appears in the middle of a list of candidates.</i></p> <p><i>Renumbering.</i></p>
<del>I.POL.14.4</del> I.POL.13.4 "None of the Candidates" will be displayed in random order following the list of candidates on a per-ballot basis.	<i>Placing "None of the Candidates" in random order means that sometimes it appears in the middle of a list of candidates.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
	<i>Renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.5</del> <u>I.POL.13.5</u> On ballots, voters will mark their choice of candidate(s) for each race. Voters may abstain by signing in to vote but then not voting in a particular race.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.6</del> <u>I.POL.13.6</u> Ballots will be counted electronically according to the following procedures.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.6.a</del> <u>I.POL.13.6.a</u> The number of votes for each candidate will be counted.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.6.b</del> <u>I.POL.13.6.b</u> The candidate(s) with the highest number(s) of votes will be successful, in accord with the number of positions available. In a case where “None of the Candidates” received more votes than some of the other candidates, only candidate(s) receiving more votes than “None of the Candidates” will be considered successful.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.6.c</del> <u>I.POL.13.6.c</u> In the event of a tied vote, the CRO will draw a name from a hat in the presence of two (2) neutral witnesses, and the name drawn from a hat will be the candidate that is eliminated.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.7</del> <u>I.POL.13.7</u> Candidates who receive fewer votes than “None of the Candidates” in the GSA General Election cannot run for the same position in any related subsequent GSA Council By-Elections (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.17, below).	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.14.8</del> <u>I.POL.13.8</u> Individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<b><del>I.POL.15</del> <u>I.POL.14</u> Results</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.15.1</del> <u>I.POL.14.1</u> Upon completion of the ballot count, the CRO will announce provisional results, ie results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved. Results will be made official only when the GSA’s process of dealing with alleged breaches of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy and any appeals within that process are exhausted.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.15.2</del> <u>I.POL.14.2</u> In the case where the electronic voting system fails and paper ballots were used, the paper ballots will be destroyed one (1) month following the release of the official results.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<b><del>I.POL.16</del> <u>I.POL.15</u> Reporting</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.16.1</del> <u>I.POL.15.1</u> The CRO will draft a procedural report following each GSA General Election or By-	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<b>Elections</b>	
Election. This report will outline major decisions, processes, issues, and recommendations for the following year. This report will be provided to the next CRO and DRO, and the GSA ERC, the GSA Board, and GSA Council.	
<del>I.POL.17</del> <u>I.POL.16</u> <b>By-Elections</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.17.1</del> <u>I.POL.16.1</u> In the event that a DEO position is not filled by the end of the GSA General Election (ie no candidates run for a position or “None of the Candidates” is elected), or if a position is vacated at any time prior to December 1 (or the next working day) a By-Election will take place as soon as possible. <u>The procedures governing this By-Election will be the same as those governing regular elections, except the dates of nominations, campaigning, and voting periods will be determined by the CRO.</u>	<i>Part of currently existing Policy, moved from current Section I.BYL.6.1.</i>  <i>Renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.17.2</del> <u>I.POL.16.2</u> In the event that the DEO position is vacated after December 1 (or the next working day) and before the next GSA General Election, the GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one or more names to GSA Council for consideration. GSA Council will elect an individual to fill the position on an interim basis. If the matter is deemed urgent by the CRO, GSA Council can hold this election electronically.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>I.POL.17.3</del> <u>I.POL.16.3</u> In the event that any CAL positions are not filled by the end of the GSA General Election, or a CAL position is vacated prior to December 1 (or the next working day) GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs. When electing any remaining CALs, the GSA Council will aim to elect graduate students from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one or more names to GSA Council for consideration, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process allows for Councillors to make additional nominations. If the matter is urgent, GSA Council can hold this election electronically.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>

**Referenda**

Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw, Referenda, and GSA Policy, Referenda

Current Bylaw (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
<b>J.BYL.1 <del>General</del> Guiding Principle</b>	<i>To align with GSA Bylaw, Elections.</i>
J.BYL.1.1 The fundamental principle underlying GSA referenda is 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.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>J.BYL.2 Initiation</b>	<i>No change.</i>
J.BYL.2.1 A referendum on a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort can be initiated by the GSA Board (GSAB) subject to a simple majority vote at any meeting of GSA Council. Normally a referendum will be held in conjunction with the GSA General Election, unless a question is determined to be of an urgent nature by the GSAB. [See also GSA Board Policy, Section 15, Non-Binding Consultative Referenda].	<i>No change.</i>
J.BYL.2.2 The required steps for a person acting on behalf of an external organization or a graduate student wishing to initiate a referendum will be outlined in Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda.	<i>No change.</i>
J.BYL.2.3 Notwithstanding the process by which a referendum is initiated, a clearly worded referendum question will be developed in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), GSAB, and GSA Council. GSA Council will approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of a referendum question.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>3.BYL.3 Referendum Timeline</b>	<i>No change.</i>
J.BYL.3.1 Referenda questions will be submitted to GSA Council for approval no later than the first mailing for the November GSA Council meeting, unless a referendum is determined to be urgent by the GSAB as denoted in Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.BYL.2.1.	<i>No change.</i>
J.BYL.3.2 Referenda will consist of a registration period, a campaign period, and a voting period.	<i>No change.</i>

J.BYL.3.3 The timeline for referenda will be set out in GSA Policy.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>J.BYL.4 Registrations of 'Yes' or 'No' Campaigns</b>	<i>Recommended change to move current Section 5 up and to expand it in order to parallel GSA Bylaw, Elections.</i>
J.BYL.4.1 The requirements for the registration forms of a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign will be set out in GSA Policy.	<i>Recommended change to move current Section 5 up and to expand it in order to parallel GSA Bylaw, Elections.</i>
J.BYL.4.2 Only currently registered graduate students can register a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign during a referendum.	<i>Recommended change to move current Section 5 up and to expand it in order to parallel GSA Bylaw, Elections.</i>
J.BYL.4.3 Current Directly-Elected Officers are not required to register a campaign in a referendum and may take positions.	<i>Addition of clarification that registration requirements do not apply to DEOs, who are expected to take positions based on their fiduciary duty to represent graduate students.</i>
<b>J.BYL.4 J.BYL.5 Voting</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.BYL.4.1</del> J.BYL.5.1 All referenda voting will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.BYL.5 Registration of a 'Yes' or 'No' Campaign</del> <b>J.BYL.6 Campaign Restrictions</b>	<i>Current Section 5 has been moved up (see above) and recommended addition of a section addressing campaign restrictions to parallel GSA Bylaw, Elections.</i>
<del>J.BYL.5.1 Only currently registered graduate students can register a 'Yes' or 'No' Campaign during a referendum.</del>	<i>Current Section 5 has been moved up (see above) and expanded.</i>
J.BYL.6.1 The CRO, Deputy Returning Officer, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the GSA Nominating Committee, members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee will remain neutral and not campaign for or endorse any 'Yes' or 'No' campaign whatsoever.	<i>To parallel GSA Bylaw, Elections.</i>

Current Policy (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>J.POL.6</del> <b>J.POL.7 General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Referenda</b>	<i>Recommended change to move up elements of existing Section J.POL.13 and to amend the section title to reflect that.</i>  <i>Renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.6</del> J.POL.7.1 “The fundamental principle underlying GSA referenda is 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” (Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.BYL.1.1).	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
J.POL.7.2 Campaign Representatives will abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning referenda, and any other applicable policies or laws, and will ensure that campaign volunteers do the same. It is the responsibility of candidates to familiarize themselves with GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy.	<i>Currently existing Policy; moved from current Sections J.POL.13.1.b, J.POL.13.1.d (above), and I.POL.13.1.e.v (below).</i>
J.POL.7.3 Campaign Representatives will treat the CRO, DRO, GSA Officers, management, staff, and fellow Campaign Representatives with respect.	<i>Currently existing Policy, moved from current Section J.POL.13.1.e.iii, below.</i>
<b>J.POL.8 Definitions</b>	<i>Definitions have been moved to a proposed new section, whereas they were previously scattered throughout the Policy.</i>
J.POL.8.1 “Referendum question” means a clearly worded ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort.	<i>Definitions have been moved to a proposed new section, whereas they were previously scattered throughout the Policy.</i>
J.POL.8.2 “Asker” means the person acting on behalf of an external organization or a graduate student who wishes to initiate a referendum.	<i>Definitions have been moved to a proposed new section, whereas they were previously scattered throughout the Policy.</i>
J.POL.8.3 “Campaign Representative” means a graduate student running either a ‘Yes’ campaign or a ‘No’ campaign.	<i>Definitions have been moved to a proposed new section, whereas they were previously scattered throughout the Policy.</i>
J.POL.8.4 “Working Day” means a day the GSA office is open.	<i>Definitions have been moved to a proposed new section, whereas they were previously scattered throughout the Policy.</i>
<del>J.POL.7</del> <b>J.POL.9 Initiating a Referendum</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.7.1</del> J.POL.9.1 If an Asker <del>a person acting on behalf of an external organization or a graduate student</del> wishes to initiate a referendum, they will contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).	<i>Definitions have been moved to a proposed new section, whereas they were previously scattered throughout the Policy.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> (additions underlined)	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>J.POL.7.2</del> <u>J.POL.9.2</u> The CRO will extend an invitation to present to the GSA Board ( <u>GSAB</u> ). The <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> must state how their organization or proposed referendum question relates to the GSA and/or graduate students. The <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> will provide the GSAB with relevant documents such as a constitution, mission statement, vision statement, audited financial statements, etc. <del>The CRO and 'asker' shall work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from GSA Board and GSA Council;</del>	<i>Reflects new proposed definitions section and statement moved to a proposed Section 9.3, below.</i>
<del>J.POL.7.2.a</del> <u>J.POL.9.2.a</u> A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and accountability for the money collected. The criteria provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<u>J.POL.9.3</u> The CRO and Asker will work together to draft a referendum question, which will be <u>subject to change after input from the GSAB and GSA Council.</u>	<i>Moved from renumbered Section 9.2 (current Section 7.2) above.</i>
<del>J.POL.7.3</del> <u>J.POL.9.4</u> Following the presentation to the GSAB by the <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> , the GSAB will either decide to extend the <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> an invitation to GSA Council to make a presentation (normally fifteen (15) minutes with an extension if GSA Council so desires followed by questions from GSA Council), or, if the GSAB does not extend an invitation to GSA Council, the <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> can find a Councillor to place the matter on the GSA Council Agenda as denoted in the Standing Orders of GSA Council.	<i>Reflects new proposed definitions section and renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.7.4</del> <u>J.POL.9.5</u> If the GSAB has invited the <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> to present at GSA Council, at that point the CRO and the <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> will work together to finalize the wording of the question (subject to change if GSA Council has concerns with the wording) and the <del>'asker'</del> <u>Asker</u> then presents to GSA Council.	<i>Reflects new proposed definitions section and renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.7.5</del> <u>J.POL.9.6</u> GSA Council will approve or not approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.7.6</del> <u>J.POL.9.7</u> If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<u>J.POL.9.8</u> The CRO will provide an electronic description or briefing of the background, purpose, and relevant details of any GSA Council approved referendum question prior to referendum voting. Normally this description will be posted on the GSA website.	<i>Moved from current Section J.POL.12.11, below.</i>



Current Policy (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>J.POL.8</del> <u>J.POL.10</u> Registration Forms	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
J.POL.10.1 Registration forms will be made available to graduate students in hard copy at the GSA office. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the CRO. The CRO and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), in consultation with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), will have the discretion to determine the form and layout of the registration forms.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
J.POL.10.2 In order to register a campaign, a minimum of five (5) signatures from currently registered graduate students must be provided to the CRO before the end of the registration period, as well as the name and contact information of the Campaign Representative.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections (including from moving to ten to five signatories), and moved from the current Section J.POL.10.1, below.</i>
J.POL.10.3 Written registration forms will be submitted to the GSA office to be reviewed and signed by the CRO or DRO in order to verify both completeness and that the registration form has been submitted on time. The original will be filed in the GSA office and one copy provided to the Campaign Representative, normally electronically. If a registration form is incomplete or late, the CRO or DRO will not accept the registration form. Campaign Representatives cannot appeal this decision.	<i>To parallel GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1</del> J.POL.10.4 The following will be attached to the registration form for a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign for a referendum.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.a</del> J.POL.10.4.a Preamble	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.a.i</del> J.POL.10.4.a.i The GSA Council has approved General Principles and Rules of Conduct governing Referenda. The GSA has Referenda Bylaw and Policy posted in full on the GSA website.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.b</del> Definitions	<i>Moved to definitions section.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.b.i</del> "CRO" means CRO or DRO or any person Council designates or elects as Acting CRO or Acting DRO.	<i>Redundant – recommend removal.</i>
J.POL.8.1.b.ii "Working Day" means a day the GSA office is open.	<i>Moved to definitions section.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.e</del> J.POL.10.4.b GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy and Acknowledgement by Campaign Representatives.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>

