

GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

Monday, 16 April 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

The GSA acknowledges that the University of Alberta is situated on Treaty Six territory and Métis homelands.

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 Joshuha Connauton in the Chair

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

OPEN SESSION

Attached Numbered Pages

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 16 April 2018 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 19 March 2018 GSA Council Meeting
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 19 March 2018 GSA Council Meeting
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
 - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

3.0 - 3.6

Councillor Announcements

5. Councillor Announcements

Action Items: None at this time

Presentation

6. Athletics and Recreation Presentation
Babak Soltannia (GSA President) will present the item and introduce the guests

Guests: Dr. Ian Reade (Director of Athletics) and Cheryl Harwardt (Director of Campus and Community Recreation)

Attachment:

- Athletics and Recreation Fee Presentation

6.1 - 6.13

Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

7. GSA Council Elections
Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair) will present the item

GSA Councillor-at-Large Positions (4 vacancies)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large (4 vacancies) 7.0 - 7.3

GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board

Attachments:

- i. Nominees for the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Chair (1 vacancy) 7.4 - 7.6

For Discussion:

**8. GSA Board 2017-2018 Strategic Work Plan: Final Update
Babak Soltannia (GSA President) will present the item**

Attachments:

- i. Letter from the GSA President to GSA Council 8.0 - 8.2

Reports

9. President (Babak Soltannia, GSA President)

- i. President's Report 9.0 - 9.2
- ii. GSA Board 9.3
- iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (no meetings this reporting period)
- iv. GSA Governance Committee 9.4

10. Vice-President Academic (Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic)

- i. Vice-President Academic's Report 10.0

11. Vice-President External (Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External)

- i. Vice-President External's Report 11.0 - 11.1
- ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (no meetings this reporting period)

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

- i. Vice-President Labour's Report 12.0 - 12.1
- ii. GSA Negotiating Committee 12.2
- iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (no meetings this reporting period)

13. Vice-President Student Services (Royle Feng, GSA Vice-President Student Services)

- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 13.0 - 13.1

14. Senator (Trent Nabe, GSA Senator)

- i. Senator's Report (no written report at this time)

15. Speaker (Joshua Connauton, GSA Speaker)

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

16. Chief Returning Officer (Darcy Bemister, GSA Chief Returning Officer)

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

17. GSA Nominating Committee (Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair)

- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 17.0 - 17.1

18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)

- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report 18.0

19. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, GSA Executive Director)

- i. Executive Director's Report 19.0 - 19.7

Question Period

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

21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 19 March 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Babak Soltannia (President)	Swai Mon Khaing (Biochemistry)	Richard Moran (English & Film Studies)	Daniel Krysz; Braden Chow (Oncology)
Masoud Khademi (VP External)	Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)	Adrian Christ (History & Classics)	Ty Kim (Paediatrics)
Sasha van der Klein (VP Labour)	Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)	Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)	Andrew Woodman (Pharmacology)
Royle Feng (VP Student Services)	Karl Roesner; Shweta Pipaliya (Cell Biology)	Kenzie Gordon (Humanities Computing)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Josh Connauton (Speaker)	Anika Benozir Asha (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Khushmit Kaur (Internetworking)	Yilun Wu (Physiology)
Teddy Carter (Deputy Speaker)	Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)	Janita Frantsi (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation)	Daniela Gomez (Psychiatry)
Darcy Bemister (Chief Returning Officer)	Pedro Mateo (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Evelyn Asiedu (Lab Med & Pathology)	Joanna Scanlon; William Service (Psychology)
Trent Nabe (Senator; Business MBA)	Craig St. Jean (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Tabatha Plesuk (Library & Info Studies)	Alexandra Loverock (Public Health)
Maryse Kiese (Councillor-at-Large)	Melissa Woghiren (Computing Science)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Alesha Reed (Rehabilitation Science)
Kim Nguyen-Phuoc (Councillor-at-Large)	Julie Piche (Dentistry)	Milad Nazarahari (Mechanical Engineering)	Melody Everest (Religious Studies)
Nicole Noel (Councillor-at-Large)	Alison Thomas (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Fahed Elian (Medical Genetics)	Ryan Stanfield; Jared Fath (Renewable Resources)
Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)	Stefana Vukadinovich (East Asian Studies)	Brendan Todd (Medical Microbiology and Immunology)	Yangzhe Cao (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Andrews Tawiah (Councillor-at-Large)	Danny Wallbank (Economics)	Melissa Silva (Medicine)	Jon Mora (Surgery)
Hongbing Fan (Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science)	Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)	Hailey Pineau (Neuroscience)	
Talisha Chaput (Anthropology)	Chantal Labonté (Ed Psych)	Corinne Story (Nursing)	
Vicki Kwon (Art & Design)	Nicole Jamison (Elementary Education)	Jaelyn Hutchinson (Occupational Therapy)	

Guests: Kristin Foster (Director of Partnerships and Development, Studentcare); Colten Yamagishi (Program Manager, Studentcare); Helen Vallianatos (Associate Dean of Students); Beth Richardson (Cell Biology and incoming Vice-President Labour); Victor Silva (Computer Science); Masoud Aliramezani (Mechanical Engineering and incoming Vice-President Academic); Zhihong Pan (Physics and incoming Vice-President External); Salah Al-Heejawi (Electrical & Computer Engineering).

Speaker Josh Connauton in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call**1. Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance****Approval of Agenda****2. Approval of the 19 March 2018 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 19 March 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. T Nabe **MOVED**; K Gordon **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes**3. Minutes from the 26 February 2018 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 26 February 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 March 2018. T Nabe **MOVED**; A Thomas **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership**4. Changes in GSA Council Membership****i. Introduction of New Councillors: J Fath (Renewable Resources)****ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors**

This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: M Whoghiren (Computing Science); R Moran (English & Film Studies)

Councillor Announcements**5. Councillor Announcements**

E Asiedu noted that the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology (CCWESTT) was holding their bi-annual conference from 30 May to 2 June and Council members were invited to participate. She also noted that any questions could be emailed to her.

E Asiedu also informed members of a group called What I Wish I Knew that works to support and advise professional minority women in the workplace and is hosting an event, in collaboration with Women in Science, Engineering, and Research (WISER) titled Championing Diversity and Challenging Unconscious Bias. She noted that the event was on 19 April 2018, from 6 to 8 PM.

Presentation**6. GSA Health and Dental Plan Fees for 2018-2019**

MOTION 1 BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE** setting the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2018-2019 at \$500.36/annum, effective September 1, 2018, with collection from graduate students to begin September 1, 2018.

MOTION 2 BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE** that vision coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be increased from \$100 to \$150 per every two policy years for glasses and contacts and that coverage for psychologist services be increased from \$30 per visit to 80% coverage per visit, and that the annual maximum be increased from \$500 to \$600 per policy year, to begin September 1, 2018.

R Feng (GSA Vice-President Students Services) explained, as outlined in the letter to GSA Council, that the GSA was happy to report that there was no proposed increase to the GSA Health and Dental Plan (hereafter "the Plan") fee for 2018-2019, as the Plan cost was driven by usage, and claims for the previous year were low. He added that the GSA Board was made a recommendation to GSA Council that the Plan be expanded to include coverage in two areas:

- Additional vision coverage (from \$100 to \$150/per every two policy years for glasses and contacts)
- Additional coverage for psychologist services (from \$30 per visit to 80% per visit up to an annual maximum of \$600/per policy year).

In addition to these increases in coverage, R Feng indicated that approximately \$25/per graduate student would be deposited in the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund. He noted that GSA Bylaw and Policy stated that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund might be used to lessen the burden on graduate students of future increases to the Plan fee.

R Feng introduced Colten Yamagishi (Program Manager) and Kristin Foster (Director of Partnerships and Development) from Studentcare, the Plan broker and he noted that they were present to discuss the Plan and associated usage rates and to answer any questions that members may have.

GSA Council members brought forward several points for discussion including: reasons for the decrease in claims over the past year (K Foster and C Yamagishi noted that the Plan cost fluctuates based on the usage and as students graduate leave the Plan or enroll/join the Plan); possible additions to or changes to coverage in future (it was noted that the inclusion of occupational therapy coverage and an increase in physical therapy coverage would be investigated); what was covered under the psychologist services (K Foster and C Yamagishi noted that it covered most licensed psychologist practitioners but it was specified that if graduate students had specific questions about the coverage, they should contact Desjardins directly); why the GSA Board decided to increase coverage of psychologist services (it was noted that the GSA Board was presented with various possible options to increase coverage and decided to focus on improving coverage for mental health as these services are highly sought after by students; S van der Klein added that on campus services were often short-term focused and they wanted students to have the option of accessing long-term services); the stability of the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund (it was noted that in the past few years GSA Council had opted to draw down the fund to offset increases to the Plan fee and that now the GSA could build the fund up by adding \$20-\$25/graduate student); yearly caps for prescription drugs (K Foster and C Yamagishi explained that the Plan did not have yearly caps and that prescription drugs were covered at 80% as long as they were on the government formulary (ie new drugs or dosages might not be covered); they specified that there was no dollar limit); enrolling dependents (K Foster and C Yamagishi noted that the Plan was priced either for the full year or for the half year and added that the Plan was not set up to enroll students month to month as it involved fixed benefits); Studentcare surveys (K Foster and C Yamagishi explained the methodology used in those surveys and noted that it was conducted on average every 2-3 years); and inclusion of certain services covered by the Plan (K Foster explained that the Plan was quoted as a package from insurance companies and that services covered by the Plan were included in categories of common use; she would explore the steps needed in and the cost associated with excluding or including particular services in the coverage).