Current Policy (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>J.POL.8.1.c.i</del> <u>J.POL.10.4.b.i</u> The GSA Council has approved Bylaw and Policy related to Referenda. By signing the registration form, all Campaign Representatives acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy, which are posted in full on the GSA website.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.c.ii</del> <u>J.POL.10.4.b.ii</u> By signing the registration form, Campaign Representatives ALSO acknowledge that they have read and are aware of the terms of an appeal within the GSA of any decisions on issues/breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy, including the fact that <u>the CRO, in consultation with the GSA ERC, decides on penalties, remedial actions, and or/referrals for any issues/breaches and that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) decides on any appeals. Any concerns with potential bias on the part of the CRO, DRO, and members of the GSA ERC in making such decisions, and members of the GSA ACB in making decisions on appeals will be filed with registration forms.</u>	<i>Include CRO, DRO, GSA ERC, and GSA ACB members in the filing of bias considering their role in making decisions and hearing appeals; changes to make parallel with GSA Policy, Elections.</i>  <i>Renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.c.iii</del> <u>J.POL.10.4.b.iii</u> The current <u>CRO, DRO, members of the GSA ERC, and</u> members of the GSA ACB will be updated each year on the registration forms.	<i>See rationale above.</i>  <i>Renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.8.1.c.iv</del> <u>J.POL.10.4.b.iv</u> Any changes to these names will be emailed to candidates who will have twenty-four (24) hours to file any objections with the GSA Speaker.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.10.1.c.v The deadline to file any concerns of bias on the part of members of the GSA ACB in shall be updated each year on the registration forms.</del>	<i>Covered in other parts of the renumbered Section 10.4.b., above.</i>
<del>J.POL.9</del> <u>J.POL.11</u> <b>Timeline</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.9.1</del> <u>J.POL.11.1</u> Except as specified below, the timeline for referendum is at the discretion of the CRO, <u>in consultation with the GSA ERC.</u>	<i>The CRO will consult with the GSA ERC members on as many aspects of a referendum as possible, as stipulated elsewhere in currently existing Policy.</i>  <i>Renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.9.2</del> <u>J.POL.11.2</u> "Referenda will consist of a registration period, a campaign period, and a voting period" (Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.BYL.3.2).	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.9.3</del> <u>J.POL.11.3</u> The registration period will last at least fourteen (14) calendar days and only a 'Yes' or a 'No' campaign can be registered. <u>The registration period will end on a working day.</u> In the event that no registrations are received <del>from either campaign,</del> the referendum will proceed regardless.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>  <i>Renumbering.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> (additions underlined)	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>J.POL.9.4</del> <u>J.POL.11.4</u> Within twenty-four (24) hours after the close of the registration period, the CRO will hold the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives as described in Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.12.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.9.5</del> <u>J.POL.11.5</u> The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.9.6</del> <u>J.POL.11.6</u> Voting: shall begin on the working day following the last day of the campaign period and shall last at least forty-eight (48) hours.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections. Renumbering.</i>
<u>J.POL.11.6.a</u> Campaigning is permitted during the voting period.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<u>J.POL.11.6.b</u> The CRO will ensure that the voting period starts on a working day and lasts at least forty-eight (48) hours.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<b><del>J.POL.10</del> Registration Period</b>	<i>Moved to revised and renumbered Section 10, Registration Forms, above, to parallel GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<del>J.POL.10.1</del> The CRO shall provide requirements for registering a campaign for either side of a referendum question (a 'Yes' campaign or a 'No' campaign. Only currently registered graduate students can register a 'Yes' Campaign or a 'No' Campaign. In order to register a campaign, the signatures of ten (10) registered graduate students must be provided to the CRO before the end of the registration period, as well as all of the names and contact information of the graduate students running the campaign.	<i>Moved to revised and renumbered Section 10, Registration Forms, above, to parallel GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<b><del>J.POL.11</del> <del>J.POL.12</del> Meeting of the Campaign Representatives of the 'Yes' and/or 'No' Campaigns</b>	<i>Editorial and renumbering</i>
<del>J.POL.11.1</del> <u>J.POL.12.1</u> The CRO is responsible for organizing a meeting with all Campaign Representatives to provide an overview of GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.11.2</del> <u>J.POL.12.2</u> Failure to attend the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives by a Campaign Representative or delegate without adequate prior notification to the CRO is grounds for disqualification of their campaign. 'Adequate prior notification' is defined as notice communicated electronically to the CRO at least one (1) hour in advance of the meeting. If a	<i>The CRO will consult with the GSA ERC members on as many aspects of a referendum as possible, as stipulated elsewhere in currently existing Policy. Renumbering.</i>

Current Policy (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
Campaign Representative or delegate misses this meeting due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, such as a last-minute emergency, any consequences may be waived at the discretion of the <u>CRO, following consultation with the GSA ERC</u> . There is no appeal of this decision.	
<del>J.POL.11.3</del> <u>J.POL.12.3</u> At the meeting described in Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.12.1, above, the CRO will provide Campaign Representatives with information concerning campaigning, the General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Referenda and the GSA ACB Policy.	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.12</del> <u>J.POL.13</u> <b>Campaigning</b>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.1 Only a 'Yes' and or 'No' campaign can be registered.</del>	<i>Removal of a repetition, see renumbered Section 11.3, above.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.2 In the event that no registrations are received for either campaign the referendum shall proceed regardless.</del>	<i>Removal of a repetition, see renumbered Section 11.3, above.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.3 Slates are non-existent for the purposes of referenda.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as unnecessary given that slates are defined in GSA Policy, Elections and not mentioned at any other point in GSA Policy on Referenda.</i>
<u>J.POL.13.1 "The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives" (Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.11.5).</u>	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.4 Campaign members are authorized to spend up to \$150 on campaign material over the course of a referendum. Campaign costs are not reimbursed.</del>	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections</i>
<del>J.POL.12.5 Campaign members shall report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts no later than the close of the campaign period.</del>	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.6 Exceeding the spending limit in Section J.POL.12.4 constitutes grounds for disqualification for the campaign.</del>	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.7</del> <u>J.POL.13.2</u> Campaigning is defined as any form of promotion of a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign. This includes all verbal, electronic, and visual forms of communication. <u>All campaign materials, including but not limited to posters, websites, e-mails to moderated graduate student mailing lists, or other printed or electronic materials (including but not limited to all forms of</u>	<i>Elements of the last part of section have been moved below to proposed Section 13.4.</i>

Current Policy (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>social media) shall be reviewed by the CRO prior to their distribution.</del>	
<del>J.POL.12.8 The CRO will review campaign materials to ensure they do not conflict with Referenda Bylaws and Policyies and do not contain any factually incorrect information (eg regarding the referendum procedures or timeline). The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of campaign materials (eg grammar, punctuation).</del>	<i>Section has been moved below to proposed Section 13.4.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.9 All forms of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) shall not contain misinformation, slander, inappropriate, discriminatory content, or <i>ad hominem</i> attacks of campaign member(s).</del>	<i>Section has been moved below to proposed Section 13.2.a.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.10 Campaign members shall not use unmoderated mailing lists for campaigning, including but not limited to departmental mailing lists.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as now covered in other sections.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.11 The CRO shall provide an electronic description or briefing of the background, purpose, and relevant details of any GSA Council approved referendum question prior to referendum voting. Normally this description shall be posted on the GSA website.</del>	<i>Moved above to proposed Section 9.8.</i>
<del>J.POL.12.12 After the campaign period has closed, campaign members may distribute communications encouraging students to vote on a Referendum question. Campaign members shall not campaign after the campaign period has closed. As denoted in Section 7.7, "campaigning is defined as any form of promotion of a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign." All campaign materials (including but not limited to posters, Facebook pages, websites, etc) shall be removed before the close of the campaign period.</del>	<i>Campaigning is allowed during voting.</i>
<del>J.POL.13.2.a No form of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) will contain misinformation, slander, inappropriate, discriminatory content, or <i>ad hominem</i> attacks of individuals.</del>	<i>Reordered Section 12.9, above – <b>reworded slightly to provide greater clarity.</b></i>
<del>J.POL.13.2.b Campaign Representatives will ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and federal laws.</del>	<i>Moved from current Section 13.1.e.i, below.</i>
<del>J.POL.13.3 Campaign materials include both those posted or circulated on University physical or electronic property, including but not limited to communications sent to mailing lists moderated by graduate student groups and departmental GSAs, and those posted or circulated on non-University physical or electronic property, including any elections-related materials shared on personal social media accounts or other online platforms.</del>	<i>Proposed section that incorporates elements of proposed Section 13.2, above, and makes a distinction between various forms of campaign material informed by the awareness that campaigning often happens speedily on social media that cannot necessarily be directly overseen by the CRO.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> (additions underlined)	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Referenda</b>	
J.POL.13.4 The CRO will approve campaign materials posted or circulated on University physical or electronic property prior to their distribution. The CRO will review such materials to ensure they comply with Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.13.4.a, above, and any relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy. The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of such campaign materials (eg grammar, punctuation).	<i>Proposed section that incorporates elements of current Section 12.8, and reworded to make consonant with proposed Section 13.3 (ie, distinguishing between various forms of campaign materials and the associated approval/oversight of said materials).</i>
J.POL.13.4.a Such campaign materials prepared in a language other than English will be accompanied by an English translation when submitted to the CRO for approval. The CRO is not responsible for the accuracy of translations.	<i>Proposed section to address campaign materials in languages other than English and to facilitate CRO approval of said materials.</i>
J.POL.13.4.b The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.	<i>Moved from current Section 13.1.e.iv, below.</i>
J.POL.13.5 The CRO will be provided access to campaign materials posted or circulated on non-University physical or electronic property, and reserves the right to penalize candidates for any violations associated with Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.13.4.a, above, and any relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy.	<i>Proposed section that incorporates elements of current Section 12.8, and reworded to make consonant with proposed Section 13.3 (ie, distinguishing between various forms of campaign materials and the associated approval/oversight of said materials).</i>
J.POL.13.6 Campaign Representatives may utilize mailing lists moderated by graduate student groups and departmental GSAs to distribute CRO approved campaign materials. Campaign Representatives will not utilize mailing lists moderated by University employees and regularly used to distribute communication from the University.	<i>Moved from current Sections 13.1.e.vi and 13.1.e.xiii, below. Candidates may use mailing lists moderated by departmental GSAs but will not contact University administrators to distribute campaign materials.</i>
J.POL.13.7 Campaign Representatives will get permission, where appropriate, to campaign in instructional spaces, such as classrooms, lecture halls, and office spaces. Campaign Representatives will not campaign in unsafe spaces that require permission to access and proper safety equipment. The CRO will talk about safety issues, including campaigning in labs, at the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives.	<i>Moved from current Sections 13.1.e.vii and 13.1.e.xv, below. Recommended changes to ensure candidates arrange in advance, where appropriate, to enter spaces such as classrooms and other areas not open to the general public, and changes to deal with issues in previous years where candidates have gone into Chemistry labs, for example, without permission.</i>
J.POL.13.8 Campaign Representatives may not use resources for campaigning that are not publicly accessible to all Campaign Representatives. For example, do not use Departmental or Supervisor photocopiers to print campaign materials.	<i>Moved from current Section 13.1.e.ix, below, and slightly reworded.</i>
J.POL.13.9 Campaign Representatives will not use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.	<i>Moved from current Section 13.1.e.xi, below.</i>
J.POL.13.10 Campaign Representatives will not accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalents (eg campaign posters or a friends and family discount for printing) from student groups or	<i>Moved from current Section 13.1.e.xvii, below.</i>

Current Policy (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
<u>colleagues.</u>	
J.POL.13.11 Campaign Representatives are encouraged to ask the CRO, before acting, if they have any questions about particular GSA Referenda Bylaw or Policy (including questions related to the development of campaign materials and the planning of campaign events), and to report any breaches of GSA Referenda Bylaw or Policy to the CRO.	<i>Moved from current Section 13.1.e.x, below.</i>
J.POL.13.12 Campaign Representatives are responsible for removing all campaign materials after voting has closed.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
J.POL.13.13 Campaign Spending Limit	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
J.POL.13.13.a Campaign Representatives are authorized to spend no more than \$150 on campaign material over the course of a referendum. In order to encourage Campaign Representatives to think, in advance, about campaign expenditures, a written informal plan for campaign expenditures will be submitted to the CRO before the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives (either electronically or in hard copy).	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
J.POL.13.13.b Campaign Representatives will report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts (either electronically or in hard copy) no later than two (2) hours after the close of the voting period.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
J.POL.13.13.c Exceeding the spending limit or failure to report and submit campaign expenses and receipts constitutes grounds for disqualification for the campaign.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
J.POL.13.13.d Campaign costs are not reimbursed.	<i>Addition to parallel GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<b>J.POL.13 Principles and Rules of Conduct for Referenda Campaigning</b>	<i>Moved to Section J.POL.7, above and recommended removal of the “do” and “don’t” lists – see next line for rationale.</i>
J.POL.13.1 Preamble	<i>Recommended removal of the “do” and “don’t” lists because they do not necessarily contain all relevant regulations and thus can be confusing. If lists are removed preamble is unnecessary.</i>
J.POL.13.1.a Campaign members will conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the fundamental principles of underlying GSA 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 Bylaws, Part VIII, Referenda, Section 1.1).	<i>Other elements this section moved to Section J.POL.7, above. Recommended deletion of this as repetitive in the context of the proposed Section J.POL.7, above.</i>

Current Policy (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>J.POL.13.1.b Campaign members will abide by GSA Bylaws and Policies concerning referenda.</del>	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.7, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.c As per GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios, Chief Returning Officer), “the CRO is responsible fir administration of GSA [...] referenda pursuant to the GSA Referenda Bylaws and Policies.” Furthermore, “the CRO is responsible for monitoring candidate activities and is authorized to discipline candidates for violations of GSA [...] Referenda Bylaws and Policies as provided for in the GSA [...] Referenda Bylaws and Policies”.	<i>Moved to proposed Section 14.1, below.</i>
J.POL.13.1.d It is the responsibility of the candidates to familiarize themselves with the GSA Referenda Bylaws and Policies.	<i>Other elements this section moved to Section J.POL.7, above. Recommended deletion of this as repetitive in the context of the proposed Section J.POL.7, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e The following are a series of principles and rules concerning the conduct of those individuals running a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ during a Referendum. These examples are non-exhaustive and include but are not limited to the following principles and rules:	<i>Recommended removal of the “do” and “don’t” lists because they do not necessarily contain all relevant regulations and thus can be confusing. If lists are removed this section is unnecessary.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.i Do ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and laws.	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.2.b, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.ii Do run a clean campaign.	<i>Recommended removal as already captured in proposed Section J.POL.7, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.iii Do treat the CRO, DRO, elected officials, management, staff, and fellow campaign members with respect.	<i>Elements moved to proposed Section J.POL.7, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.iv Do respect the CRO and DRO’s time. The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.4.b, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.v Do ensure any campaign volunteers or colleagues comply, at all times, with the GSA Elections Bylaws and Policies and other applicable policies or laws.	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.7, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.vi Do use moderated graduate student mailing lists to distribute CRO approved campaign materials.	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.6, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.vii Do get permission from Professors or Instructors to campaign in any classrooms.	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.7, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.viii Do monitor your electronic campaign materials (eg Facebook pages) for <i>ad hominem</i> attacks from other graduate students or individuals against campaign members. If you	<i>Recommended removal as covered by proposed Sections J.POL.13.2.a and J.POL.7, above.</i>



<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> (additions underlined)	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Referenda</b>	
<del>encounter such attacks, report them immediately to the CRO.</del>	
J.POL.13.1.e.ix <del>Do use resources for campaigning that are publicly accessible to all campaign members. For example, do not use Departmental or Supervisor photocopiers to print campaign materials.</del>	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.8, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.x <del>Do ask the CRO, before acting, if you have any questions about particular Elections Bylaws and Policies.</del>	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.11, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xi <del>Don't use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.</del>	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.9, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xii <del>As denoted in Section 7.9 "All forms of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) shall not contain misinformation, slander, inappropriate, discriminatory content, or ad hominem attacks of campaign member(s)."</del>	<i>Recommended removal as covered in proposed Section J.POL.13.2.a, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xiii <del>Don't use an unmoderated mailing list.</del>	<i>Moved to Section proposed J.POL.13.6 above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xiv <del>Don't tolerate, ask, or encourage campaign volunteers or fellow graduate students to violate any GSA Elections Bylaws and Policies (eg distributing materials to unmoderated mailing lists on your behalf), or other applicable policies or laws.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as covered in various portions of proposed Section J.POL.7, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xv <del>Don't campaign in unsafe spaces that require proper safety equipment such as laboratories.</del>	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.7 above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xvi <del>Don't place campaign materials behind locked doors that only certain campaign members have access to through a key or swipe card.</del>	<i>Proposed removal of this restriction, as it is difficult to enforce.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xvii <del>Don't accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalents (eg campaign posters or a friends and family discount for printing) from student groups or colleagues.</del>	<i>Moved to proposed Section J.POL.13.10, above.</i>
J.POL.13.1.e.xviii <del>Don't violate any other GSA Bylaw s or Policy ies or other applicable policies or laws.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as covered in various sections above.</i>
<b>J.POL.14 CRO's Decision on Penalties, Remedial Action, and Referrals</b>	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.14.1 The CRO will normally reach a decision on alleged breaches within seventy-two (72)	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> (additions underlined)	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Referenda</b>	
hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will consult with the GSA ERC regarding extensions.	
J.POL.14.2 When the CRO becomes aware of an issue or breach of GSA Referenda Bylaw or Policy, or other applicable policies or laws, or a third party complains to the CRO about an alleged issue or breach of GSA Referenda Bylaw or Policy, the CRO will consult, where reasonable, with the DRO, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (ED) or delegate, concerning deadlines and other related matters (as noted in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer) and will:	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.14.2.a Decide whether informal resolution should be attempted and, if so, contact the complainant and Campaign Representative.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.14.2.b Email any written complaint to the Campaign Representative, or email the Campaign Representative the details of the issue/breach in writing, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.14.2.c Upon reaching a decision the CRO will inform the Campaign Representative of their decision on penalties, remedial actions, or referrals, their reasons for the decision, and will state whether the campaign can continue	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.14.2.d The CRO may impose the following penalties, remedial actions, or make referrals:	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.14.2.d.i Verbal or written reprimands.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL14.2.d.ii Reduction of spending limits.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL14.2.d.iii Disqualification of the campaign from the current referendum.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL14.2.d.iv Any other penalty or remedial action.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL14.2.d.v Any referrals.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL14.2.e The ED or delegate will be copied on the emails described above.	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL14.2.f If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> (additions underlined)	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Referenda</b>	
J.POL.14.2.g The CRO will advise the Campaign Representative that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered (see Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.3, for a definition of "Deemed Delivered") for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB, as denoted in Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.16.2.b.	<i>No change.</i>
<p><u>J.POL.14.3 All decisions of the CRO will be reported to the GSA ERC as soon as they are reached. Subject to privacy legislation, the GSA ERC and CRO will decide whether a decision should be posted on the GSA website and will take into consideration the nature and severity of the issues of breach and balance in relation to public interest. Posted decisions should include:</u></p> <p><u>J.POL.14.3.a A summary of the alleged issue or breach.</u></p> <p><u>J.POL.14.3.b A list of parties to the alleged issue or breach (unless anonymity was granted, see Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.14.2.f, above).</u></p> <p><u>J.POL.14.3.c A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached.</u></p> <p><u>J.POL.14.3.d A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy.</u></p> <p><u>J.POL.14.3.e The decided upon penalties, remedial actions, and/or referrals.</u></p> <p><u>J.POL.14.3.f The time limit for the appeal.</u></p>	<p><i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i></p> <p><i>GSA ERC to decide in consultation with the CRO whether to post decisions and recommended addition with respect to the elements a formally posted decision should contain.</i></p>
J.POL.14.4 Unless otherwise stated in GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy, decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA ACB.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>J.POL.15 Voting</b>	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.15.1 "All referenda voting will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use" (Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section <del>J.BYL.4.1</del> J.BYL.5.1).	<i>Renumbering.</i>
<u>J.POL.15.2 In the event of a tie vote, GSA Council will decide whether to re-run a referendum.</u>	<i>To parallel GSA Policy on Elections, recommended insertion concerning a tie vote.</i>
<u>J.POL.15.2 All referenda questions must be on a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question as denoted in GSA Bylaws, Part VIII, Referenda, Section 2.1.</u>	<i>Does not relate to voting and already noted.</i>
<u>J.POL.15.3 Individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to</u>	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> (additions underlined)	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Referenda</b>	
lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy.	
<b>J.POL.16 Results</b>	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.16.1 Upon completion of the ballot count, the CRO will <del>distribute the official results as soon as possible</del> announce the provisional results, ie results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved. Results will be made official only when the GSA's process of dealing with alleged breaches of GSA Referenda Bylaw and Policy and any appeals within that process are exhausted.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
J.POL.16.2 In the case where the electronic voting system fails and paper ballots were used, the paper ballots will be destroyed one (1) month following the release of the official results.	<i>To parallel the corresponding section in GSA Policy, Elections.</i>
<b>J.POL.17 Reporting</b>	<i>No change.</i>
J.POL.17.1 The CRO will draft a procedural report following each referendum. This report will outline major decisions, a summary of discussions and consultations with the GSA ERC, processes, issues, and recommendations for any future referendum. This report will be provided to the next CRO and DRO, the GSA ERC, the GSAB, and GSA Council.	<i>No change.</i>

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
**GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (1 POSITION): 1 NOMINEE**

**Suggested Motion for GSA Council:**

That GSA Council **DECLARE ELECTED** to the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee the graduate student below:

**Megan Vernon (MBA)**

**NOTE:** The bio and resume for this graduate student was circulated to GSA Council with the call for additional nominations on January 16, 2017.

**GSA Members Staying on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:** Leigh Spanner (Political Science), Sarah Prescott (Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology), Jennifer Bertrand (Physical Education and Recreation), Kurtis Broda (Mechanical Engineering), Carolyn Gibson (Renewable Resources), Ahmed Najjar (Renewable Resources)

**GSA Council Members Leaving on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:** Maison Elchames (Dentistry)

**Background:**

In the January 6, 2017 GSA Newsletter, the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) advertised for one (1) vacant position on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). The deadline to receive nominations was January 13, 2017 and one (1) nomination was received and approved by the GSA NoC to be forwarded to GSA Council. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM and no additional nominations were received.

The mandate of the GSA ERC (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) includes: consulting with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) on all matters pertaining to GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda; meeting at least one month prior to the opening of nominations for the GSA General Election to assist the CRO in the planning of election events; and reviewing GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies annually and making any recommendations for change to GSA Council.

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.18.2.c

The composition of the GSA ERC is *“a total of eight (8) graduate student members, including at least one (1) Councillor, elected by GSA Council.”*

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section I.POL.6.6

*“The GSA NoC will provide GSA Council with nominations to fill vacancies on the GSA Board, all GSA Standing Committees, Speaker, Chief Returning Officer, and Senator. Additional nominations may be made by Councillors, in writing, in advance of the GSA Council meeting where elections will take place. If a Councillor(s) makes an additional nomination, there will be a written ballot at the GSA Council where the election will take place. All other vacancies will be filled by the GSA NoC and reported to GSA Council.*

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
**GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (5 POSITIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS):**  
**1 NOMINEE**

In the January 6, 2017 GSA newsletter, the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) advertised for five (5) vacant positions on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB). The deadline to receive nominations was January 12, 2017 and one (1) nomination was received. The nominee was then interviewed by GSA NoC member Antonio Bruni and GSA NoC member (and recent former Administrative Chair) Michele DuVal, both of whom have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Executive Director Courtney Thomas was also present. During the interview, the nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB will receive training in procedural fairness). Following this interview and ensuing discussion, the GSA NoC agreed to forward the one (1) nominee to GSA Council with the call for additional nominations.

The call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 18, 2017 at 12:00 PM (noon) and no additional nominations were received.

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the January 23, 2017 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the January 23, 2017, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday January 23, 2017, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

**The Ballot**

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

**Voting**

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

**Counting**

- If a candidate has more “no” votes than “yes” votes, the candidate is eliminated.
- If after the elimination round, there are **fewer candidate(s) or an equal number of candidates as there are positions**, the candidate(s) with at least one “yes” vote is/are successful.
- If after the elimination round, there are **more candidates than positions**, the candidates with the highest number of “yes” votes, equivalent to the number of positions, are the successful candidates.
- If after the elimination round, there is a **tie for last place** in the number of “yes” votes, the candidate with the fewest number of “no” vote is successful. If the tied vote has the same number of both “yes” and “no” votes, the Speaker will draw one (1) name from a hat.

**The names and biographies received (one (1) nominee) are BELOW on page 8.2. Biographies are presented as received (ie not edited).**

**Biographies and Resumes of Nominees (1 Nominee)****1. Benjamin Decardi-Nelson**

**Any other committees:** NA

**Benjamin Decardi-Nelson's Bio**

I am an open-minded Christian born in Ghana, a country located in West Africa. I moved to Saskatchewan, Canada in 2014 to study for my masters in Process Systems Engineering at the University of Regina after obtaining my bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering in my home country. I am fluent in English and two other local languages in my homeland. I was a first-choice player in my department's soccer team and my year group because of my outstanding soccer prowess. While at the University of Regina, I volunteered to be an International peer adviser helping undergraduate students smoothly transition to the University environment.

**Benjamin Decardi-Nelson's Resume**

I am a first-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering working on computer process control. I am a member of the Process Systems and Control Engineering research group headed by Dr. Jinfeng Liu. I worked on research that sought to address one of the most challenging issues facing humanity - Climate change and global warming mitigation - at the University of Regina for my master's degree. I also collaborated on research at the design lab at Rensselaer, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA during my summer break in 2011.

My experience serving as the Judicial Council/Committee Chairman for the Ghana Engineering Students' Association (GESA) during my undergraduate will be invaluable to the operation of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB); Hence the reason for opting to join GSA ACB. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a working committee.

GSA SPEAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2 POSITIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS):**  
**1 NOMINEE**

In the January 6, 2017 GSA newsletter, the GSA Executive Director and Speaker advertised for two (2) vacant positions on the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC). The deadline to receive nominations was January 13, 2017 and one (1) nomination was received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM and no additional nominations were received.

The call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 18, 2017 at 12:00 PM (noon) and no additional nominations were received.

The GSA NoC is charged with selecting graduate student representatives to councils, committees, and other bodies requiring such representation. The GSA NoC also leads an annual initiative in October known as the "Early Call for Talent and Training", during which graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to attend a Get-to-Know Dinner and a series of training sessions. (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Sections E.POL.9.1 and E.POL.9.2).

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the January 23, 2017 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the January 23, 2017, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday January 23, 2017, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

**1. Obunikem Eziuzo (Civil and Environmental Engineering)**

The names and biographies received (one (1) nominee) are BELOW on page 8.4. Biographies are presented as received (ie not edited).



## Biographies and Resumes of Nominees (1 Nominee)

### 1. Obunikem Sopuluchukwu Eziuzo

**Any other committees:** None

#### **Obunikem Sopuluchukwu Eziuzo's Bio**

I am a Nigerian born and raised in Aba, Abia State. My Parents are both Nigerian. I had all levels of high school education in Nigeria and later proceeded to Ukraine in 2012, where I completed my BSc in Oil and Gas Engineering at National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute" (NTU KPI), with First class honor.

While in NTU KPI, I was the assistant Group captain for my course. I served on the National Association of Nigerian Student (NANS) as Publicity Officer/Electoral Chairman and was involved in some sporting activities. I volunteered to be a photographer, which is actually my hobby, on every Sunday services at Doxa City Church Kharkov.

I just arrived University of Alberta and hope to be more available and engage in most activities.

#### **Obunikem Sopuluchukwu Eziuzo 's Resume**

I am a new student of U of A, a MEng student in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering with specialization in Petroleum Engineering.

My previous research work was at National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute", Ukraine, where I wrote a paper with two other people, a professor and lecturer (Bratakh M and Ruzina I) on "The Prospects of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Projects in Ukraine" UDK 622.691.4 for the Science and Engineering Journal in 2015, after which I proceeded to my own course project titled "Choosing the best enhanced oil recovery method for a specified oil field (Yabluniv)" in 2016.