MOTION 1: That GSA Council **APPROVE** setting the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2018-2019 at \$500.36/annum, effective September 1, 2018, with collection from graduate students to begin September 1, 2018. R Feng **MOVED**. K Gordon **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; one abstention

MOTION 2: That GSA Council **APPROVE** that vision coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be increased from \$100 to \$150 per every two policy years for glasses and contacts and that coverage for psychologist services be increased from \$30 per visit to 80% coverage per visit, and that the annual maximum be increased from \$500 to \$600 per policy year, to begin September 1, 2018. R Feng **MOVED**. K Gordon **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; one abstention.

Action Items:

7. **2018 GSA General Election Results: To Receive for Information For Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority**

Darcy Bemister (GSA Chief Returning Officer) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the results of the 2018 GSA General wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

President	Sasha van der Klein
Vice-President Academic	Masoud Aliramezani
Vice-President External	Zhihong Pan
Vice-President Labour	Beth Richardson
Vice-President Student Services	Fahed Elian

D Bemister (GSA Chief Returning Officer) presented the item and noted that following the 2018 GSA General Election, GSA Council had to receive the names of the newly elected GSA Directly-Elected Officers for the purpose of transferring bank information to the new team on May 1, 2018.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the results of the 2018 GSA General wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services, as above. T Nabe **MOVED**. K Gordon **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; two abstentions (S van der Klein and F Elian).

8. Dean of Students Survey of Student Services

B Soltannia (GSA President) presented the item and introduced the guest, Dr. Helen Vallianatos (Associate Dean of Students). B Soltannia noted that the GSA Directly-Elected Officers met with H Vallianatos on 5 March to discuss the Dean of Students' (DoS) service survey project to help identify essential services within their unit and to guide future conversations regarding potential budget cuts. He added that H Vallianatos expressed interest in hearing from a group of graduate students, and so they had invited her to attend GSA Council meeting to review the services and gather feedback through the survey her office developed.

H Vallianatos clarified that the service survey was not related to budget cuts but rather, was focused on looking at how they were defining their essential services, making sure students had access to those services, along with examining which services had historically been charged as cost-recovery and whether this could be re-examined. H Vallianatos reviewed the format of the survey that had been distributed to GSA Council members, noting that it asked for participants to indicate whether they deemed a service 'essential' or 'nice-to-have' for undergraduate and graduate students, whether it would be appropriate to have a service as cost-recovery, how students would hypothetically distribute a budget of \$100 amongst all of the services listed on the survey, and that there were sections for comments and to address any gaps in services currently offered.

While GSA Council members who chose to participate in the survey filled it out, GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, among other issues, what risk management services in the DoS office covered (H Vallianatos responded that these services were provided for student groups that were affiliated with the U of A and were hosting events, in order to advise groups on what they need to consider in terms of security or potential liability); whether the column asking about cost-recovery was asking whether students should be charged a fee or if there would be other alternatives (H Vallianatos responded that the DoS office is currently examining which services charge a cost-recovery fee and they were interested in hearing feedback on which services may be seen as appropriate for cost-recovery); what the 'TYP' program under Aboriginal Student Services referred to (H Vallianatos noted that this was the Transitional Year Program for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students in their first-year of an undergraduate program who needed some additional academic supports); emphasis that the survey format was problematic since services such as the Sexual Assault Centre may never need to be accessed beyond a small portion of students but that this service should still be seen as essential; the dynamics of the population were changing in that more graduate students have families and there was a current gap in services for this segment of the population (H Vallianatos encouraged GSA Councillors to list this as a gap that could be identified); there were problems with the design of the survey and there were concerns that the data would potentially be used to structure a budget (H Vallianatos responded that similar questions had been raised in other areas, and emphasized that this survey would just be used as a guiding document as students had not been asked about how they prioritize services previously); whether background information on the Ombuds Service, Community Health Promotion could be provided (H Vallianatos noted that U of A Community Health Training and Education services were further divided into skills workshops, such as Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) training and first responders training, and that Community Education and Development included resources such as Unitea and the Healthy Campus Unit which works proactively to foster a healthy campus. Finally, she noted that the Ombuds Service is a confidential and neutral resource for students which provides advice for those who are having issues and need help navigating the system); and why was the Pharmacy services included on this list, given that the pharmacy was revenue generating (H Vallianatos responded that when filling out the survey, GSA Councillors did not have to worry about how services are currently funded).

H Vallianatos encouraged GSA Councillors to contact her or the GSA with any additional comments or questions regarding the services and questions included in the survey.

Elections

9. GSA Council Elections

None at this time.

For Discussion

10. Presentation on Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy to address Bill 7

Sasha van der Klein (GSA Vice-President Labour) presented the item.

Sasha van der Klein (GSA Vice-President Labour) presented the item and provided a presentation that covered the following topics: required GSA Bylaw and Policy revisions required by Bill 7, the new section on collective bargaining (including strike votes, the potential to collect future union dues, and consultation with academically-employed graduate students), proposed changes to the composition of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) and GSA Negotiating Team (GSA NC), and changes to the Vice-President Labour's (VPL) portfolio.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, among other issues, why the new bylaw and policy would be approved by GSA Council if many aspects of the proposal shifted decision-making from GSA Council to academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs) (S van der Klein noted that the GSA still had to follow its current process for amending bylaw and policy to ensure compliance); as there were new mechanisms that would be put in place to ensure the GSA VPL had no conflict of interest in certain scenarios, whether there was a need for potential conflicts of interest on the part of AEGSs sitting on the GSA NT or the GSA LRC to be evaluated (S van der Klein noted that, following the changes, members on the GSA LRC would need to be AEGSs and it would be the responsibility of committee members to disclose whether they had a conflict of interest); whether students serving on the committees would be elected or selected (S van der Klein noted that GSA LRC members would be elected by AEGSs and that there would be a need for a broad range of departments on the GSA LRC to ensure a diversity of views were considered, with a maximum of one representative per department); whether it would be helpful to issue a survey to ask student opinions about their contracts and whether the GSA had done this before (S van der Klein noted that surveys could be a resourceful tool but sometimes these conversations came up more easily on a case-by-case basis, and the work done to consult with AEGSs in advance of the current CA negotiations was discussed); clarification surrounding the election of the VPL given the proposed separation of the GSA LRC from GSA Council (S van der Klein noted that there wouldn't be a requirement for the VPL to be an AEGS or to be elected only by AEGSs and that it was still important for all graduate students to be eligible to vote for this position, given that the VPL's portfolio would still include a number of duties that benefit all graduate students); how GTAs, GRAs, and GRAFs were defined (S van der Klein noted that GTAs were graduate teaching assistants, including Principle Instructors, GRAs were graduate research assistants who worked with professors to complete research that was not their own, and GRAFs were graduate research assistant fellowship, graduate students being paid by their supervisor to work on their thesis); the rationale behind requiring GSA LRC members to be academically-employed, given that these students may be employed as a GTA for only a semester (S van der Klein noted that members elected to the GSA LRC would have to be an AEGS at the time of their election); who were receiving the labour newsletters (S van der Klein noted that each term the GSA received a list of graduate students under a CA contract and that this list was used to populate the mailing list each term. She added that future conversations were needed regarding whether students would still receive communications and voting rights for a prolonged period of time after their contract ended); whether students who received a scholarship were still academically-employed as a GRAF (S van der Klein noted that if the only mean by which graduate students were paid was an external scholarship they were not a GRAF); and whether the Labour Relations Board (LRB) would determine whether the bargaining unit includes GTAs, GRAs, and GRAFs (S van der Klein noted that the LRB would only review GSA Bylaw and Policy to ensure these documents were in compliance with Bill 7 and that the LRB would not be reviewing the current CA).

Reports

11. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition B Soltannia offered congratulations to the newly-elected Directly-Elected Officers and Councillors-at-Large.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

12. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee's Report

No meetings this reporting period.

14. Vice-President Labour**i. Vice-President Labour's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Negotiating Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

16. Senator**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

17. Speaker**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

19. GSA Nominating Committee**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition K Gordon asked GSA Council members to consider the vacancy on the GSA Governance Committee.

20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 March 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas reiterated that if anyone was interested in learning more about the vacancy on the GSA Governance Committee, please ask.

Question Period**22. Written Questions**

None at this time.