In the same year I became a student intern at Karpatygas Company LTD, and oil and gas production company, where I did a lot of field activities, in addition to that I went for another training at TLD Global Services Limited Lagos, Nigeria, an oil and gas servicing company, where I did a lot of administrative and designing work.

Prior to these years I have had myself trained through the Coursera Education Platform, with courses like Critical Thinking in Global Challenges (University of Edinburgh), Developing Innovative Ideas for New Companies: The First Step in Entrepreneurship (University of Maryland), and lastly, Level 1 Program of the International Well Control Platform.

I am a professional member of SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers), 2016.

In Ukraine, while I was doing my BSc In Oil and Gas Engineering, I was elected Publicity Officer/ Electoral chairman of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), NTU branch 2015/2016. I carried out my duties by ensuring all needed information were dispersed to the members thorough the appropriate social channels and also I managed the election sessions of the organization by unequivocally making the members' voices heard, which brings me to why I want to join the Graduate Nominating Committee (GSA NoC).

I think being chosen by designating my time to work selflessly for this salient committee will be a great honor to me. Based on my previous administrative role and the qualities I bring to the table, I will join hands and ideas with other graduate student officers to extend and up the relevance of GSA NoC to a greater new height.

I am a committed personality and will making sure that I am always available any time this committee will assemble.



Dear Councillors,

January 13, 2017

As many of you will remember my team and I began the development of the 2016-2017 Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) in late April and after a broad consultative effort, we presented the finalized plan to GSA Council in October.

In early January, my team and I met to discuss our progress on the various initiatives developed in the plan. In preparation for providing this update to you, I asked my team to each identify two initiatives that they have completed and that they feel have had a notable impact, as well as the two initiatives that they are most excited about tackling next. Below is a summary of our discussion. Attached you will find the complete GSA Board SWP as it was presented to you in October. My team and I have reviewed it carefully and developed a colour-coding system to track our progress on the various elements of the SWP – I encourage you all to have a look and I welcome the chance to discuss this with you on January 23.

#### Completed Initiatives

- Working with ab-GPAC on the Alberta government's labour review and tuition review
- GSA advocacy concerning the international graduate student tuition increase
- Consulting graduate students and restructuring the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
- Working with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) to implement the professional (experience or development) leave
- On-going discussions with FGSR regarding supervision, mentorship programs and funding packages
- Enhancing student engagement
- Building relationships with various stakeholders on campus
- Provision of timely support to graduate students
- Helping in the development of the Sexual Violence Policy
- GSA Board review of the GSA Health and Dental Plan
- On-going partnership with the Campus Food Bank
- Finalizing the 2017-2021 U-Pass agreement

#### Upcoming Initiatives

- Having a voice on the University Childcare Taskforce
- Discussion of homelessness on campus
- Discussion regarding gathering spaces for indigenous graduate students
- Continuing discussion with FGSR on supervision, mentorship programs and funding packages
- On-going discussions regarding the fee collection for residence associations
- Developing a white paper on immigration policy for international students
- Meeting with GSA Councillors regarding the application of the Collective Agreement in their departments
- Transit to Michener Park residence
- Social space in the North Power Plant building
- Promoting mental wellness on campus

Sincerely,

Sarah Ficko 2016-2017 GSA President

**User's Guide to the January 2017 Board SWP Progress Update Below:**

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University of Alberta Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan – 2016/2017

*The GSA respectfully acknowledges that it is located on Treaty 6 territory.*

**VISION:** The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) advocates for an engaging environment that is safe, respectful, supportive, healthy, accessible, and inclusive, and that empowers graduate students to be agents of change during their time at the University of Alberta, and beyond.

**MISSION:** Recognizing the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students at the University of Alberta, the GSA: advocates for comprehensive, timely, and excellent supports for all graduate students from both the University and the Alberta Government; negotiates a collective agreement that equitably supports graduate students who are employed by the University; works with University administration and faculties to ensure compliance with the Collective Agreement; engages graduate students and supports their endeavours; and works to sustain the excellent reputation of the GSA.

The GSA believes that a healthy organization is nurtured through effective relationships with all stakeholders, including constituent groups of the academy.<sup>1</sup> Nonetheless, an organization that evolves over time must be prepared to take steps at critical junctures that may or may not be endorsed by all its stakeholders. The GSA sees this as a living document, shifting directions as needed, as the provincial, federal, and University landscape changes. It is developed by both the previous and current teams of Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and provides a planning document for this and future years. Our overall goal is to create a campus community where all graduate students feel encouraged to learn and are provided with reasonable supports (and accommodations, when necessary) to ensure their success.

**OUR IDEAL DEFINITION, SITUATION, AND EXPERIENCE FOR ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS:**

A graduate student is a junior colleague who contributes to their field of study in pursuit of an advanced degree through collaborative work with the professoriate and senior colleagues in research, teaching, administrative, and learning environments of the University. These contributions may be accomplished through: extensive coursework, for which students pay tuition; many hours of assistantships, for which students are paid; the co-creation and writing of scholarly work; the securing of academic funding; presentations, conferences, and community engagement; and capstone projects, theses, or dissertations. This multi-faceted position takes place in an environment of mutual respect and fairness to develop skills and knowledge for future careers.

<sup>1</sup> Stakeholders include: individuals, groups, and offices that can affect or are directly affected by, the GSA and its initiatives. Constituent groups of the academy include: faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and non-academic staff – all of which are represented on the General Faculties Council. The Postdoctoral Fellows' Association is also included as a group empowered to "communicate with the U of A on all issues of general importance to the Postdoctoral Fellow Community."

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**ADVOCATE**

**GOAL 1:** Work with the University and government to ensure graduate students receive affordable tuition, funding packages, and access to bursaries, scholarships and awards.

Post-secondary education plays an important role in a prosperous society. Graduate students' success is dependent upon access to sustainable living funding packages for the duration of their programs so they can focus on their studies and research. The GSA will advocate that, through strategic investments and reallocation of central funding, all graduate students should be offered baseline funding. The GSA will also advocate for greater financial supports, including: higher salaries for assistantships; more scholarships, awards and bursaries; and increases to the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF).

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
<p>1. <b>Advocate</b> for a sustainable living funding package for all thesis-based graduate students for the duration of their program that enables a reasonable standard of living, based on the cost of living in Edmonton and current tuition costs.</p>	<p>a. Meet with key stakeholders who helped develop previous graduate student funding reports to assess the current level of research and information available.</p> <p>b. Articulate, to the President, Provost, and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), the need for an internal review of graduate student funding and support, similar to the review of undergraduate student financial support which began in 2016.</p> <p>c. Discuss with the Dean of the FGSR and the Provost how to create financial packages that correspond with realistic times to completion.</p> <p>d. Meet with Deans to discuss the current types of funding available and collaborate with the Deans and the Provost to assess the gaps in funding for graduate students.</p> <p>e. Present, to the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, on the effect of no minimum funding on graduate students and the potential negative impacts to the University.</p> <p>f. Advocate to the Minister of Advanced Education with respect to the significant contributions of graduate students to the quality of education and research offered at comprehensive, research intensive universities, and the need for a provincial funding model that specifically recognizes graduate students and their research, and ensures quality graduate programs and sustainable living funding packages for all graduate students.</p>
<p>2. <b>Advocate</b> to decouple graduate student funding directly from graduate supervisors.</p>	<p>a. Create a briefing memo outlining how funding tied to a supervisor increases the power imbalance between graduate students and their supervisors.</p> <p>b. Share our concerns regarding the impact of pay discrepancy between graduate students, including the lack of transparency in the way funding is allocated to faculties and within departments.</p>
<p>3. <b>Advocate</b>, to the FGSR, on the need to include clear and concise contract terms in letters of offer to the University, and make these letters available to graduate students well in advance of deadlines for offers of admission.</p>	<p>a. Review the current documentation provided to new graduate students upon an offer of admission.</p> <p>b. Request that specific expectations and requirements for graduate assistantships during a program be outlined in the letter of offer.</p>

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<p>4. <b>Negotiate</b> for increased graduate assistantship funding in the Collective Agreement.</p>	<p>a. Educate graduate students, faculty members, and University administrators on the new Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement effective September 2016 to August 2018.</p> <p>b. Track issues and other information in order to prepare for future negotiations.</p>
<p>5. <b>Advocate</b> for the inclusion of international graduate students in the eligibility requirements for existing scholarships, awards, and bursaries.</p>	<p>a. Propose, to GU15, to create a white paper recommending that international graduate students have access to Tri-Council Agency funding.</p> <p>b. Collaborate with ab-GPAC (Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council) to develop a position paper outlining issues and necessary improvements for international graduate student tuition and funding in Alberta.</p>
<p>6. <b>Advocate</b> for assistance, support, and encouragement for all graduate students to apply for internal, provincial, and federal awards, grants, and scholarships.</p>	<p>a. Promote the FGSR and departmental workshops designed to assist graduate students with the application process.</p> <p>b. Encourage graduate students to take advantage of the FGSR searchable database of scholarships, awards, and bursaries.</p> <p>c. Work with departments to provide sufficient notice to graduate students of application internal deadlines.</p> <p>d. Advocate for transparency of scholarship allocations awarded within the University.</p>
<p>7. <b>Advocate</b> for new quality measures, funding models, and graduate student management plans that do not favour some faculties or departments over other faculties or departments, to create more equitable graduate experiences.</p>	<p>a. Ensure graduate students are involved in any reform discussions associated with quality measures, funding models, or graduate student enrolment management plans.</p> <p>b. Participate in committee meetings, the FGSR Council, and the General Faculties Council (GFC) regarding quality measures, funding models, and graduate student management plans.</p> <p>c. Request graduate student representation on the Graduate Enrolment and Funding Advisory Committee.</p> <p>d. Create opportunities to discuss the University's decentralized model and how it creates significant disparities in program expectations and requirements, funding options, and time to completion for graduate students.</p>
<p>8. <b>Advocate</b> for a tuition model that ties graduate student tuition increases to the Alberta Consumer Price Index and opposes across-the-board graduate student tuition increases.</p>	<p>a. Encourage ab-GPAC to review international graduate student tuition and develop recommendations for inclusion of international student tuition fees in the province's Tuition Fees Regulation to increase fee predictability.</p> <p>b. Maintain the GSA's past stance in opposition to across-the-board tuition increases beyond Alberta CPI for all graduate students.</p> <p>c. Advocate for a review of the current Tuition Fees Regulation.</p>
<p>9. <b>Advocate</b> against the introduction of new market modifiers or other fees that are not currently a part of an agreed upon regulatory framework.</p>	<p>a. Monitor all fees being implemented for graduate students to ensure they include consultation with graduate students before implementation.</p> <p>b. Ensure graduate students are being assessed fees correctly under the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee formula.</p>

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**ADVOCATE**

**GOAL 2:** Work to develop supportive and respectful relationships between graduate students and their supervisors.

Graduate student success relies on quality supervision and mentoring throughout a degree program. The GSA will build on work by previous executive teams and collaborate, with the FGSR and senior University administrators, to follow through on For the Public Good, the new institutional strategic plan, and make quality graduate student supervision an institutional priority.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
<p>1. <b>Advocate</b> for the development of mandatory supervisor training program for both incoming graduate students and supervisors.</p>	<p>a. Collaborate, with the FGSR, on the implementation of recommendations from the Quality of Graduate Student Supervision Report and other similar initiatives.</p> <p>b. Promote a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of both graduate students and supervisors to provide expectations for both groups.</p> <p>c. Develop a list of recommended professional development workshops for graduate students that help promote a more effective graduate student-supervisor relationship.</p> <p>d. Promote a restorative justice and mediation process to encourage prompt resolution of any graduate student-supervisor conflicts.</p>
<p>2. <b>Advocate</b> for the development of an accountability structure that rewards quality supervision and mentoring while creating incentives to improve poor supervision.</p>	<p>a. Host the annual GSA Awards night to reward deserving graduate students, faculty and staff for excellence in teaching, supervision, research, service, and leadership.</p> <p>b. Work with the FGSR to develop a program to track the quality of the graduate student-supervisor relationship over time.</p> <p>c. Collaborate, with the FGSR, to create a regular feedback process from graduate students regarding experiences with their supervisors.</p>
<p>3. <b>Advocate</b> for departments to develop a means by which graduate students can report concerns regarding their supervisors.</p>	<p>a. Encourage graduate students to seek assistance from the GSA with respect to supervisory concerns.</p> <p>b. Encourage all Deans to develop a website form for disclosure of anonymous supervisor concerns to better track the level and types of concerns over time, and discuss ways to address any systemic issues that emerge.</p>
<p>4. <b>Advocate</b> for realistic 'time to completion' rates in order for both graduate students and supervisors to develop reasonable expectations regarding the length of the degree program.</p>	<p>a. Develop a 'cheat sheet' for prospective graduate students that lists suggested questions to ask a potential supervisor before starting a graduate degree program.</p> <p>b. Collaborate, with the FGSR, on ways to mitigate systemic 'time to completion' problems.</p> <p>c. Collaborate, with the FGSR, to develop a survey to assess current 'time to completion' expectations of both existing and potential graduate students.</p>

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	<p>d. Encourage the FGSR to develop metrics that track faculty adherence to program timing and requirements which allows them to proactively intervene if problems arise.</p> <p>e. Discuss, with the FGSR, the development of a common program milestone form for all graduate students and supervisors, regardless of department, that automatically tracks and flags graduate students not meeting their milestones.</p>
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**ENGAGE**

**GOAL 1:** Develop and maintain relationships with all GSA stakeholders internal and external to the University to support graduate student success.

Graduate students play unique and multifaceted roles in a university environment. The GSA will advocate for further resources to support graduate students by reinforcing strong relationships with key players to create a common vision of excellence for all graduate students at the University, as well as across Alberta and Canada.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
1. <b>Engage</b> with the Students' Union (SU), the Academic Staff Association (AASUA), the Postdoctoral Fellow's Association (PDFA), and the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) to identify shared priorities and maintain strong partnerships.	<p>a. Meet regularly with SU counterparts to discuss mutual priorities such as residences, academic governance, and mental health.</p> <p>b. Arrange annual meetings with all partner associations to discuss common issues and priorities.</p>
2. <b>Engage</b> with the President, Provost, Deputy Provost, Vice-Presidents, Board of Governors' members, University Governance, Dean of the FGSR, Dean of Students, Senators, the Alumni Association, service providers, and other key partners to determine shared priorities and maintain effective and collaborative relationships.	<p>a. Meet regularly with the Dean of the FGSR and the Dean of Students to discuss specific issues affecting graduate students.</p> <p>b. Maintain graduate student representation on the Alumni Association and the Senate.</p> <p>c. Arrange meetings with senior University administration, when needed, to discuss key issues for graduate students.</p> <p>d. Attend Board of Governors' dinners, special events, and other functions to build relationships with key stakeholders.</p> <p>e. Attend all meetings scheduled with representatives of the provincial government.</p>
3. <b>Engage</b> with our provincial lobby group to ensure the priorities of University of Alberta graduate students are heard by the provincial government.	<p>a. Participate in all ab-GPAC meetings to ensure the needs of University of Alberta graduate students are included in ab-GPAC activities.</p> <p>b. Take an active role in the ab-GPAC executive team and important working groups/committees, as needed, to support University of Alberta graduate student priorities and ensure a solid internal governance structure.</p> <p>c. Advocate for international PhD students to be included in the provincial nomination program to increase</p>

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	<p>points if applying for permanent residency.</p> <p>d. Investigate attending advocacy meetings of other lobby groups in order to observe, learn, and gather information.</p>
<p>4. <b>Engage</b> with the GSAs from other comprehensive and research intensive universities in Alberta and across Canada to share information, discuss best practices, and collaborate on common issues.</p>	<p>a. Meet annually with Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from all major parties to advocate for graduate students.</p> <p>b. Attend GU15 meetings to share information, determine best practices, and maintain relationships.</p> <p>c. Sign a petition advocating for the creation of a fast-track PhD stream to accelerate application for permanent residency status by international graduate students.</p>

**ENGAGE**

**GOAL 2:** Increase graduate student awareness of and participation with the GSA and its services.

The GSA believes engagement occurs from the time someone asks for information about the graduate student application process through to the end-point of convocation. The GSA supports continuing graduate student engagement through University governance, networks in residence and elsewhere, professional development, and in social settings, all places where friendship and research collaboration can occur. While the GSA offers fall and winter orientation sessions, many graduate students continue to remain unaware of the GSA and the services it offers; the GSA also aims to increase voter turnout. The GSA will investigate effective communication methods that will create opportunities for graduate student awareness and engagement.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
<p>1. <b>Engage</b> all graduate students across all University of Alberta campuses through social media and the GSA newsletter more effectively.</p>	<p>a. Continue the GSA's review of its communication practices with an eye to assessing how to better reach graduate students.</p> <p>b. Post, on social media, a minimum of one (1) photo per week of a GSA activity and aim to include at least one (1) DEO.</p> <p>c. Assess different communication styles on social media to increase viewership.</p> <p>d. Develop methods to use social media to educate graduate students about services offered by the GSA – including information regarding graduate student rights and ways the GSA can assist all graduate students.</p> <p>e. Assess alternative templates for the GSA newsletter to increase readership.</p> <p>f. Complete the GSA website's transition to Sitecore 3 and the associated redesign.</p>
<p>2. <b>Engage</b> with graduate students through workshops about important services and University governance</p>	<p>a. Discuss innovative new methods to promote awareness of the GSA among graduate students to increase participation in GSA activities and events.</p>



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structures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Develop a survey to understand the impact of labour legislation changes on graduate students.</li> <li>c. Continue to host roundtable discussions, town halls, and 101 sessions to educate graduate students about University governance and other important issues.</li> <li>d. Devise methods to increase voter turnout in the annual GSA General Election.</li> </ul>
3. Engage graduate students by promoting activities and events to increase participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Meet with graduate student groups and departmental GSAs to better understand how to assist their members.</li> <li>b. Meet the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) to follow up on the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding with the University regarding the North Power Plant.</li> <li>c. Lobby for space for the exclusive use of graduate students to encourage collaboration, idea sharing, and informal meetings.</li> <li>d. Provide three (3) events throughout the academic year to support social engagement and reduce stress amongst graduate students.</li> <li>e. Discuss creating GSA branded products and prizes to incentivize graduate students to participate in contests, events, and activities.</li> </ul>

**SUPPORT**

**GOAL 1:** Ensure all graduate students have access to sufficient resources to meet the basic necessities of life.

The GSA is a vigilant voice for the graduate student experience, including funding, housing, and services. In order for graduate students to have a positive experience at the University of Alberta, key infrastructure pieces must be in place before graduate students even register. The current unpredictable and unsustainable funding model can create situations where graduate students cannot afford safe housing and/or sufficient food. The lack of graduate student funding creates significant strain on mental health and leads to: increased drop-out rates; increased draws on Health and Wellness services; and a decreased focus on studies and research productivity. The potential for achievement can be lost as graduate students must find alternative funding sources through loans and jobs in order to support themselves and their families.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
1. Support the Campus Food Bank (CFB) in its mission to ensure the delivery of adequate food for students and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintain GSA representation on the CFB Board.</li> <li>b. Continue to review the CFB’s annual audited financial statements, usage statistics with respect to graduate students, and budget in accordance with the GSA’s fiduciary duties concerning the use of graduate students’ fees.</li> </ul>
2. Support access to healthier food options on campus, including for those with dietary restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Meet with Ancillary Services to advocate for a wider variety of healthy food options on campus, including options for those with dietary restrictions.</li> </ul>

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<p>3. <b>Support</b> the need for sustainable, affordable, and well-maintained graduate student housing to prevent homelessness and ensure a positive experience at the U of A for graduate students and their families.</p>	<p>a. Advocate for flexible and transparent residence rental contracts between the University and graduate students that use 'plain language.'</p> <p>b. Meet with potential advocates and sponsors regarding the issue of graduate student homelessness, including Chaplains, Senators, and the Alumni Association, to brainstorm potential solutions to short-term and chronic homelessness amongst graduate students.</p> <p>c. Discuss the on-going issue of mold and general unhealthy living conditions at Michener Park with senior administration and advocate to improve the quality of life for graduate students and their families.</p> <p>d. Collaborate with Community Social Workers to make the GSA's presence and services better known to graduate students living in residences.</p> <p>e. Advocate for affordable and high quality graduate residences that are easily accessible via public transit.</p> <p>f. Ensure graduate student representation on the Residence Life Task Force.</p> <p>g. Collaborate with the SU to advocate for more compassionate responses from Residence Services to ensure the needs of all students in residence are met.</p>
<p>4. <b>Support</b> and assist graduate students living in residences, and their Residence Associations, to ensure students are living in safe conditions and receiving excellent services.</p>	<p>a. Collaborate with Residence Associations to survey graduate students living in residence about their key issues and concerns.</p> <p>b. Assist graduate students living in residence to ensure their concerns are addressed by Residence Services in a timely manner.</p> <p>c. Meet with Residence Associations each term to hear their concerns and help raise those issues with senior administration.</p>

**SUPPORT**

**GOAL 2:** Strive for a positive experience that meets the needs, and furthers the development of, graduate students.

The GSA supports and encourages an empowering environment for all graduate students so they can thrive academically and professionally. The GSA supports an increase to the number and diversity of professional development opportunities being implemented for graduate students. The GSA will continue to collaborate with the FGSR to ensure graduate students are able to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for future careers. The GSA will work with stakeholders to pursue the development of a mentorship program. The GSA will also maintain its support of University services that benefit graduate students, including advocating for the ability of graduate students to present their research to the academic community inside and outside the U of A.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
<p>1. <b>Support</b> a variety of high quality professional development (PD) and internship opportunities for graduate students in recognition of the diverse future</p>	<p>a. Support the professional experience leave policy being advanced by the FGSR.</p> <p>b. Meet with Internship and PD Directors each term to hear program updates and to discuss feedback from participants.</p>

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career paths ahead of graduate students.	<p>c. Meet with stakeholders, such as the FGSR and the Career Centre, to discuss the support of entrepreneurship opportunities for graduate students.</p> <p>d. Develop and host two (2) PD events for graduate students.</p> <p>e. Participate in PD4Grads meetings to assist with the development of PD workshops and events.</p>
2. <b>Support</b> workshops and services that assist graduate students with academic progress and professional development opportunities.	<p>a. Subsidize and support graduate student workshops, courses, and sessions offered by the Career Centre and the Student Success Centre.</p> <p>b. Evaluate annually the effectiveness of services subsidized by the GSA for graduate students.</p> <p>c. Continue to promote workshops and services for graduate students through the GSA newsletter, the GSA website, and the handbook.</p> <p>d. Evaluate current GSA Policy for supporting graduate student groups to ensure accessibility and equity of support.</p>
3. <b>Support</b> graduate students throughout the application process for internal, provincial, and federal grants, fellowships, and other opportunities.	<p>a. As noted above, discuss, with the FGSR, the current opportunities available to graduate students who are applying to scholarships, grants, and awards to ensure the FGSR's complete support throughout the application process.</p>
4. <b>Support</b> graduate students financially so that they can attend local, regional, national, and international conferences to promote their work and develop new academic networks.	<p>a. Offer GSA Academic Travel Awards to as many graduate students as GSSF funding permits.</p> <p>b. Compare and contrast funding for academic travel available to graduate students at other universities in preparation for collective bargaining.</p>
5. <b>Support</b> the expansion of a mentorship program available to graduate students in partnership with the FGSR, the Alumni Association, the City of Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta.	<p>a. Discuss current graduate student mentorship availability with the FGSR.</p> <p>b. Discuss new graduate student mentorship opportunities with partners such as the Alumni Association.</p>
6. <b>Support</b> cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional research and learning opportunities for graduate students.	<p>a. Advocate for easier transfer of credits for graduate students between other universities and the University of Alberta.</p> <p>b. Investigate the possibility of obtaining a seat on the provincial Academic and Credit Transfer Committee for either the University of Alberta or ab-GPAC.</p> <p>c. Research departmental credit transfer policies to determine inconsistencies and areas for improvement.</p> <p>d. Meet with at least two (2) Deans or Department Chairs to discuss the issues of transferring credits and strategize how to overcome barriers.</p>
7. <b>Support</b> opportunities for graduate students to have international research and study opportunities.	<p>a. Participate in the FGSR Policy Review Committee, and other similar University committees, to promote interdisciplinary and alternative learning opportunities, including international exchanges, for graduate</p>

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	<p>students.</p> <p>b. Meet with GoAbroad and Mitacs to discuss opportunities to promote and expand international educational experiences available to graduate students.</p>
<p>8. <b>Support</b> the need for high-quality graduate-level programs and courses.</p>	<p>a. Participate in the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction review process which will assess the effectiveness of the current evaluation system and recommend improvements.</p> <p>b. Assess graduate student satisfaction levels and areas of improvement outlined in the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey.</p> <p>c. Participate in Campus Alberta Quality Council reviews of graduate student programs.</p>

**SUPPORT**

**GOAL 3:** Continue to build a safe, respectful, supportive, and appreciative learning and work environment for all graduate students that is compliant with the GSA's Collective Agreement governing graduate student assistantships.

All graduate students are entitled to a safe and respectful work environment, free from harassment, discrimination, and bullying. For graduate students with assistantships, the Collective Agreement is a legally binding document between the GSA and the Board of Governors that outlines the expectations for fair compensation and a beneficial work environment. The GSA will build upon the advances it has made to assist graduate students with Collective Agreement issues, and ensure University-wide awareness and compliance of the Collective Agreement.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
<p>1. <b>Support</b> graduate students and build upon advances made by previous GSA teams in resolving issues associated with the Collective Agreement.</p>	<p>a. Collect example letters of appointment from as many departments as possible in order to examine compliance with the Collective Agreement.</p> <p>b. Discuss the Collective Agreement in all orientation presentations by the GSA.</p> <p>c. Distribute a clear and concise fact sheet regarding the Collective Agreement at all GSA orientation presentations and events.</p> <p>d. Present, to the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, the types of Collective Agreement issues addressed by the GSA to demonstrate the impact of these issues on the University.</p> <p>e. Track issues associated with the Collective Agreement to discuss during subsequent collective bargaining with the University.</p>
<p>2. <b>Support</b> the development of partnerships with Departmental Councillors and Departmental GSAs to track systemic Collective</p>	<p>a. Be available to meet with Departmental Councillors, Departmental GSAs, and individual graduate students to better understand the range of issues and experiences across campus.</p>

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<p>Agreement compliance issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Develop a tracking system for all issues discussed with Departmental Councillors, Departmental GSAs, and individual graduate students.</li> <li>c. Plan to meet with all departmental Councillors prior to the end of December 2016.</li> <li>d. Develop an annual meeting schedule between the GSA and Departmental Councillors for use by future GSA teams.</li> </ul>
<p>3. <b>Support</b> and advocate for graduate students who have experienced issues related to the Collective Agreement, and for those who face issues outside of the Collective Agreement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Advocate, on behalf of graduate students, for the prompt resolution of ongoing and systemic issues associated with the Collective Agreement.</li> <li>b. Meet with any graduate student who experiences an issue associated with the Collective Agreement to develop methods to resolve the issue in a timely manner.</li> <li>c. Develop a tracking system of individual graduate student issues worked on by the GSA.</li> <li>d. Continue to advocate for and assist graduate students who face issues aside from those associated with the Collective Agreement and aid them in navigating University structures.</li> </ul>
<p>4. <b>Support</b> partnerships with the FGSR and the Office of the Provost to ensure a better understanding of the GSA's Collective Agreement within the University.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintain ongoing relationships with the appropriate members of the Office of the Provost.</li> <li>b. Review, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, the Collective Agreement Information Sheets.</li> <li>c. Use social media to highlight the Collective Agreement.</li> <li>d. Discuss, with the FGSR and the Office of the Provost, the way information regarding the Collective Agreement is shared with incoming professors, graduate coordinators, and graduate chairs.</li> <li>e. Attend the Deans' Council, Graduate Program Administrators Committee, and meetings of other groups to present information about the GSA's Collective Agreement.</li> </ul>

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**SUPPORT****GOAL 4:** Enhance supports for international graduate students.