23. Oral Questions

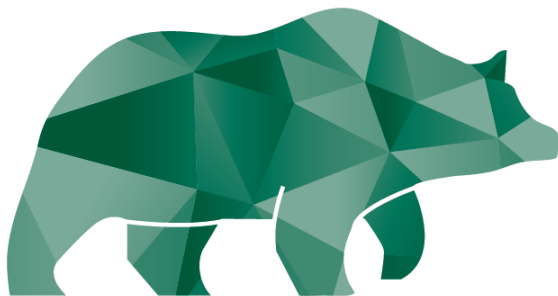
T Nabe asked if there was a schedule for discussing the GSA Health and Dental Plan coverage annually. C Thomas explained the GSA's internal process and timeline. She added that the GSA Office would work with Studentcare to put together information based on the points raised at the meeting and that an information item would be brought forward, after a GSA Board discussion, when this information was available. She noted that this might be a good item to focus on over the summer, so Studentcare has some time to pull the necessary figures.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Report to Graduate Students' Association

Athletic and Recreation Fee



Principles

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Partnership
- Collaboration
- Consultation



Key Points

- Transparency
 - Students pay approximately \$5.5 million in A&R Fees
 - Students want to know what their fees pay for
 - Athletics and Recreation fees pay part of the cost for the non-tenured academic and non-academic staff to provide sport and recreation services to students



Key Points

- Accountability
 - A&R Fee is part of the MNIF, therefore overseen by MNIF Oversight Committee
 - Who is responsible for the allocation of the funds and therefore the provision of services?
 - The Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation delegates the responsibility to the two Directors; Cheryl Harwardt and Ian Reade



Campus & Community Recreation

- Who we are:
 - Vision: Inspiring and empowering exceptional life experiences through recreation, sport and wellness
 - Mission: Facilitate and deliver leading-edge programs, events, services and facilities for our communities
 - Values: Leadership - Collaboration - Kaizen - Civility - Inclusiveness



Campus & Community Recreation

- Services Provided:
 - Access to Facilities – Arena, Climbing Centre, Fitness Centre, Gymnasiums, Studios, Activity spaces, Pavilion, Squash Courts, Swimming pools
 - Programs/Events – Club Sports, Intramurals, Group Exercise, Instructional Recreation classes, residence programming, LiveWell
 - Events – Turkey Trot, Big Pink, RecStock
 - Employment Opportunities



Campus & Community Recreation

Funding Partnerships

• Major Sources of Revenue:	
– Athletic & Recreation Fee	\$2.25 million
– LiveWell	\$.14 million
– U of A Operating Contribution	\$1.20 million
– Revenue raised - (rentals, memberships, program fees)	<u>\$3.00 million</u>
Total non-fee revenue	\$4.20 million
Athletic & Recreation fee	\$2.25 million
LiveWell funds	<u>\$.14 million</u>
Total CCR	\$6.59 million

NOTE: (UA also provides utilities, cleaning and facility envelope maintenance)



Campus & Community Recreation

- Major Expenses
 - Facility staff wages \$2.2 million
 - Programming staff wages \$1.8 million
 - Operating Costs \$2.59 million
 - Total Expenditures CCR \$6.59 million

(including LiveWell)

In Addition: \$200,000 annually required for equipment replacement and upgrades.



Campus & Community Recreation

Key Stats

- Fitness Centre
 - January 2017 – December 2017 – 490,870 uses
- Locker Rooms
 - January 2017 – December 2017 – 1,024,754 uses
- Climbing Centre
 - January 2017 – December 2017 – 25,000 drop-in uses
- Yoga
 - 29,187 Yoga mats rolled out
- Kick boxing
 - 1,000 Weekly kickboxing participants



Golden Bears and Pandas Athletics

Funding Partnerships

- Major Sources of Revenue:

– U of A Operating	\$1,100,000	
– Donors	\$ 600,000	
– Sponsors	\$ 300,000	
– Gate	\$ 400,000	
– Alumni	\$1,800,000	
– Community Programs	<u>\$ 600,000</u>	
Total non-fee revenue	\$4,800,000	
A&R Fee to Athletics	\$3,200,000	
Total Expenditures Athletics		\$8,000,000



Golden Bears and Pandas Athletics

Funding Partnerships

- Major Expenses:

– Salaries (ATS) and NASA	\$4,400,000
– Travel	\$1,900,000
– Supplies	\$1,400,000
– Rentals	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
- Total	<u>\$ 8,000,000</u>

Student Scholarships (in addition) **\$1,500,000**

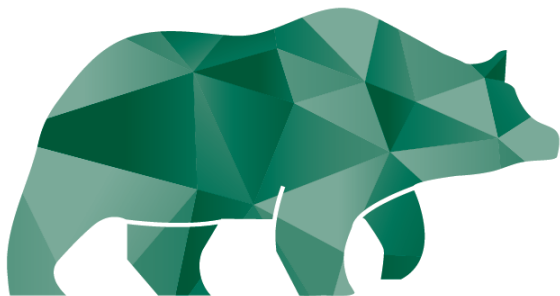


Key Points

- Collaboration and Consultation
 - Bi-annual report to SU/GSA
 - Athletics and Recreation fees policy advisory committee
 - MNIF Oversight Committee
 - With freeze on fees, need to develop a short term and a long term strategy



Golden Bears and Pandas on the Road Watch on Canadawest.tv



GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election (4 POSITIONS):
3 NOMINEES

In the 2018 GSA General Election, six (6) out of ten (10) Councillor-at-Large positions were filled. In the GSA newsletters of 23, and 29 March and 6 April 2018, the GSA NoC advertised for the remaining four (4) vacant GSA Councillor-at-Large positions. The deadline to receive nominations was April 10, 2018 at 12:00 PM and three (3) nominations were received.

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 16 April 2018 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 16 April 2018 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) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 16 April 2018 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

- 1. Mahmud Rashedul Amin (Civil and Environmental Engineering)**
- 2. Teddy Carter (MBA) (*note that if elected, T Carter will resign from her current GSA Deputy Speaker position)**
- 3. Andrew Woodman (Pharmacology)**

Jurisdiction:

Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3

"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 specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement. If the matter is urgent, GSA Council can hold this election electronically."

The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are BELOW on pages 7.1-7.3. Biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).

Nominations for GSA Councillor-at-Large (GSA CAL) (4 Vacancies for Graduate Students)
Three (3) Nominees

1. Mahmud Rashedul Amin

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	None
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Statement of Interest

For a major portion of my M.Sc. study, I was an international student. Later I became a permanent resident of Canada. Therefore, I understand well the issues in everyday life of international and domestic graduate students, their expectations and struggles. During my B.Sc. education I was involved in organizing cultural events and fund raising, volunteering in blood donating events etc. I can work independently, as well as a team member. Also, as a professional engineer, I attended meetings with other professionals and clients. Which indeed augmented my communication skills in meetings or a group discussion.

Bio

I was born in Bangladesh and completed my B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. I worked about four years as a professional engineer in Bangladesh. Later I came to Canada as an international student and completed an M.Sc. in Civil Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. In the mean time I became a permanent resident. After finishing my M.Sc., I started Ph.D. in Water Resources Engineering at the University of Alberta. Apart from being an engineer and graduate student, I am a proud father and loving husband.

Summary Resume

I am currently a second year Ph.D. student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. I work in the hydraulic lab under the supervision of Dr. David Zhu with many other international students. My research investigates the erosion of sand by water jet. Before my Ph.D. study, I have finished my M.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan. I worked as a professional civil engineer for about four years between my B.Sc. and M.Sc. study. Besides my current research, I work as a teaching assistant in applied hydraulics course. I was also a TA in fluid mechanics, hydraulic structures, and spring survey course during my M.Sc. During my B.Sc. I was a volunteer at a organization which collects blood donations from individuals. I have finished the course requirements for my Ph.D. program and my research is going well. Therefore, I have a flexible schedule and I think I can actively contribute to the GSA as a councillor-at-large.

2. Teddy Carter

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	Deputy Speaker for GSA, Co-Chair (Treasurer) for Indigenous Graduate Students' Association
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Statement of Interest

I have been Deputy Speaker for the GSA and attended GSA council meetings over that past year, so I have a good understanding of its operations. I think I can contribute to GSA council discussions and voting in a productive way. I also used to work for U of A central administration, so I have a strong understanding of university issues, and I can use this understanding to inform my participation on the GSA. I am passionate about community building and inclusiveness amongst graduate students at the U of A.

Bio

I am a members of the Metis Nation of Alberta, and was born and raised here in Edmonton. Before completing my bachelor degree I obtained a diploma in Acupuncture, and spent two years travelling the work, working as ship's acupuncturist onboard cruise ships! I attended the U of A as an undergraduate student, in the Faculty of Science, with a focus on biological sciences, graduating in 2015. I then worked for two years, coordinating dean selection processes for the U of A Provost's Office, before starting my Master of Business Administration in the Alberta School of Business. I am also Co-Chair of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, and believe in supporting all graduate students during this exciting and challenging time in our lives that we are all sharing! In my spare time I like spending time with friends and family, working on art and entrepreneurial projects, and watching shows on Netflix, including Rupaul's Drag Race!

Summary Resume

I have been Deputy Speaker for the GSA and attended GSA council meetings over that past year, so I have a good understanding of its operations. I also used to work for the U of A central administration, as Dean Selection and Review Coordinator, so I have a strong understanding of university issues, as well as the important relationship that the Provost's Office and central administration at the university has with the GSA. Additionally, I am Co-Chair of the Indigneous Graduate Students' Association, and am committed to community building and support for all graduate students at the U of A.