The University's community of international graduate students is a vital part of the overall graduate programs offered at the University of Alberta. The GSA will support, and advocate for, initiatives and programs that specifically support international graduate students in all aspects of their lives.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
1. <b>Support</b> the GSA's partnership with University of Alberta International (UAI) and student groups who represent international graduate students.	a. Promote the UAI peer mentoring program via the GSA newsletter and on social media. b. Meet with UAI at least two (2) times per year to discuss issues faced by international graduate students. c. Meet with the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International) to discuss issues faced by international graduate students. d. Meet annually with international student groups to discuss opportunities for collaboration. e. Advertise University educational support programs that can be used by international graduate students. f. Investigate if there is sufficient need to broker a service to assist international graduate students with applying for permanent residency.

**SUSTAIN****GOAL 1:** Maintain the GSA's excellent reputation and culture of respect, tolerance, and professionalism.

The GSA aims to be the best managed graduate student association in Canada, with effective and well-trained elected leadership supported by a professional and engaged management team. To be effective, the GSA needs to maintain a viable staffing infrastructure and an engaged office support team.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
1. <b>Sustain</b> a supportive, respectful, professional, and enjoyable work environment for GSA DEOs and support the Executive Director's work to ensure a similar environment within the GSA office.	a. Ensure the use of effective communication skills to address conflict or issues as quickly as possible. b. Ensure everyone's time is respected. c. Create opportunities to show appreciation for assistance or for a job well-done. d. Work collaboratively with the Executive Director to enhance the GSA's health, stability, and reputation in all areas over time.
2. <b>Sustain</b> the commitment to strategic planning, regular follow-through on goals and action steps, and regular	a. Update the Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and annual action steps with each new group of DEOs. b. Develop effective methods to demonstrate progress and success of the Board SWP action steps.

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<p>reporting to the GSA Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Review and regularly update the recently-developed GSA Councillor Handbook to assist Councillors to better understand their roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>d. Create opportunities for all Councillors to provide input on key items presented and discussed at GSA Council in new or innovative ways.</li> <li>e. Develop a survey for GSA Councillors to facilitate their engagement with the GSA, and ability to represent their departments or constituents.</li> </ul>
<p>3. <b>Sustain</b> a proactive search for talent through the Early Call for Talent and Training initiative, and a commitment to provide elected officials with training and professional development opportunities relevant to their portfolios.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Effectively advertise the annual Early Call for Talent and Training program.</li> <li>b. Maintain an effective Nominating Committee who can work towards placing graduate student representatives on various councils and committees.</li> <li>c. Develop an annual transition plan to prepare incoming DEOs for their annual responsibilities.</li> <li>d. Review and update the annual training plan for DEOs to ensure delivery of training deemed necessary for them to effectively perform their duties.</li> <li>e. Discuss with the Dean of the FGSR the option of requesting academic relief for the GSA President under the professional experience leave category.</li> </ul>
<p>4. <b>Sustain</b> a regular review of GSA Bylaw and Policy to ensure good governance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue with review of GSA Bylaw and Policy (eg combined version, editorial updates, officer portfolios, etc).</li> <li>b. Implement GSA Council-approved updates to Bylaw and Policy as needed following review.</li> <li>c. Communicate during transition of future teams of DEOs the necessity for on-going review.</li> </ul>
<p>5. <b>Sustain</b> reasonable workloads for all DEOs by reallocating roles and responsibilities to meet the changing University environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conduct, at minimum, an annual review of DEO portfolios and the division of responsibilities.</li> <li>b. Assign DEOs to committees in a manner that ensures the best use of talent while aiming for an equitable distribution of the overall workload.</li> </ul>

**SUSTAIN**

**GOAL 2:** Continue to offer high-quality, affordable services to all graduate students.

The GSA will continue to offer a wide variety of beneficial services that are available to all graduate students. The GSA will also continue to negotiate for affordable health, dental and transit programs for graduate students based on graduate student needs and wants.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
<p>1. <b>Sustain</b> and develop on-campus and GSA negotiated and subsidized services to obtain the highest value possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop opportunities to gain insight and feedback from graduate students regarding the services offered by the GSA.</li> </ul>

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<p>for graduate students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Conduct a comprehensive review of the GSA's Health and Dental Plan in order to select the plan that best meets the overall needs of graduate students.</li> <li>c. Develop a proposal for a drop-in child care centre on campus that can be utilized by graduate students.</li> <li>d. Work to ensure the U-Pass remains cost effective for graduate students.</li> <li>e. Lead the discussion on creation of a direct bus route between Michener Park and North Campus.</li> <li>f. Discuss, with other Edmonton-based universities, negotiating for a discounted U-Pass rate for spouses and dependents of students in future.</li> <li>g. Finalize the agreement between the GSA and the SU regarding the Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre food service area.</li> <li>h. Maintain relationships with our partners and sponsors of events and activities.</li> </ul>
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**SUSTAIN**

**GOAL 3:** Promote a welcoming, equitable, sustainable, and healthy campus for all members of the University community.

The GSA supports a University that values continuous learning and development and measures success, both through traditional metrics and alternative, less competitive and more collaborative, methods. The GSA supports the development of critical thinking skills, opportunities to fail without punishment, assignments that develop self-awareness of strengths, and opportunities to give back to the community. The GSA will continue to: foster a culture of inclusion and acceptance; responsibility for the use of finite resources; and support health and wellness initiatives that aim to increase work-life balance.

Strategic Objectives	2016/2017 Action Steps
<p>1. <b>Sustain</b> a respectful and welcoming environment for all indigenous peoples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 land in all official meetings and on all official documents produced by the GSA.</li> <li>b. Examine the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report to determine how the GSA can implement the Calls to Action.</li> <li>c. Host an Elder to lead a smudging ceremony at the start of GSA Council.</li> <li>d. Advocate for learning environments within the University that honour indigenous approaches to living and learning.</li> <li>e. Collaborate with the Indigenous Council to advertise and participate in traditional events and activities to increase graduate student knowledge and understanding of indigenous cultures.</li> <li>f. Discuss with the Deputy Provost current strategies being implemented by the University for indigenous</li> </ul>



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	<p>peoples on campus and identify areas affecting graduate students.</p> <p>g. Investigate whether the current infrastructure provided to indigenous undergraduate students also meets the needs of indigenous graduate students.</p>
<p>2. <b>Sustain</b> working relationships with stakeholders to ensure a campus free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying for all members of the University community.</p>	<p>a. Identify vulnerable and at-risk graduate student populations and setup meetings each term to discuss concerns and issues.</p> <p>b. Participate, through the sexual assault policy committee, in the development of definitions for sexual violence on campus.</p> <p>c. Participate in the Sexual Assault Response Implementation Committee.</p> <p>d. Attend the Forensic Experiential and Trauma Interview training to learn trauma-informed ways of assisting graduate students.</p> <p>e. Work with Ancillary Services to increase the number of gender neutral bathrooms on campus.</p> <p>f. Advocate for a family-friendly campus that includes an increase in the number of breastfeeding rooms on campus and a change to the policy regarding bringing children to class.</p>
<p>3. <b>Sustain</b> the development of alternative dispute resolution techniques to help address power imbalances and to nurture peace and productivity within the University environment.</p>	<p>a. Collaborate with the FGSR, the Graduate Student Ombudsperson, and the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights to develop a graduate student rights document.</p> <p>b. Train DEOs in restorative and mediation practices that can help encourage a prompt resolution of conflicts and issues.</p> <p>c. Encourage training for Graduate Chairs in restorative and mediation practices to help resolve conflicts within a department.</p> <p>d. Work to increase awareness of alternative dispute resolution techniques and practical communication skills for graduate students, administrators, and professors.</p> <p>e. Discuss developing alternative methods to address serious allegations about supervision issues, other than the Article 16 process, to effect change and improve graduate student experiences.</p>
<p>4. <b>Sustain</b> campus-wide health and wellness initiatives to support and promote the improvement of mental health for graduate students.</p>	<p>a. Organize eight (8) Coffee Breaks during the academic year to provide mental health breaks and networking opportunities for graduate students, to support flourishing mental health.</p> <p>b. Encourage graduate student participation in local and provincial mental health meetings, events and summits.</p> <p>c. Promote resources that address the stigma of mental health to change the culture of isolation and fear that can inhibit success.</p> <p>d. Collaborate with the University of Calgary to bring the Inquiring Minds anti-stigma mental health workshop to the University of Alberta.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Encourage ab-GPAC to maintain pressure on the provincial government to guarantee long-term equitable funding for mental health programs.</li> <li>f. Obtain monthly updates from the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) regarding the progress on the campus's new Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Space.</li> <li>g. Participate in committee meetings to develop a fair and equitable system for booking the Prayer and Meditation Space.</li> <li>h. Participate in campus-wide, on-going health and wellness initiatives.</li> <li>i. Advocate to maintain a psychologist in Triffo Hall for graduate students.</li> </ul>
<p>5. <b>Sustain</b> leadership towards environmental sustainability and stewardship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Evaluate GSA events to determine their environmental impact and work with the Office of Sustainability to reduce that impact.</li> <li>b. Limit printing of documents by encouraging the use of laptops and projectors at meetings.</li> <li>c. Promote the University's sustainability initiatives.</li> <li>d. Encourage the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) to build net zero energy buildings to reduce the long-term environmental impact of the University.</li> </ul>

**GSA President**  
**Report to GSA Council for January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sarah Ficko  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Councillor Friends and Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a fantastic break, and took some time off to relax and recuperate after a demanding and hectic semester. I was pretty tired after all the time we spent working on trying to stop the international tuition increases, as well as all the government consultations in the fall, so I spent the break in Ontario visiting with my friends and family. I even got to hold my newest nephew born on December 31, which was pretty exciting 😊

### **SWP Update**

It's hard to believe that we're already over 2/3 of the way through our term as elected officials! I am proud of the work my team has achieved to date, highlighted earlier in this package in the Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) update, which includes significant work reviewing labour legislation and tuition and funding models at the provincial level, strongly advocating against increases to international student tuition here at the U of A, articulating the need for funding packages for all graduate students and improvements in supervision, educating the University community on the Collective Agreement and assisting graduate students with issues, and conducting a thorough review of our Health and Dental plan to ensure we are meeting the needs of graduate students and their families. We have also included a list of the top 10 items we're excited to be working on this semester in the SWP update, as well as other activities that we'll be starting, continuing to work on, or hopefully finalizing in the next four months. A few of the areas I'll be working on over the coming months include:

#### ***1) Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Selection Committee***

One of the most important tasks I'm involved in this semester is sitting on the selection committee for the new Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), along with our Senator Jane Traynor. The Dean of FGSR plays an important role in the lives of all grad students, mostly through administrative work similar to that done in the Registrar's Office, but also in terms of offering and administering scholarships, assisting with changes to programs, helping graduate students with issues with supervisors, providing professional development opportunities and training, etc. If you have any thoughts or ideas about qualities the new Dean should have, or suggestions or nominations for people who would make a good Dean, please contact me, or send in your thoughts by following this [link](#).

#### ***2) Assisting Indigenous Graduate Students***

It has been identified to me that indigenous graduate students lack opportunities to connect with one another on campus, and I recently met with several students to discuss some ideas around developing an indigenous student network, and possibly offering other activities or events. Please let me know if you're interested in participating or have ideas for the indigenous student network, and I can put you in contact with the other students. The GSA is also assessing how to support and honour indigenous students and spaces, and we are exploring the idea of hosting a smudging ceremony at a future GSA Council meeting.

### **3) Discussions about Daycare Space on Campus**

In the most recent graduate student enrollment report prepared by FGSR, it was highlighted that 25% of graduate students have at least one child. However, daycare space is extremely competitive (1-2 year waitlists), and extremely expensive (often \$1,000 or more per child, per month). To help address this issue that has a significant impact on graduate students, I will be collaborating with the Academic Staff Association, Non-Academic Staff Association, the Academic Women's Association, and the Students' Union, on how to provide more accessible and affordable daycare opportunities to students and staff on campus.

### **4) Funding Packages**

One of the key issues that graduate students have continued to raise with us this year is the lack of consistent, predictable, and equitable funding across campus. In some departments, students are guaranteed \$25,000 to \$30,000 for four or more years, while in other departments the students are told the expectation is that they will be funded somewhere between \$17,500 and \$28,000, but the department doesn't follow through with the whole amount, sometimes saying they don't have sufficient resources, and the students are left scrambling to make ends meet. We have raised this issue with FGSR and suggested that they work with departments on offering clearer letters of offer. In addition, we will continue to raise awareness about the lack of sufficient or equitable funding, and the effect this has on graduate student outcomes, with senior administration. Our provincial lobby group is also recommending to the government that specific and dedicated funding be allocated to research-intensive universities specifically to support graduate students, rather than allocating resources based on total (undergraduate and graduate) student head count.