3. Andrew Woodman

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	GSA Council (pharmacology) & FGSR Council (GSA Rep)
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Part Two

Statement of Interest
I am currently serving my second terms as both a GSA Councilor (Dept. of Pharmacology) and GSA Representative on the FGSR Council. As such, I am familiar with the duties of GSA Council and would like to continue serving graduate students. As a two-term executive of the Pharmacology Graduate Students Association, I am familiar with leadership roles wherein I advocated for a diverse group of individuals.
Bio
I was born and raised in Calgary, where I completed my BSc. in biochemistry. I moved to Edmonton in 2015 to begin my PhD in pharmacology, which focuses on the effects of stressors during pregnancy and their impact on cardiovascular development and function in offspring.
Summary Resume
In addition to involvement in student groups and the GSA (mentioned above), I am involved in teaching at the university. Currently, I am a facilitator for the renal block of DMED514 (first year MD program course). Outside of the university, I volunteer with the Canadian Ski Patrol at Marmot Basin and Rabbit Hill, as well as the Telus World of Science.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair
1 NOMINEE

As set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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.8.3:

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

In recommending this nominee, the GSA NoC considered their previously conducted interview (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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.10.4), their experience relevant to the position of Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB, and their knowledge of fair process. The nominee has been a member of the GSA ACB since 2016.

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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.6.1, the mandate of the GSA ACB is as follows:

“The GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) is responsible for hearing and deciding appeals of GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) decisions and complaints about GSA Officers and Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as allowed by Section 94(3) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.”

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the Monday, 16 April 2018 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday, 16 April 2018, 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) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 16 April 2018, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

Nominee for Chair of the GSA ACB:

- 1. Sparsh Patel (Pediatrics) (until his end of term in January 2019)**

The name and biography received from the nominee is BELOW on pages 7.5 - 7.6. The biography and resume is presented as received (ie not edited).

**Nominations for GSA ACB Chair (1 Vacancy for a member of GSA ACB)
One (1) Nominee**

1. Sparsh Patel

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	
Statement of Interest	
<p>I have always been able to take a step back and consider all possible opinions and outlooks in a situation before making any assumptions or criticism. I have been part of Heart and Stroke Foundation Student's Association (HSFSA) as vice president of the advocacy division, where I have been involved in mediating disagreements between club members regarding execution of club activities. The nature of my position exposed me to many situations involving differences of opinion and I believe I handled these situations impartially after considering both sides of the argument. I was also responsible for conducting weekly club meeting and making sure everyone was accounted for and participating by facilitating the appropriate resources to committee members. I believe my innate nature which prompts me to find out all the information I can before forming an opinion, and my previous experience in leading several committees is a perfect fit for this position.</p>	
Bio	
<p>I was born in the western part of India where I spent the first 10years of my life, and moved to Canada in 2005. I am fluent in Hindi, Gujarati as well as English. I finished my undergrad at the UofA in Biological Sciences. I am currently in the MSc program in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry department of Pediatrics. Throughout my undergrad I enjoyed holding multiple positions in HSFSA as a general member up to VP advocacy, as well as volunteering at the Canadian Blood Services. As a Master's student I am actively involved in the local temple on the weekends, and am also member of UofA squash club and a future executive. I am generally outgoing and like to keep busy with work I find interesting.</p>	
Summary Resume	
<p>I am a first year master's student in the department of pediatrics studying neonatal resuscitation techniques in Dr. Schmolzer's lab. I have recently been awarded the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry/Alberta Health Services Graduate Student Recruitment Studentship (GSRS), and the J Gordin Kaplan Graduate Student Award for conference travel. Prior to starting my MSc program, I also worked with CRISPR genome editing techniques as an undergrad research project. I am currently a GSA ACB member and am</p>	

aware of the duties related to GSA ACB Chair through my initial training and consider myself capable of organizing a GSA ACB committee and facilitating appropriate resources to said committee; should the need ever arise.



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

April 6, 2018

As many of you may remember, my team and I began the development of the 2017-2018 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) in May of 2017 and we presented the finalized plan to GSA Council in July. The complete SWP is available for your review on the GSA website at <https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/about/board-strategic-work-plan>.

Below is the final update concerning the GSA's progress in pursuing the strategic goals outlined in the 2017-2018 SWP. Updates were also provided to GSA Council in October and January; in preparing this final update, I asked my team to individually identify the key initiatives they have engaged with this year. I welcome the chance to discuss what follows with you on April 16.

- As you will recall, one of our main team goals was to advocate for the University to launch a review of the current state of graduate student funding on campus, and the potential to establish guaranteed minimum funding packages. After submitting a proposal to the Provost and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) concerning this, the Dean of FGSR created and circulated a survey to University departments to gather more information about their current graduate student funding practices. Dean Zwicker attended the February meeting of GSA Council to share her findings from this survey and to answer questions. In my recent meetings with Dr. Zwicker, I have continued to discuss her next steps for this project and recommend that the 2018-2019 GSA Directly-Elected Officers continue working on this important issue (guaranteed minimum funding), especially in light of the coming campus budget reductions.
- As outlined in the GSA's public response to the International Tuition Fee Increase, we, along with the University of Alberta Students' Union (SU), are disappointed that the 3.14% proposed tuition increase was approved, along with other increases that put cost pressures on students, such as a 4% increase to residence rates. Leading up to the final vote on March 16, Vice-President Academic, Firouz, Vice-President Labour, Sasha, and I met with as many Board of Governors members as possible to stress students' concerns regarding the proposal. I also delivered presentations in various governance venues to argue against the tuition increases and voted against these motions. The GSA will continue to advocate to both the University and the government that international graduate tuition should be predictable, regulated, and communicated in a manner that will allow graduate students to make informed decisions regarding which institution they choose to attend, and the associated costs they can expect to incur for the duration of their program.
- The Vice-President External, Masoud, and I have continued to actively participate in the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). This year, they launched a [new website](#), which now includes the U of A GSA blog post that discusses the recent tuition increases and related advocacy work. Finally, the U of A GSA, through ab-GPAC, continues to pressure the government to release their long-awaited decision regarding tuition and funding models and to advocate that international student tuition should be regulated so that there is more stability and predictability for these students.
- Sasha has submitted a proposal to the Assistant Vice-President, Finance and Supply Management Services, requesting that the University of Alberta allow scholarship holders to pay their tuition in installments, without installment fees or interest fees for late payments. This proposal would parallel the long-standing and well-established program that the U of A currently provides for automatic tuition deductions from Graduate Assistantships.
- One of the priorities identified in the 2017-2018 SWP was for the GSA Vice-President External to "engage with Residence Associations and other stakeholders concerning the collection of Residence Association fees." As Masoud noted in his March report to GSA Council, the GSA Board developed a survey on this topic in order to get feedback directly from graduate students living in residences about this issue. Following review of this survey with Residence Associations during a Council of Residence Associations meeting, it was circulated to graduate students living in University residence. I look



forward to reviewing the data that this survey will provide and sharing the results with the incoming GSA Vice-President External, the 2018-2019 Directly-Elected Officer team, as well as with residence associations. Pending the results of this survey, internal discussion, and an analysis of some administrative issues, we are hopeful that this initiative can move forward.

- As discussed in earlier SWP updates to GSA Council, key goals from the Vice-President Labour's portfolio included negotiating for increased compensation for graduate student assistants in the Collective Agreement and ensuring the GSA's compliance with Bill 7. A Pre-Bargaining Town Hall was held in September 2017, and the GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC) and the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) reviewed the feedback and suggestions received during this session to develop a series of collective bargaining priorities and goals. Academically-employed graduate students were then asked to vote electronically on these priorities. The GSA NC included these approved priorities in the Opening Position that was sent to the University at the beginning of November. The GSA NC is still engaged in negotiations with the University and updates continue to be sent through the Labour Newsletter to current academically-employed graduate students as they become available. As Sasha presented during the March 2018 GSA Council meeting, draft changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy to ensure the GSA's compliance with Bill 7 are currently with the GSA lawyers for review and we will be engaging with their feedback shortly.
- In the interest of supporting a variety of high quality professional development opportunities for graduate students, the Vice-President Academic, Firouz, has been involved in a sub-group of the Professional Development Advisory Board to create an online graduate student community that would link graduate students with mentors in the industry and community. He also continued to be engaged in conversations regarding learning outcomes on campus and was involved throughout the year in academic governance reform initiatives through the General Faculties Council and its standing committees, which worked to implement the recommendations made in 2017 in the final report of the *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Governance and Delegated Authority.
- Firouz has also been engaged with emerging conversations on campus related to graduate students' academic requirements and experiences, including ongoing discussions about learning outcomes, discussing potential increases to the minimum Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research requirements for the International English Language Testing System scores, modifying the deadlines for part-time students for the completion of their Individual Development Plans, and the establishment of a Cotutelle Program at the U of A.
- Through Sasha's continued participation with the Student Homelessness Project, this team has established a project roadmap and established a series of subcommittees to explore topics such as food security, homeless de-stigmatization, and financial supports. The team will also work on developing medium-term housing and a social service program. It is anticipated that a pilot program will launch in September 2018. Additionally, progress continues with the Campus Parents Project, which has also finalized its project road map and is preparing to research short-term child care resources, lactation stations, breast feeding friendly spaces and physical space and design to accommodate students who parent.
- Masoud and the Vice-President Student Services, Royle, continue to consult with Nursing students completing their practicums at Michener Park on their work to develop a survey to learn about the transit usage of graduate students living in Michener Park and met with these Nursing students on March 27 to discuss their findings. As a next step, the data collected through this survey will be shared with the University, though there was a low participation rate for the survey.
- Sasha initiated and worked in collaboration with various stakeholders to provide the first Graduate Student Safety Session on March 13. This session included presentations and safety tips from University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS),



Helping Individuals at Risk (HIAR), and Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS). On the topic of campus safety, the GSA has also been invited to participate in a new Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security Working Group, which has been established in response to an increasing number of reports and incidents associated with safety and security on campuses and within certain University buildings.