### **ab-GPAC Update**

This month I will also give an update on the activities from our provincial lobby group ab-GPAC. As many of you are aware, the last semester was very busy with all the consultation activities and meetings that ab-GPAC has had with the provincial government. After much deliberation, we have decided to hire a part-time Executive Director to assist with developing future proposals and communications, and to provide some long-term continuity. Over the past few months, one member from each institution (I'm the U of A's member), formed a hiring committee. We posted a job description in early December, narrowed down the list of applicants, and conducted interviews on January 17. We will hopefully have someone in place for early February. Ab-GPAC is also working on setting up a date to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education to discuss issues and areas of concern specifically affecting graduate students. Finally, ab-GPAC actively ensured that there would be two graduate students sitting on the provincial tuition review committee, as well as providing input on the funding review currently beginning in the province.

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

As a gentle reminder, January and the winter months more generally can be hard on some people's mental health and wellness. I encourage you to reach out to those around you and check in with them regularly, especially if you or they are far away from home. Many people make New Year's resolutions, and I hope that if you did they included some ideas concerning taking care of yourself, including getting sufficient sleep, exercise, healthy food, taking regular breaks from work, and participating in something fun or relaxing on a regular basis. There are a number of events happening on campus this month around mental health awareness, including Blue Monday (January 16) and Bell Let's Talk Day (January 25). The GSA is also happy to be bringing the Inquiring Minds program (an evidence based anti-stigma program) from University to Calgary for a special session with graduate students at the U of A on

January 27 – please see the GSA newsletter for more information. A list of other mental health resources is available on our [website](#).

### **Upcoming Activities and Events**

This semester is shaping up to have lots on the go! I've included a list of dates with some upcoming activities below.

#### **January**

- January 6 – GSA Winter Orientation (special thanks to GSA Council members Michele Duval, Dasha Smirnow, and Dorian Lang for helping with set up and clean up)
- January 16 – Blue Monday – [resources available here](#)
- January 20-22 – [Student Sustainability Summit](#)
- January 23 – GSA Council
- January 25 – Bell Let's Talk – activities on and off campus to raise awareness about mental health
- January 26 – Opening of the new Prayer and Meditation Space on campus, 11-12 pm
- January 27 – Inquiring Minds training – anti-stigma, resiliency, and the mental health continuum model (check the GSA newsletter for details)
- January 27 – GSA Coffee Break, Triffo Hall, 2-3 pm
- January 28 – [Alberta Student Leadership Summit](#)
- January 28 – [Annual Round Dance](#), 7 pm
- January 31 – Nominations for the GSA General Election open
- January 30-February 4 – [International Week](#)

#### **February**

- January 30-February 4 – [International Week](#)
- February 2 – UAlberta Indigenous Networking Forum, 1-4 pm in Council Chambers (sign up here [goo.gl/KvBLS5](http://goo.gl/KvBLS5))
- February 9 – GSA Winter Chill Out Event, 5-7 pm – food and games, and the opportunity mix and mingle with other grads, alumni, and Senate members in a relaxed environment (watch the GSA newsletter for details)
- February 14 – close of the nominating period for the GSA General Election
- February 24 – GSA Coffee Break, Triffo Hall, 1-2 pm
- February 27 – GSA General Election forum (watch the GSA newsletter for details)
- February 27 – GSA Council
- February 28-March 2 – voting period for the GSA General Election

#### **March**

- February 28-March 2 – voting period for the GSA General Election
- March 20 – GSA Council
- March 23 – GSA Coffee Break, Triffo Hall, 2-3 pm
- March 24 – GSA Awards Night

#### **April**

- April 11 – FGSR Graduate Teaching Award Event

- April 13 – tentative GSA event - Let Go Of Your Mind - improv style event (watch or participate, and then mix and mingle with fellow grads)
- April 13 – 3 Minute Thesis Finals
- April 24 – GSA Council
- April 24 – GSA Coffee Break, Triffo Hall, 1-2 pm

\*Lots of other events, workshops, and speakers can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/events>



*The GSA Office received a Gold Spaces Certification from the Office of Sustainability for a second year in a row.*

Warmest regards,

Sarah  
GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 20, 2016 and January 23, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

December 20	Phone Meeting with Debbie Burshtyn, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
December 20	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
January 5	Meeting with Heather Zwicker, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
January 5	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Consultation – International Grad Students
January 5	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Consultation – GSA Board
January 5	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Consultation – Aboriginal Students
January 5	Meeting with Steve Dew, Provost and Vice-President Academic
January 6	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee
January 6	GSA Winter Orientation
January 10	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Hiring Meeting
January 11	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
January 11	Sustainability Certification Photo
January 11	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
January 12	Residence Life Task Force (RLTF) Meeting
January 12	Meeting with the Office of the Provost
January 12	North Power Plant Meeting
January 12	TD Insurance Event
January 13	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
January 16	Meeting on Indigenous Graduate Student Network
January 17	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Interviews for Executive Director
January 18	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
January 19	Meeting with Councillor Knack and Other City of Edmonton Representatives
January 19	Edmonton Students' Association Executive Networking Event
January 20	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
January 23	Meeting about Smudging Ceremony for GSA Council
January 23	Meeting with University of Alberta International Regarding GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**GSA Board**  
**Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
 From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director  
 Date: January 20, 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, Associate Director, 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 20 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 20.1-20.2.

**11 January 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

2017 U-Pass Referendum Question; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND**, with making the suggestion to the CRO to add the current price of a monthly pass in the background, to GSA Council the holding of a referendum on the U-Pass, to run concurrently with the 2017 GSA General Election and using the proposed question as attached. AT **MOVED**. SF Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**18 January 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Graduate Student Assistance Program: Annual Statistical Report, September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016; Labour Consultations; Feedback on the GSA Academic Standards Committee (GSA ASC) and the GSA ASC Subcommittee on Standards

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Graduate Student Assistance Program Annual Statistical Report, September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION**

Members discussed the **Meeting with the Office of the Provost**

Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**



**GSA Budget and Finance Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sarah Ficko  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

On January 11 the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met to discuss the 2017-2018 GSA operating budget and review a draft. The committee will meet again on January 25 and the recommended budget will be presented to GSA Council in February, along with the most recent quarterly financial statements. I am happy to report that the budget is in excellent shape!

When they met in January, members of the GSA BFC also reviewed the most recent quarterly report on the GSA's investments, and members of our ATB investment management team were on hand to answer questions; our investments are performing well.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Ficko, GSA President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Radim Barta  
Date: January 20, 2017

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 Policy governing the GSA NoC is located in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating. As provided for in its Terms of Reference, the GSA NoC has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair, GSA NoC

**Early Call for Talent and Training**

The Early Call for Talent and Training Program concluded in December 2016 and I would like to thank all the participants. The 2017 GSA General Election is fast approaching now and the nominations for the Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) positions will open soon. As a reminder, during the GSA General Election graduate students also vote to elect 10 GSA Councillors-at-Large (CALs). While the involvement of the GSA NoC in the GSA General Election ends with the wrapping up of the Early Call process. I do encourage you all to talk to your colleagues and consider running for a DEO or CAL position. Questions regarding the election can be directed to the Chief Returning Officer (Carolina Martinez, [gsacroff@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsacroff@ualberta.ca)) and more general questions may be directed to the GSA office

**GSA Standing Committees**

**1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (5 Graduate Student Positions)**

In the January 6, 2017 GSA newsletter, the GSA NoC advertised for five (5) vacant positions on the GSA ACB. The deadline to receive nominations was January 12, 2017 and one (1) nomination was received. The nominee was then interviewed by GSA NoC member Antonio Bruni and GSA NoC member (and recent former Administrative Chair) Michele DuVal, both of whom have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Executive Director Courtney Thomas was also present. During the interview, the nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB will receive training in procedural fairness). Following this interview and ensuing discussion, the GSA NoC agreed to forward the one (1) nominee to GSA Council with the call for additional nominations.

The call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 18, 2017 at 12:00 PM (noon) and no additional nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See item 8b – Nominees for the GSA ACB.**

**2) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 Graduate Student Position)**

In the January 6, 2017 GSA Newsletter, the GSA NoC advertised for one (1) vacant position on the GSA ERC. The deadline to receive nominations was January 13, 2017 and one (1) nomination was received and approved by the GSA NoC to be forwarded to GSA Council. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM and no additional

nominations were received. **Megan Vernon (MBA)** is declared elected to serve on the GSA ERC. **See item 8a – Nominees for the GSA ERC.**

**3) GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (1 Graduate Student Position)**

In the January 6, 2017 GSA newsletter, the GSA NoC advertised for one (1) vacant position on the GSA ASC. The deadline to receive nominations was January 13, 2017 and no nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM and no additional nominations were received. This vacancy will be advertised again.

**4) GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (2 Graduate Student Positions)**

In the January 6, 2017 GSA newsletter, the GSA Executive Director and Speaker advertised for two (2) vacant positions on the GSA NoC. The deadline to receive nominations was January 13, 2017 and one (1) nomination was received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on January 16, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was January 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM and no additional nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See item 8c – Nominees for the GSA NoC.**

**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 GSA Policy, “advertising may be waived in instances where, in the GSA NoC’s view, it is urgent to fill a vacancy” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.5.2).

**1) Community Connections Awards Committee (1 Graduate Student Position)**

In early January 2017, the GSA NoC was notified of the need for a GSA representative on the Community Connections Awards Committee by January 16, 2017. Due to the time constraints and the exemplary record of the GSA representative who served on this committee for the past two years, GSA NoC Chair contacted the representative again to inquire as to their desire to continue serving. The GSA NoC then re-elected **Janine Tine (Elementary Education)** to continue serving on the Community Connections Awards Committee.

**Current Vacancies**

As noted above, there are currently a number of remaining vacancies on the GSA ACB and GSA NoC. These vacancies will be advertised again in February 2017.

**GSA Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Firouz Khodayari  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

It's great to have such nice weather in Edmonton in January! I hope that everybody enjoyed the holidays and brought fresh energy to the University. As 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.

**Professional leave**

As promised to you, I am bringing back updates on the new category of leave of absence (Professional Leave) and I will also give you updates with more details at the meeting. I am pleased to inform you that the Professional Leave was approved by FGSR Council (November 23, 2016) and can be used by the graduate students as of January 1, 2017. A Professional Leave must be supported by documentation from the employer and/or agency involved that indicates the nature of the professional experience and the duration of the appointment. Students should keep in mind that the professional experience must add value to their career and that professional experience integrated into thesis work will not qualify for a Professional Leave. FGSR is the approver of Professional Leave. Students apply for Professional Leave using the same form as for other types of leaves which requires the department to sign in support of the leave request. The application for leave of absence form is available in the FGSR forms cabinet under "records." If a department does not support a student's request for Professional Leave, students may bring the request directly to FGSR. The Dean of FGSR or their delegate will likely follow up with both the department and the student as necessary to resolve the matter. Remember that students CANNOT request a leave from the FIRST term of their program.

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 of any academic related issue at the University.

Thanks,

Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 20, 2016 and January 23, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

January 5	University of Alberta International Winter Orientation
January 9	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
January 6	GSA Winter Orientation
January 11	Sustainability Certification Photo
January 11	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
January 13	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
January 16	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
January 16	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Exec)
January 18	Signature Areas Development Panel
January 19	General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC)
January 19	Meeting with Councillor Knack and Other City of Edmonton Representatives
January 19	Edmonton Students' Association All Executive Networking Event
January 19	Shell Enhanced Learning Fund (SELF) Symposium
January 23	Meeting with University of Alberta International Regarding the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**GSA Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Masoud Khademi  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy New Year!  
Hope you had a great Christmas and holidays.

Before getting into my formal report I just wanted to wish you and yours a very good year ahead. I am sure with the determination and enthusiasm you all have in your hearts you can achieve all of your goals for this year. Catch the positive vibe and rock the year!!!

During the past month, I attended several meetings. As Sarah reported, the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors meetings saw most of their discussions focused on the hiring of a part-time Executive Director for the organisation, and in early January several candidates for this position were interviewed.

The exciting part of January meetings for me was the orientations where, just like last Fall, we went to different departments to welcome new graduate students to the GSA family and talked a little bit about the GSA's core services. Aside from departmental orientations, we had the GSA Winter Orientation in Triffo Hall with a pretty high number of attendees; seeing all those happy and hopeful faces has energized me to be a better rep for them.

Regarding residence issues, I attended the Council of Residence Associations (CORA) meeting. The main discussion was about streamlining the residence association fees assessment/collection and opt-out process for the future. In that regard, we set a meeting with SU representatives for February to further discuss the issue for the upcoming year. I also attended the Residence Life Task Force (RLTF) meeting, where the preliminary results of the survey (which was run by Academica regarding residence experiences) were discussed with task force members. The Academica representatives walked us through the results, answered questions, and asked for feedback before drafting the final report on the survey.

Last week, the other GSA DEOs and I had a chance to meet with Gitta Kulczycki (the new Vice-President (Finance and Administration)) and talked a little bit about grad student issues especially those often faced by international graduate students.

The other meeting that I attended was the GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC), which I chair. The committee members met for adjudication training on January 12. It is worth noting that the adjudicating process will last until early February, after which the committee will meet to determine the

final recipients. (For more details, please refer to the separate GSA ASC report submitted to GSA Council).

At the end, as always, if you need more information or have any questions regarding the meetings that I have attended this past month, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 20, 2016 and January 23, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

December 20	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
January 6	GSA Departmental Orientation – Chemical and Material Engineering
January 6	GSA Winter Orientation
January 9	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Funding Review Meeting
January 10	Vice-President (University Relations) Advisory Search Committee
January 10	Meeting with a Graduate Student
January 11	Sustainability Certification Photo
January 11	Council of Residence Associations (CORA) Meeting
January 12	Residence Life Task Force (RLTF) Meeting
January 12	GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
January 13	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
January 16	Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Post-Secondary Education Task Force
January 18	Alumni Council
January 19	Meeting with Councillor Knack and Other City of Edmonton Representatives
January 19	Edmonton Students' Association All Executive Networking Event
January 23	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting
January 23	Meeting with University of Alberta International Regarding the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**GSA Awards Selection Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Masoud Khademi  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) is responsible for selecting the recipients of the thirteen different GSA Recognition Awards. The GSA Recognition Awards honour graduate students who have distinguished themselves in research, teaching, academic achievement, leadership, and service to the University and to the wider community. The GSA also recognizes University faculty and staff members for their outstanding contribution to graduate education, and acknowledges those alumni and benefactors who continue to support and champion graduate students at the University. These awards will be presented at the annual GSA Awards Night, taking place on March 24, 2017.