- Following pressure from the SU and the GSA, student representatives are now included in conversations regarding the development of University policies in response to the upcoming legalisation of cannabis. Royle has been participating in the Cannabis Community Consultation Working Group, and we anticipate that this project will generate a fair measure of work in the upcoming months as legalisation on July 1 fast approaches.
- Royle has also been involved in conversations regarding the future introduction of Smart Fare to the City of Edmonton Transit System (ETS), and the GSA, along with other stakeholders, will be advocating to ETS representatives that the new system should incorporate the U-Pass in a way that is beneficial and streamlined for student users.
- Sasha advocated for a University system of dealing with anonymous multiple complaints based on an actual case of bringing to the attention of the University concerns raised by a group of students without disclosing their identities.
- Finally, the GSA was pleased to host a series of events since our last SWP update to GSA Council in January, including monthly GSA Coffee Breaks, our winter social event in February which was very well attended, the annual GSA Awards Night on March 23, and a new Volunteer Appreciation Event in March to thank graduate student volunteers who serve on our committees for their dedication. Thank you to all who attended these events.

I would also like to express my gratitude and thank my team and the GSA office staff for all of their hard work and support this year. As always, I will be happy to answer your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Babak Soltannia, 2017-2018 GSA President

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Babak Soltannia
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Valued Graduate Students, Fellow Councillors and Colleagues:

I hope you have a very successful exam period, and are then ready to continue your academic journey this spring while also enjoying your personal life! As we approached the end of our term, things ramped up instead of winding down, which added more excitement to what I have done during the past weeks! During the past weeks, I experienced some absolutely unconventional and unpredictable events, which were all learning opportunities (and I have included them in my transition report to the incoming GSA President).

I start with the fun parts, which included the GSA Awards Night held on March 23. I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the 36 award recipients, including graduate students, faculty members, staff members, and a Board of Governors member, who received awards for distinguishing themselves for their teaching, research, and service to the community. It was a very successful event and we had the honour of having many honourable guests and presenters at this event, including the minister of Advanced Education and MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar, Honorable Marlin Schmidt, Chancellor Doug Stollery, and the Chair of the University of Alberta Board of Governors, Michael Phair. My thanks goes to all of our Awards Night presenters.

Another great event was the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT), hosted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, during which 15 graduate students presented their thesis in 3 minutes and competed with each other. This year, ab-GAPC worked to support the 3MT contests at the U of A and U of C in conjunction with the Graduate Research Impact week ([see here](#)), to emphasize the importance of graduate students' contributions within the province. Finally, the FGSR Graduate Teaching Awards ceremony was another successful and amazing event I was able to attend.

As an ongoing issue, I would like to talk about minimum funding packages. As you will recall, one of our main team goals was to advocate for the University to launch a review of the current state of graduate student funding on campus. After submitting a proposal to the Provost and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) concerning this, the Dean of FGSR created and circulated a survey to University departments to gather more information about their current graduate student funding practices. Dean Zwicker attended the February meeting of GSA Council to share her findings from this survey and to answer questions. In my recent meetings with Dr. Zwicker, I have continued to discuss with her the next steps for this project.

Now it's time to talk about the most important and challenging part of the past few weeks and what is going on around the campus regarding budget cuts and fee increases. As you may remember, in advance of the March 16 Board of Governors meeting, my team and I met with representatives from the Board of Governors and other stakeholders to advocate against the increases to international graduate tuition, and to stress students' concerns regarding fee increases. I also delivered presentations in various governance venues to argue against the tuition increases and voted against these motions. The GSA continued to advocate to both the University and the government that international graduate tuition should be predictable, regulated, and communicated in a manner that will allow graduate students to make informed decisions regarding which institution they choose to attend, and the associated costs they can expect to incur for the duration of their program. The GSA has issued [an updated statement](#) regarding the final vote that took place at the Board of Governors meeting, and the GSA, along with the

9.1

Students' Union (SU) expressed its disappointment that the proposed tuition increase of 3.14% for international students was approved for 2018-2019. After disseminating a statement from the GSA through both the GSA and ab-GPAC websites, the GSA and other constituency groups on campus issued three [joint letters](#). One of these statements drew attention to the peaceful protest held in the Quad on April 6, and the final statement [calls on the government](#) to return the budget to the University to revisit their decisions.

In another capacity, through ab-GPAC, we emphasized our [stance](#) in a blog post with respect to our advocacy work against the fee increases. During an upcoming opportunity to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education, I will continue to ask government to back up his words of support for students, faculty and staff with actions.

At the end of April, Sasha, Zhihong, and I will be attending the ThinkGRAD conference in Vancouver as observers. ThinkGRAD has replaced the previous GU15 group, which consisted of GSAs from the U15 universities across the country. This conference will be a wonderful opportunity to see how other institutions tackle similar issues, and consequently we will bring additional experience and knowledge home. Moreover, this conference is a good networking opportunity, and a great place to make new connections and friends!

In the end, I would like to share my feelings about being so lucky and fortunate to work with such incredible people! I am speechless, and I really don't know how to thank every and each of you enough. I couldn't have done this position without you and your endless and continuous support. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve my community, and I hope I was able to ameliorate students' experiences on campus!

The number of people I'd like to thank for their advice, continuous supports, and dedication, is immense and this list is not exhaustive. I would like to thank my team members (Sasha, Firouz, Royle, and Masoud), the GSA office team: (Courtney, Julie, Lisa, Heather, Laura, Fiona, Mahsa, Dorte, and Shirley), former GSA Presidents, the GSA Board, GSA standing committee members, GSA Councillors, FGSR staff, the Office of the Dean of Students, representatives of other associations (the SU, AASUA, NASA, and PDFA), the ab-GPAC Executive Director and representatives, my friends and family, and my supervisor. To everyone in this list, I always owe you debts of gratitude and my praise and appreciations always stay with you!

I wish the incoming team the best of luck and I wish everyone a wonderful spring full of joy and bliss!

I will be more than happy to answer any concerns or questions you may have, in-person or over email.

Warmest regards,

Babak
GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 March 2018 and 16 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

21 March	Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) Principal Search Interviews
22 March	GRADvocacy Week Conference Call
22 March	Conference Call with Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education
23 March	GSA Awards Night
27 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Governance Committee Meeting
28 March	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
28 March	President Turpin's Campus Forum
3 April	Meeting with Richard Kanyo, President of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA)
4 April	Board of Governors (BoG) Teleconference
9 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
9 April	Meeting with Students' Union (SU), Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA), and Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA)
11 April	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Transition
11 April	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
11 April	Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Finals
12 April	Meeting with Heather Zwicker, Vice-Provost and Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
13 April	Board of Governors (BoG) Emeritus Members Lunch
16 April	Meeting with Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

**GSA Board (GSAB)
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
 From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Julie Tanguay, Acting Executive Director and Acting Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director
 Date: 13 April 2018

The GSAB reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). 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, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 19 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 19.5 – 19.7.

21 March 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Academic Travel Awards, Child Care Grant, and Emergency Bursaries: Reallocation of Graduate Student Support Fund Rolling Opening Balance; GSA Board SWP Update to GSA Council; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the reallocation of the amounts remaining in the budgets and contingency budgets for GSA Academic Travel Awards, Child Care Grants, and Emergency Bursaries (approximately \$127,000 in total) as follows: ~\$10,000 to the budget line for Emergency Bursaries, ~\$40,950 to the budget line for Academic Travel Awards, and ~\$76,050 to the budget line for Child Care Grants. BS **MOVED**. MK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

28 March 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Attendance at the ThinkGRAD Conference, April, 23 to 25, 2018, in Vancouver, BC: Estimated Expense; Budget 2018-2019; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for four (4) representatives of the GSA to attend ThinkGRAD, April 23-25, 2018, in Vancouver, BC as noted below. BS **MOVED**. SvK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

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

Members discussed **Budget 2018-2019**.

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

Members **AGREED** to sign the Budget 2018-2019 Statement.

4 April 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Board Strategic Work Plan; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

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

Members discussed **SU's University Budget Protest**.

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

11 April 2018 GSA Board Meeting: Cancelled

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Babak Soltannia
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

As per the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)'s terms of reference, the GSA GC can "make any editorial changes (such as factual inaccuracies and other editorial issues) to the GSA governing documents as deemed necessary by the GSA GC" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.b).

Accordingly, the GSA GC updated the low income measure (cut-offs) in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section P: GSA Grants, Awards, and Bursaries, GSA Policy, GSA Child Care Grants, Section 2.2.c, with the most recent data from Statistics Canada (found in the 2016 Census of Population, released in September 2017). The current low income measure (cut-offs) in GSA Bylaw and Policy was from 2013 data, and is now outdated.

The new low income measure (cut-offs) approved via email on 27 March are outlined below.

Household size (adults + children)	Low Income Measure [Cut-Off] (2016)*
2	\$36,000
3	\$44,000
4	\$51,000
5	\$57,000
6	\$63,000

*Data from Statistics Canada, 2016 (figures rounded to the nearest \$1,000).

Sincerely,
Babak Soltannia, GSA President and Chair of the GSA GC

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Firouz Khodayari
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Although I will be reporting on the last two weeks of my term for May's Council, this is officially my last Council meeting. During my life, nothing has pleased me more than serving my family and community; the U of A has been my community and second family since January 2014 and serving graduate students has been an honor and invaluable experience for me. I would like to thank all of those who have supported me to succeed in this role during the last two years; I have been very lucky to have active and caring graduate students with me at the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council and its subcommittees, General Faculties Council (GFC) and its subcommittees, and the GSA Council.

As Vice-President Academic, I have attended several meetings and been involved with various discussions during the last month; I share the highlights with you in this report.

Joint and Dual (Cotutelle) Programs

As you might remember I talked about dual (Cotutelle) programs in my March Council report; I am now happy to see that new agreements are being signed between our university and other institutions around the world. Here are two examples that currently are in the approval process: a new dual master's degree agreement with the University of Lorraine (in France) and the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta and also, a new joint doctoral degree agreement with the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GSCAAS) and the Faculty of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta.

GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Transition

As a final note, with the help of the GSA office, outgoing DEOs, and incoming DEOs, we have been working on having a smooth transition. I would like to mention that I will work to spend as much time as needed with the incoming Vice-President Academic both before and after finishing my term to have a successful transition for the success of the GSA in the upcoming year.

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 regarding any academic related issue you have encountered at the University.

Thanks,

Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 March 2018 and 16 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I was away 19 March to 6 April 2018.

April 9	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSA FGSR) Council Caucus
April 9	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
April 9	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Exec)
April 10	Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Chief Librarian Selection Committee Meeting
April 11	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Transition
April 11	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Masoud Khademi
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well in every aspect of your lives.

Every journey has an end, and now it is time for me to say GOODBYE!

Since this is my second last report to GSA Council as GSA Vice-President External (I will submit my final report for May Council, which will cover my last two weeks as Vice-President External), I wanted to start by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as a DEO in the past 2 years. Once again, I appreciate the trust that you put in me in the last two General Elections. During these past two years, I have tried to keep my promise of serving you faithfully and to the best of my knowledge and abilities. I also wanted you to know that none of what I did as a DEO would have been possible without your backing and encouragement.

In addition, I want to take this opportunity to welcome the new GSA Vice-President External and rest of 2018-2019 Directly-Elected Officers to their roles and wish them all the best in the year ahead. Now let's get to the report.

One of the meeting that I attended this month was the Residence Advisory Committee (RAC). In this meeting, Janice Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students (Residence), updated the group on the issue of internet connectivity in residences. She noted that they have already established a working group to address the identified problems with University Wireless Services (UWS). She also encouraged Residence Association members to join this working group and added that this working group hopes to recruit at least one representative from each residence. The two other important items discussed in this meeting were reducing the lockout charges in residences and coordinating Eco Move Out, which is a collaborative program between residents' services and the Office of Sustainability to place donation and recycling bins at convenient locations throughout residences.

Another meeting I attended in March was the Alumni Student Council Grants Adjudication, where we discussed adding another deadline in early or mid-summer for the student engagement grant, and changing the current deadlines to improve both the quantity and quality of student engagement. We also went over the grant application rubric and discussed different ideas to enhance this tool.

During the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) meeting I attended, we discussed the future steps in developing the institutional strategy for EDI. We also reviewed the framework of an employment equity survey which is called the "workforce diversity census questionnaire". This survey is designed to gather information on EDI aspects of human resources practices here at the U of A.

Earlier this week, Babak and I attended the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting. One important item discussed was the programming for the upcoming transition meeting between the outgoing and the incoming ab-GPAC directors. Babak also updated the group with respect to the joint statements that were released to address the U of A's budget and fee increases. Babak discusses these joints statements in more detail in his report.

Finally, during the GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) transition, I and other DEOs had a chance to welcome new the new team to the office and discuss the GSA's active issues and strategic work plan goals with them.

At the end, as always, if you need more information or have any question 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 19 March 2018 and 16 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 March	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
22 March	Alumni Student Council Grants Adjudication
23 March	GSA Awards Night
27 March	Meeting re: Michener Park Transit Usage Survey Results
3 April	Council on Student Affairs (COSA)
6 April	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Meeting
9 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Communications Meeting
9 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
11 April	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Transition
13 April	Dean of Students' Portfolio End of Year Celebration

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope you are taking care of yourself in this continuing cold during the last month of the Winter term. Spring will be here soon!

New

Copyright Support – We had a meeting with Amanda Wakaruk, Copyright Librarian in U of A libraries. She deals with graduate students on a regular basis regarding thesis copyright and paper authorship. We discussed some of the issues with the current [Intellectual Property Guidelines](#) and the current language in the [FGSR Graduate Program Manual](#) around copyright, intellectual property, and authorship. It was noted during this meeting that these documents are somewhat outdated. Amanda Wakaruk will be meeting with the FGSR to discuss those documents, and we will also bring this issue forward to the new Vice-President Research, as this office co-signed the 2004 Intellectual Property Guidelines.

GSA Bylaw and Policy Revisions – The proposed changes to GSA Bylaw Policy that I presented during the March 2018 GSA Council meeting have been reviewed by the GSA's lawyers. The next step will be to submit the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Board to ensure the changes would be in compliance with their regulations. The GSA Governance Committee will also be meeting in April to review the proposed changes before they come to the GSA Board for review and, ultimately, to GSA Council for approval.

Negotiations – As is outlined in the GSA Negotiating Committee report, we have reached an agreement on the language proportion of the Collective Agreement, however, the negotiations about remuneration are still ongoing.

Ongoing

Sexual Violence Prevention – The University has revised the organizing structure of this committee to ensure that higher-level administrators and important stakeholders are involved. What started as an initiative from the Dean of Students' Portfolio has now reached a University-wide platform. Although this is a positive change, it is also anticipated that the implementation of the initial recommendations will take more time.

Meetings with Graduate Students – We are still working on several individual and joint cases, mostly related to supervisor-student relationships. In several cases I became aware of departments not being able to provide students with the documentation they signed, such as their offer of funding or assistantship appointments. Please let me know if you have found yourself in a similar situation, as this is an important issue that needs to be addressed.

Let me know if you have questions, and feel free to contact me at any time!

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between March 19, 2018 and April 16, 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

March 21	Days of Action Committee
March 22	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
March 22	Meeting with Graduate Students
March 22	Teleconference with Marlin Schmidt, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
March 23	Sexual Violence Presentation and Response Meeting
March 23	Signatures Areas Meeting
March 23	GSA Awards Night
March 28	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
March 29	Meeting with a Graduate Student
March 29	GSA Coffee Break
April 3	Meeting with Amanda Wakaruk, Copyright Librarian
April 3	Meeting with Richard Kanyo, President of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA)
April 3	Meeting with a Graduate Student
April 3	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
April 4	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
April 5	Suicide Prevention Implementation Committee
April 6	Meeting with a Graduate Student
April 10	Meeting with Graduate Students
April 10	Meeting with a Graduate Student
April 10	Student Homelessness Support Working Group
April 11	GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) Transition
April 11	Faculty of Graduate Students and Research (FGSR) Council
April 11	Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Finals
April 12	Meeting with Heather Zwicker, Vice-Provost and Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
April 12	Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security Working Group Initial Meeting
April 13	Dean of Students' Portfolio End of Year Celebration
April 16	Meeting with Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

**GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Negotiating Committee's (GSA NC) met with the University's Negotiating Team on 22 March and on 3 April 2018.

The University's Negotiating Team and the GSA NC finalized all discussion around language and we agreed on changes related to union dues, selection criteria and advertising, grievances, termination, and leaves.

The GSA NC will continue to meet with the University's Negotiating Team to further discuss our proposal for increases to stipend rates in the incoming weeks.

Sincerely,
Sasha van der Klein, Chair of the GSA Negotiating Committee and GSA Vice-President Labour

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Royle Feng
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Time flies! My journey with the GSA will be over soon. At the end of my term (although I will report once more, in May, to you), I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you. Thank you for your trust, understanding and support. I will keep this valuable memory of serving our graduate students in mind forever! Last month, I was mainly involved in the following activities:

I attended the University Research Policy Committee (URPC) meeting on behalf of Firouz while he was on leave. During this meeting, the U of A Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) introduced the current situation of deferred maintenance. Due to the fact that most buildings on campus were finished between 1950-1975, the University is facing urgent and serious maintenance in several buildings. However, government funding for deferred maintenance projects for post-secondary institutions decreased this year and the current university budget is unable to cover the full costs. As a result, the University will now work to raise money from other resources in order to provide student, faculty, and staff with a high-quality campus.