The deadline for the GSA to receive nominations for GSA Recognition Awards was January 13, 2017. The GSA received 127 applications, an increase of 18 over the 109 received in 2016.

GSA ASC members met for adjudication training on January 12, 2017. GSA ASC members will be adjudicating the nominations until early February, after which they will meet to determine the final recipients in each category. I will report the recipients to GSA Council in February.

Best,  
Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA ASC



**GSA Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sasha van der Klein  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you had a great break and you are happy with the thawing weather. I myself not so much, the break was great, but the snow slurry is impossible to bike through. I'd prefer -20°C, it's called winter for a reason, right?

After my time back home I right away bumped into two cases of severe **supervisory issues**. The long and the short of it is that they came down to supervisors inappropriately handling their job as supervisors. As there were also some labour components to these cases, we are currently trying to help the students as much as we can without revealing their identity as per their request, which is one of the hardest things I've worked on so far. Regarding the case about the department struggling with the 5% salary increase, we are still working on that. So still lots to do with regard to **compliance with the Collective Agreement**.

Regarding the **Mental Health Portfolio**, I will be taking a two-day training offered by the Community Social Work Team on Supportive Listening and Suicide Prevention. This will give me tools as VP Labour to support students in the best way when they come to us with stressful situations. Just so you know, this specific training provided by the Community Social Work Team and also their shorter [QPR training](#) are both open to any student/faculty on campus for *free*. If you are interested see their [website](#) for dates and times!

As some of you may know the **Friends of the University of Alberta Society** is intending to establish an annual graduate student prize, for which they held a casino volunteer fundraiser last weekend. As I had never been in a casino, and I thought this was a great opportunity to volunteer for a good cause, I worked a night shift from 11:30PM to 3:30AM in the count room of Casino Edmonton. It was a long night to stay awake, but I had a really good experience and thought it is an excellent way to donate your time to help fund your fellow students! Plus, probably this was the only opportunity in my life to hold over \$200,000 cash in one night...

As last, but not least, I have been thinking about next years **Collective Agreement (CA) negotiations**. For whoever is going to hold the VP Labour position next year, it is really important that all the issues that we ran into this year are addressed in the negotiation process. So first of all, I have tried to compile the issues so far and I'm currently looking at how they could be fixed by changes to the CA. However, I would also like some extra feedback again from you! A broad variety of graduate students need to benefit from the CA, so I was hoping over the next three months to meet with you all, individually. There will be an email sent out with a Google Calendar link, dedicated to labour consultations, in which you can book an appointment with me. Further info will follow in the email, but the gist of it is that we would like to hear from you about both the **good experiences and the bad ones** that you have/have had as TAs, RAs or PIs at the U of A, and your experience with the CA. **So don't forget to pick a date/time for our meeting!**

That was January! Let me know if you have questions, and feel free to contact me any time.

Thanks,  
Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 20, 2016 and January 23, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

January 6	GSA Winter Orientation
January 9	GSA Departmental Orientation – Computing Science
January 10	Vice-President (Research) Advisory Search Committee
January 10	Meeting with a Graduate Student and an Associate Dean
January 10	Meeting with a Graduate Student
January 11	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
January 11	Sustainability Certification Photo
January 11	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
January 12	Meeting with a Graduate Student
January 13	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
January 15	Friends of the University Casino
January 18	Days of Action Committee
January 18	Sexual Assault Assessment Working Group
January 19	Meeting with a Graduate Student
January 19	Meeting with Councillor Knack and Other City of Edmonton Representatives
January 21-22	Community Social Workers: Supportive Listening and Suicide Prevention
January 23	Meeting with University of Alberta International Regarding the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**GSA Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Ali Talaei  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy New Year (belated)!!!! I hope you had enjoyable and relaxing holidays with friends and family.

My GSA life in 2017 started with a meeting with the FGSR Dean Selection Committee search consultant. We discussed the GSA's expectations for the new dean and the important areas from the grad students' perspective that the incoming Dean should address. The process for the Dean search will be continuing in the next couple of months; it is expected that the Dean will be selected some time before July this year.

As of January, I am sitting on the Provost's Advisory Working Group on Scholarly Writing Support. The main purpose of the committee is to review the existing support services available at the University and make sure that affordable and comprehensive writing support is available for all students. If you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations on the existing services and any areas in which these could be improved, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I can convey your concerns to the committee members.

We also had a lengthy meeting with the SU and Alumni Association representatives and other stakeholders regarding the North Power Plant (where Dewey's pub is located). Different parties are looking to repurpose areas that are currently not used/underused in the space to ensure that it is used to serve the University community in the best way possible. Some ideas raised in the discussion included expanding the restaurant and bar area, creating maker/creator spaces, and having a social space for students. The group will evaluate these ideas and others in the future. We can bring to the group ideas of what we would like to see in the space as grad students. I would greatly appreciate it if you could share any ideas you have with me.

Please come and talk to me in person or email me at [gsavpsse@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavpsse@ualberta.ca) both regarding writing resources on campus and the NPP discussions.

Sincerely,

Ali Talaei, Vice-President Student Services

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 20, 2016 and January 23, 2017:*

January 5	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee Consultation
January 5	Provost's Advisory Working Group on Scholarly Writing Support
January 6	GSA Winter Orientation
January 9	GSA/SU North Power Plant Meeting
January 10	Campus Open Space Advisory Committee
January 11	Sustainability Certification Photo
January 12	North Power Plant Meeting
January 13	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
January 18	United Way Committee Meeting
January 19	U-Pass Administration Committee Meeting
January 20	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
January 20	Provost's Advisory Working Group on Scholarly Writing Support
January 23	Meeting with University of Alberta International Regarding the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**GSA Chief Returning Officer  
Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Carolina Martinez  
Date: January 20, 2017

Election time is almost upon us! I have been working really hard with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), as noted by Leigh Spanner, Chair of the GSA ERC, in her report, to ensure we are ready for the 2017 GSA General Election and, upon approval by GSA Council, the U-Pass Referendum (see item 6 for more information).

The timelines for the 2017 General Election and the U-Pass referendum was approved by myself and developed in consultation with the GSA ERC. The full timelines are available on the GSA website here. Below are some highlights:

**Tuesday, January 31, 2017:** Nominations open for the General Election and the registration period for a 'Yes' or 'No' Campaign in the U-Pass referendum opens

**Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 1 PM MST:** Nominations close for the General Election and the registration period for a 'Yes' or 'No' Campaign in the U-Pass referendum close

**Monday, February 27, 2017 at 12 PM MST:** GSA General Election Forum – Lunch will be served

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017 to Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 10 AM MST:** Voting period for the General Election and the U-Pass referendum

I would like to ask all Councilors to invite their colleague to participate in the GSA General Election by attending the General Election Forum on February 27 at noon and voting on February 28 through March 2. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [gsacroff@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsacroff@ualberta.ca), or DRO Darcy Bemister at [gsadroff@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsadroff@ualberta.ca).

Thank you,

Carolina Martinez, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**  
**Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Leigh Spanner  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

GSA Election and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on January 5, January 11, January 17 to discuss the upcoming GSA General Elections and the U-Pass Referendum. At these meetings, members discussed and advised the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) on the videos interviews for Directly-Elected Officer candidates, the GSA General Election Forum, and advertisement of the GSA General Election. The GSA ERC will meet next on January 26 to continue these discussions.

As mentioned in the GSA CRO's report, nominations for the five Directly-Elected Officer and the ten Councillor-at-Large positions will open on January 31, 2017.

Finally, I would like to invite you to attend the General Election Forum on February 27, 2017 at noon, watch the newsletter for further details, including location. Lunch will be served. Please also encourage your colleagues to attend.

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

**GSA Executive Director**  
**Report to GSA Council for the January 23, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: January 20, 2017

Dear GSA Council Members,

I hope you all had restful and enjoyable holiday breaks. The GSA office team has been engaged with several issues and projects since my last report to you in December and some highlights are included below:

**2017-2018 GSA Budget** – as noted in the report to GSA Council from the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) and in reports from last month, the financial team, with input from the GSA BFC, is working on the draft 2017-2018 GSA budget and associated three-year budget projections. The budget will be brought forward to GSA Council in February; the GSA remains in excellent financial shape.

**Nomination Period for GSA Recognition Awards** – the nomination period opened on December 1 and closed on January 13. As has been the case in previous years, the office received the majority of applications close to the deadline and that resulted in considerable email and front desk traffic. This year we received 127 applications, up from the 108 last year. The GSA Awards Selection Committee, chaired by the Vice-President External, will now begin the adjudication process.

**GSA Office Team** – Lisa Hareuther joined the GSA office team this January. Lisa has extensive experience with the GSA, working with us for several years before taking up a position with the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta in 2014. She has a BA in Anthropology and Classics from the U of A and an MA from Simon Fraser University – she is a real asset to the team and you will have the opportunity to meet her at upcoming meetings of GSA Council.

**Service Agreement with IST** – it was noted in my last report that this was under discussion and I am happy to report that the agreement was finalized and implemented as of January. GSA Council members may recall that the creation of the service agreement follows on our recent IT upgrades and provides on-site support, consultations, and reviews for our IT.

**2017 GSA General Election and U-Pass Referendum** – we have been providing support to the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as they prepare for the 2017 GSA General Election and the upcoming referendum related to the renegotiated U-Pass agreement.

**GSA Events** – our winter orientation event took place earlier in January and saw some 50+ attendees (an increase over participation levels in previous years). The office team is now planning for a February grad student engagement event, GSA Awards Night in late March, and the continuation of GSA Coffee Breaks in the winter term.

As always, the detailed weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached and I am happy to answer any questions.

Courtney Thomas  
GSA Executive Director

### Management Report to the GSA Board, January 11, 2016

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the weeks since the last GSA Board meeting on December 14, 2016:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Two Weeks:** 2017-2018 GSA budget and associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, supporting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as they prepare for the 2017 GSA General Election, U-Pass referendum, delivery of Winter Orientation, opening of a new granting period, planning for an engagement event in February and for GSA Awards Night in March; receipt of applications for GSA Recognition Awards and preparing for their adjudication by the GSA Awards Selection Committee, training new staff, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council Caucus, NPP discussions.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Review of Board Policies on succession for the Chair of the GSA Board and for President (amendments pending); ongoing review of several other GSA Bylaws and Policies (Officer Portfolios, Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups, GSA Standing Committees, etc).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to student groups and residence associations following discussions by the GSA Board; relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services; discussions concerning SU initiatives on student groups.

#### Grants and Operations

- Transfer of content to **Sitecore 3** (to be completed in January/February) and implementing our new IT services agreement with IST.
- Facebook = 920 likes (up 9 from December 14); Facebook posts reached 883 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 642. Twitter = 708 followers (up 10 from December 14); our tweets earned 5,400 "impressions" over the last month.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$98,705.42	\$93,329.06	9	11 (11 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$99,137.50	\$60,137.5	9	27 (27 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$4,368.15	\$4,368.15	0	0 (0 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$34,543.00 (no periods)	\$34,543.00	0	9 (0 pending processing)

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Supporting the **work of the GSA Nominating Committee**.
- Support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee's planning for the 2017 General Election (planning the All-Candidates' Meeting, forum, etc).
- Planning for winter term **GSA Coffee Breaks, the GSA winter engagement event, and Awards Night**; receipt of nominations for **GSA Recognition Awards**.
- Assisting with the **development of a database to track graduate student issues** worked on by the GSA.
- Delivery of **Winter Orientation (50+ attendees – up from other years)**.



### Management Report to the GSA Board, January 18, 2016

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the weeks since the last GSA Board meeting on January 11, 2017:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** 2017-2018 GSA budget and most recent quarterly financial statements; upcoming meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee; supporting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as they prepare for the 2017 GSA General Election; GSA Council first mailing; training new staff; and NPP discussions.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Review of Board Policies on succession for the Chair of the GSA Board and for President (amendments pending) and ongoing review of several other GSA Bylaws and Policies (Officer Portfolios, Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups (proposal has been developed for review by the Vice-President Student Services), GSA Standing Committees, etc).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to student groups and residence associations following discussions by the GSA Board; relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services; and discussions concerning SU initiatives on student groups.

#### Grants and Operations

- Transfer of content to **Sitecore 3** (to be completed in February/March) and implementing our new IT services agreement with IST.
- **Transition of staff duties in the office of Student Financial Services** (which processes GSA Emergency Bursaries).
- **Unwind Your Mind** grant application and planning for an engagement event in February.
- Receipt of applications for **GSA Recognition Awards (127 applications received, up from 108 last year)** and planning for GSA Awards Night.
- Facebook = 924 likes (up 4 from January 11); Facebook posts reached 996 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 354. Twitter = 709 followers (up 1 from January 11); our tweets earned 1,600 "impressions" over the last week.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$98,705.42	\$88,094.61	11	22 (11 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$99,137.50	\$53,137.50	5	32 (13 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$4,368.15	\$4,368.15	0	0 (0 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$34,543.00 (no periods)	\$34,543.00	0	9 (0 pending processing)

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Supporting the **work of the GSA Nominating Committee**.
- **Support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee's planning for the 2017 General Election** (planning the All-Candidates' Meeting, forum, etc).
- Planning for winter term **GSA Coffee Breaks, the GSA winter engagement event, and Awards Night**; receipt of nominations for **GSA Recognition Awards**.
- Assisting with the **development of a database to track graduate student issues** worked on by the GSA.