Regarding the PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee meeting, firstly, with respect to the renovation of the PAW change rooms, it was noted that the University was working on a funding structure that would work for all stakeholders. It was also noted that during Pride Week, one of the team rooms was used as a gender-neutral change room, and that the Fitness and Lifestyle Coordinator would contact facility services to inquire about statistics on the number of students that used this space during Pride Week.

The United Way Campaign Committee has started its 2018-2019 campaign planning. Next year, the committee is also planning for ambassadors to play an important role during campaign. Any student, staff, or faculty member will be able to be trained by the committee to be ambassador to help to call on the public for donations. I highlighted during the meeting that due to recent increases in international tuition and residence rates, graduate students may feel uncomfortable if they are asked to donate. Based on the points that I raised, this committee will discuss in the upcoming year whether the United Way can provide funding and supports to graduate students through the donations they collect.

Regarding the Coalition for Action on High Risk Drinking meeting, that I attended, participants discuss the cannabis town hall and survey that were developed to collect questions and concerns from students, staff and faculty. Additionally, I was involved this past month in two webinars regarding cannabis legalization, which was an absolutely new experience for me and I learned a lot. Finally, congratulations to those who received a Graduate Student Teaching Award from the FGSR. The GSA Awards Night was also an amazing event. Congratulations to all of these award recipients.

At last, being engaged in the GSA was the best decision I ever made last year! Thank you to the GSA management team and all my beloved colleagues!

Thank you!

Best regards,

Royle

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between March 19 2018 and 16 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

20 March	Landscape of Cannabis Legislation Webinar
20 March	Coalition for Action on High Risk Drinking (CAHRD) Meeting
21 March	"Is There a Roadmap to the Campus Cannabis Policy?" Webinar
22 March	Phone Call with Robyn Paches, SU Vice-President Operations and Finance
23 March	University Relations Policy Committee (URPC)
23 March	GSA Awards Night
26 March	PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
27 March	Meeting re: Michener Park Transit Usage Survey Results
27 March	United Way Committee Meeting
27 March	Faculty of Graduate Studies Research (FGSR) Graduate Student Teaching Awards
28 March	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
29 March	GSA Coffee Break
5 April	General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee Subcommittee on Standards (GFC ASC SoS)
5 April	Centre LRT Study Town Hall
11 April	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Transition

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA NoC this month is a summary of discussions/decisions the Committee 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 of the GSA NoC

GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election

1) GSA Councillor-at-Large (4 Graduate Student Positions)

Following the 2018 GSA General Election, four (4) out of ten (10) Councillor-at-Large positions remained vacant. As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Council fills any remaining positions from nominations forwarded by the GSA NoC (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3). These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletters of 23 March, 30 March, and 6 April 2018 with a nomination deadline of 10 April 2018. Three (3) nominations were received. **See Item 7 – Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election.**

GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding this position was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 10 April 2018. No nominations were received, so this vacancy will be advertised again.

3) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (2 GSA Council Members)

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Council members was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 10 April 2018. No nominations were received, so these vacancies will be advertised again.

4) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair (1 member of GSA ACB)

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "GSA Council will elect one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Chair and one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Vice-Chair on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC), for a term of office, also recommended by the GSA NoC, not to exceed two (2) years. Members may stand for re-election as Chair or Vice-Chair" (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.8.3). Members of GSA ACB were informed of this vacancy via email on 5 April 2018 and were invited to submit nominations by 11 April 2018. One (1) nomination was received. There will be a paper ballot vote at the April GSA Council meeting. **See Item 7a – Nominee for GSA ACB Chair.**

5) Joint Position on GSA Board (GSAB) and GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (1 GSA Council Member)

Information regarding this joint position for one (1) GSA Council member was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 16 January 2018. No nominations were received, so this joint position will be advertised again.

External Committees

1) General Faculties Council (GFC) (5 Graduate Student Positions)

The five (5) remaining vacant positions for the 2018-2019 term on GFC were advertised in the GSA newsletters of 2 and 9 March 2018 with a nomination deadline of 14 March 2018. Five (5) nominations were received. **Natalie Diether (AFNS), Carmel Montgomery (Medicine), Samina Sana (Public Health), Allan Wu (Physiology), and Ding Xu (Political Science)** were elected to serve on GFC.

2) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Academic Appeals Committee (3 FGSR Council Member Positions)

These positions were advertised to the graduate student members of FGSR Council via email on 6 and 12 March 2018 with a nomination deadline of 16 March 2018. Three (3) nominations were received. **Khushmit Kaur (Internetworking), Kerolous Messeha (Medicine), and Adan Wang (Electrical and Computer Engineering)** were elected to serve on the FGSR Academic Appeals Committee.

3) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) PhD Employment Preparedness and Outcomes Study Advisory Group (3 FGSR Council Member Positions)

These positions were advertised to the graduate student members of FGSR Council via email on 29 March 2018 with a nomination deadline of 3 April 2018. Two (2) nominations were received. **Mostafa Tawfeek (Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Saleema Allana (Nursing)** were elected to serve on the FGSR PhD Employment Preparedness and Outcomes Study Advisory Group.

Current Vacancies

1) GSA Senator (1 Graduate Student Position)

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "nominations for Senator will open on or about April 1 of every year or on another date set by the GSA NoC in order to ensure that the position of Senator is continuously filled. The nomination period will normally be one (1) month." (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.a). This position was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 April with a nomination deadline of 9 May 2018.

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA ERC met on March 27 and April 10 to debrief the 2018 GSA General Election. The main topics discussed during these meetings included access to public resources for the purposes of campaigning, the use of moderated mailing lists, slates, the possibility for candidates to share the voting link, the matter of CRO directives during the course of elections, and the process and requirements for candidates to bring forward formal complaints. The GSA ERC will also discuss proposed changes to GSA Election Bylaw and Policy in the coming months.

I am happy to answer any questions.

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

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 16 April 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 13 April 2018

Dear all,

Firstly, as some of you may know, Heather will be retiring from the GSA at the end of this month (although she will, thankfully, remain accessible in a consulting capacity). Heather was a huge part of the GSA's rebuilding effort several years ago and has made important and much appreciated contributions to the organization in her time here. I like to extend my deepest thanks to her for her service.

Secondly, the GSA's new fiscal year has now begun (and we are preparing for our annual audit). For your information, the table below lists the GSA's key corporate docs, which define us as a corporate entity.

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

Best,
Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
<i>Agreements with Expiry Dates</i>		
Campus Food Bank	Regulates GSA involvement with Food Bank.	GSA gives \$12,000/annum to Campus Food Bank (increased from \$9,000 in 2018-2019 budget). MoU expired April 30, 2015. For 2016-2017, GSAB decided on four payments of \$2500 over 2016-2017. For 2017-2018, GSAB approved to send the full amount in April 2017. New agreement is set out annually in letters to the Campus Food Bank.
Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement	Sets out terms and conditions for graduate students serving as GTAs, GRAs, and GRAFs	Current agreement with the Board of Governors expires August 31, 2018.
Agreement re GSAP and GSSF	MoU that provides for funding allocations to the GSA for the GSSF	Normally negotiated concurrently with collective agreement negotiations
Collective Agreement with NASA covering office staff	Sets out terms of employment for GSA staff.	Renegotiated by the Executive Director and Director of Operations in April 2012 and 2015. Current agreement expires in 2020.
Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)	Provides for a wide range of personal counselling.	Referendum held; originally signed December 31, 2010 for a two-year period with the possibility of 4 two-

19.1

		year extensions; reviewed and re-signed in August 2013. Dependents added in December 2013. Current agreement expired December 31, 2014 but is described by Administration as a rolling plan. Reviewed annually with Administration.
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for Health and Dental Plan.	Provider changed in 2012. Re-signed in 2014. Current agreement expires August 31, 2020 (renegotiated agreement was signed in October 2014). Service levels, claims, etc are reviewed annually.
Liability Insurance	General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance.	Doubled our liability insurance in 2012. The GSA is not covered for alcohol use. Discussions in 2013-2014 and 2016-2017 with Administration and insurance experts surrounding the creation of an alcohol liability waiver for graduate student groups. Current General Liability insurance expires May 17, 2018.
North Power Plant and Dewey's	<p>2009 Memorandum of Agreement with the Students' Union regarding the operation of Dewey's.</p> <p>2010 Memorandum of Understanding with the U of A for use of North Power Plant Space for the Tory Building decant.</p> <p>1997 Memorandum of Agreement with the U of A guaranteeing graduate social space in North Power Plant or at another location; 2004 Letter of Confirmation on this MoU from the Dean of Students. The space includes the current sustainability offices.</p>	<p>Expired August 2012 - conversations about use of space are ongoing.</p> <p>No Expiration - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoA.</p> <p>No Expiration - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoA.</p>
Officers/Directors' Insurance	Covers elected officials and administrative/professional staff	Doubled coverage in 2013; switched brokers in 2016 and signed a new agreement. Current agreement expires January 28, 2019.
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance as well as some funding for GSA events.	Renewed in 2016 for a period of 5 years and with an increase in the sponsorship funds provided by TD. Current agreement expires September 16, 2021. Funding for the TD Student

19.2

		Service Award continues until 2021.
Triffo Hall Lease	Detailed lease covering Triffo Hall office space.	First-ever lease was signed in June 2011; 5-year term, four renewals (three now remaining). Re-signed in 2016 and current agreement expires May 30, 2021 (notification of desire to renew must be given 6-12 months before expiry).
U of A Financial Services	Stipulates when GSA receives membership fees collected by the U of A on our behalf.	Re-negotiated and signed in April 2012. Re-negotiated again in 2013 for the academic years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016. Re-negotiated again in 2016 for the academic years 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019. Current agreement expires April 30, 2019.
U-PASS Transit Agreement with the U of A	Governs U-PASS.	Referendum held in March 2013. New agreement signed in September 2013. Referendum for a new four-year agreement passed in March 2017. The current agreement (to be signed soon) will expire in 2021 when the U of A agreement with the municipalities expires.
Agreement with the transit providers	Governs U-PASS.	The University signs this agreement with the municipalities and the U of A and the GSA and SU then each sign a separate agreement. Current agreement expires in 2021.

AGREEMENTS WITH NO EXPIRY DATE (ONGOING)		
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council	Society under the <i>Societies Act</i> .	Registered in March 2015 along with U of C, U of L and AU GSAs. No expiration date; annual <i>Societies Act</i> filing required. (The former Alberta Graduate Council disbanded in 2013).
ATB Financial Banking	Operating account.	Reviewed with BMO in April 2012. Switched to ATB in May 2016 (as they also manage the GSA's investments). Ongoing with no expiry date. Signing authorities reviewed/updated annually.
ATB Financial Investments	GICs, investments.	Agreement was signed on April 11, 2016. Reviewed regularly.
Career Centre and Writing Resources	Provides for subsidy of certain Career	Annual subsidy of \$9,000. Reviewed

19.3

Centre Agreements	Centre and WRC courses for grad students.	annually.
Ceridian (Payroll)	GSA staff and elected officials are paid by direct deposit.	Outsourcing is cheaper/more efficient than in-house production of cheques. Agreement signed May 30, 2011. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Info Sharing with Studentcare and University	Allows Studentcare access to specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes regarding the GSA's Health and Dental Plan.	Reviewed with the U of A Privacy Officer and Studentcare in 2012 and new agreement signed on May 3, 2013. Ongoing with no expiry date; GSA to give notice of 6 months if wanting to terminate.
PAW Centre	Sets out terms of operation of PAW. SU also a signatory to the Agreement.	Referendum held, agreement signed in April 2012.
PAW Centre Leased Space	Sets out terms of rights and obligations of SU and GSA with respect to Leased Space in PAW.	Negotiated business terms with SU concerning the food vendor space (currently occupied by Chopped Leaf) – agreement signed in April 2017.
Personal Information Sharing Agreement with the U of A	Provides specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes, e.g. emailing the newsletter, elections.	Signed in May 2013. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Student Connect (Office of the Registrar)	Administers the GSA's Emergency Bursary program. GSA distributes funds.	2006 AEGS Memorandum of Settlement between GSA/BoG provides for establishment of emergency bursary program with terms of reference developed by GSA and "distributed through the University Bursary Program."
U of A Human Resources Direct Deposit	Provides for direct deposit through Bear Tracks of GSSF allocations to graduate students and T4A production by U of A.	Signed in 2012. Major infrastructure change from cheque processing by GSA. Ongoing with no expiry date.
U of A IST	Provides service, support, and regular review of the GSA's IT infrastructure.	Signed in June 2017. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Photocopier Lease with Xerox	Covers two photocopiers.	Original agreement expired March 31, 2018. Thereafter the agreement renews automatically on a yearly basis.

Other Corporate Documents		
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Audit (based on GSA Council-approved budget)	As a separate corporation from the University, we hire our own auditor. Requirement of the <i>Post-Secondary</i>	Audit occurs annually in May-June. Audit field workers are typically on-site in late May/early June.

19.4

	<i>Learning Act</i> to provide audited financial statements to the Board of Governors annually.	
GSA Council Bylaw and Policy	Enabled by the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> .	Comprehensive review began in 2013 and continues. Integrated document completed in October 2016.
Contract with ED/Letters of Appointment	Sets out terms of employment for administrative/professional staff.	The ED's contract and other standard appointment letters for administrative/professional staff have been reviewed by our lawyers.
Referenda Master File	All referenda questions that actively impact graduate students (eg UPASS, PAW Centre, GSAP, GSA Health and Dental Plan, etc).	Compiled and filed. Ongoing as referenda arise.

Management Report to the GSA Board, March 21, 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues in the past week since the last GSA Board meeting on March 14, 2018:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Planning for transition; work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes; second mailing of GSA Council for the March 19 meeting; final planning for GSA Awards Night; ab-GPAC blog post drafting; follow up from the March 19 GSA Council meeting; forward thinking concerning the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan; review of relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy following the 2018 GSA General Election, preparing for a new fiscal year and the annual audit; HR discussions; office refurbishment, meeting with FGSR and SU staff; AFNS GSA election.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Review of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy with respect to bargaining processes (being reviewed by the lawyers); developing a list of other proposed changes for future consideration.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations (fee collection survey, etc) and relationship maintenance with Student Group Services.

Grants and Office Operations

- Finalizing arrangements for GSA Awards Night.
- Preparing for a new grants fiscal year.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the CRO and DRO.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (departmental GSA elections; GSA ACB and GSA GC vacancies; CAL election in GSA Council).
- Minor content repairs to the Sitecore 3 website.
- Facebook = 1,114 likes (up 4 from March 14); Facebook posts reached 1,221 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 343. Twitter = 842 followers (up 3 from March 14); our tweets earned 4,800 “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
ATA	\$93,654.56	\$28,526.64	22	140 (22 pending processing)
CCG	\$57,417.48	\$23,417.48 CLOSED	0	23 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	\$9,787.07	\$0 CLOSED	0	11 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$133,952.00 (no periods)	\$21,501.00	0	32 (0 pending processing)

Management Report to the GSA Board, March 28, 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues in the past week since the last GSA Board meeting on March 28, 2018:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Planning for transition; work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes; forward thinking concerning the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and preparing a final update to GSA Council on the Board SWP for 2017-2018; review of relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy following the 2018 GSA General Election; researching elections processes at other Canadian post-secondary students' associations; providing support for a meeting of the GSA ERC; preparing for a new fiscal year and the annual audit; HR discussions; office refurbishment.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Review of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy with respect to bargaining processes (being reviewed by the lawyers and response expected in the next week); updating the low income cut off noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA CCGs; developing a list of other proposed changes for future consideration.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations (fee collection survey, discussion of next steps, etc) and relationship maintenance with Student Group Services.

Grants and Office Operations

- GSA Awards Night.
- Preparing for a new grants fiscal year.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (election for the FGSR Academic Appeals Committee; GSA ACB and GSA GC vacancies; CAL election in GSA Council).
- Minor content repairs to the Sitecore 3 website.
- Facebook = 1,115 likes (up 1 from March 21); Facebook posts reached 813 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 230. Twitter = 845 followers (up 3 from March 21); our tweets earned 1,700 "impressions" over the last week.
- GSA ATAs = new funding period starts April 1 with \$133,535.15 available.
- GSA CCGs = new funding period starts April 1 with \$132,943.41 available.
- GSA EBs = new funding period starts April 1 with \$146,116.00 available.
- GSA ASGAs = new funding period starts April 1 with \$6,863.22 available.

Management Report to the GSA Board, April 4, 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues in the past week since the last GSA Board meeting on March 28, 2018:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Planning for transition; work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes; forward thinking concerning the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and preparing a final update to GSA Council on the Board SWP for 2017-2018; ongoing review of relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy following the 2018 GSA General Election and providing support for a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee; preparing for the first mailing of GSA Council in advance of the 16 April 2018 meeting; researching international tuition policies and the provision of guaranteed funding packages at other institutions; researching elections processes at other Canadian post-secondary students' associations; preparing for the annual audit; HR discussions; office refurbishment.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Review of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy with respect to bargaining processes (being reviewed by the lawyers and response expected in the next week); developing a list of other proposed changes for future consideration.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations (fee collection survey and discussion of next steps, etc) and relationship maintenance with Student Group Services.

Grants and Office Operations

- Opening a new grants fiscal year (GSA Child Care Grants have already been closed).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (election for the a FGSR Working Group on PhD Employment Preparedness; GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Governance Committee, and GSA Board vacancies; Councillor-at-Large election in GSA Council).
- Minor content repairs to the Sitecore 3 website.
- Facebook = 1,131 likes (up 16 from March 28); Facebook posts reached 3,696 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 1,537. Twitter = 844 followers (down 1 from March 28); our tweets earned 2,781 "impressions" over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Awards = new funding period started April 1.
- GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started April 1 and closed later the same day.
- GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding period started April 1.
- GSA Academically-Related Student Group Awards = new funding period started April 1.