

GSA Council Meeting - List of Reports Circulated
Monday, 19 August 2019
Cancelled

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9. Chief Returning Officer (Amritha Prasad, Chief Returning Officer)	
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (no written report at this time)	
10. GSA Nominating Committee (Radim Barta, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)	
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12. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)	
i. Executive Director's Report	12.0 - 12.4

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 15 July 2019 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Fahed Elian (President)	Allan Yarahmady (Biochemistry)	Olivia Cornwall (History & Classics)	Matthew Benson (Ophthalmology)
Dylan Ashley (VP Academic)	Jessica Grenke (Biological Science)	Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)	Khushmol Dhaliwal (Paediatrics)
Marc Waddingham (VP External)	Ashmita De (Biomedical Engineering)	Julienne Cancio (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation)	Nicholas Ruel (Pharmacology)
Shanawaz Mohammad (VP Labour)	Damandeep Singh (Business MBA)	Anusha Sajja (Lab Medicine & Pathology)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Chantal Labonté (VP Student Services)	Ke Feng (Business PhD)	Julia Guy (Library & Information Studies)	Robert Reklow (Physiology)
Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)	Brett Roughead (Cell Biology)	Lex Giesbrecht (Linguistics)	Jessica Luki (Psychiatry)
Amritha Prasad (Chief Returning Officer)	Nagesh Pai (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Michelle Michelle (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	William Service; Lane Liddle (Psychology)
Alesha Reed (Senator)	Alvaro Omaña (Chemistry)	Milad Rezvani Rad (Mechanical Engineering)	Misha Miazga-Rodriguez (Public Health)
Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (Councillor-at-Large)	Lindsay Moore (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Kevin Joannou (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Carlee Wilson (Rehabilitation Science)
Md Minhajul Islam (Councillor-at-Large)	Christoph Sydora; Calvin Eng (Computing Science)	Nathan Nadolski (Medical Genetics)	Lea Lavy (Religious Studies)
Braulio Marfil Garza (Councillor-at-Large)	Julie Piche (Dentistry)	Brendan Todd (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Laura Bony (Renewable Resources)
Osama Mohsen (Councillor-at-Large)	Cate Peter (Digital Humanities)	Sabitha Rajaruban (Medicine)	Yunxuan Chen (Resources Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Ronan Noble (Councillor-at-Large)	Alex Sheen (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)	Amber Peters (Modern Languages & Cultural Studies)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Kanishk Patel (Councillor-at-Large)	Alexandra San Diego (East Asian Studies)	Subash Giri (Music)	Ashley Kyle (Sociology)
Konstantin Tebenev (Councillor-at-Large)	Jingyang Gao (Educational Psychology)	Rebecca Long (Neuroscience)	Jon Mora (Surgery)
Brasathe Jeganathan (Ag, Food & Nutritional Science)	Mohammad Daryaei (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Jennifer Stevenson (Nursing)	
Jacqueline Green (Anthropology)	Krista Coté (English & Film Studies)	Braden Chow (Oncology)	

Guests: Michael Phair (U of A Board of Governors Chair); Sheri Somerville (Board of Governors member and Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee Chair); Mary Pat Barry (Board of Governors member, Board Governance Committee Vice-Chair, and Board of Governors Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee Vice-Chair); Matthew Barnett (Non-Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors); Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience); Siddharth Singh (Mechanical Engineering); Pardeep Kumar (Mechanical Engineering); Britt Fedor (Neuroscience); Sushmitha Thirumalaivasan (Chemical & Materials Engineering); Saurabh Meena (Mechanical Engineering); Palak Jain (Mechanical Engineering).

Speaker Praniidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 15 July 2019 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 15 July 2019 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. F Elian **MOVED**; D Ashley **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes from the 17 June 2019 GSA Council meeting

Members had before them the 17 June 2019 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 5 July 2019. S Mohammad **MOVED**; C Labonté **SECONDED**. Physiology abstained.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members

New GSA Councillors J Cancio (Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation), C Wilson (Rehabilitation Science), C Baaklini (Neuroscience), B Fedor (Neuroscience), N Al-Zanoon (Rehabilitation Science), A Norouzi Yengeje (Councillor-at-Large), and A E Peters (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies) introduced themselves.

ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members

This was the last meeting R Long (Neuroscience).

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

None.

Action Items:

5. 2018-2019 GSA Audited Financial Statements

Fahed Elian (President) presented the item and introduced the guest, Tom Gee, GSA Auditor (MBA, FCA, RSM Canada).

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2018-2019 GSA Audited Financial Statements.

T Gee first noted the transition of his firm from Collins Barrow to RSM Canada, an international firm with only a recent presence in Canada. He then highlighted some of the main points in the audit. He noted that the GSA's current ratio between assets and liabilities was 2.69:1 and that, generally, a non-profit organization should see a ratio of at least 2:1 to ensure that the organization had enough resources to cover any liabilities. He reminded GSA Council that, several years ago, the GSA's finances were not in good condition, whereas today the GSA's financial position was strong. He also noted an operations surplus of \$491,676, increased from \$386,744 in 2018. This surplus was an indication that the GSA would have resources to continue operating for some time, even in the case of expected legislative changes to introduce voluntary student unionism in Alberta. T Gee concluded that the GSA was in very good standing from a financial perspective.

GSA Councillors posed a number of questions, including whether there was any requirement for not-for profit organizations to to expand surpluses before the end of the fiscal year (no specific requirements on what to do with surpluses other than that there should some long-term plan for their use; the GSA, following approval by the GSA BFC, typically transferred surpluses to various reserve funds (Financial Stabilization Fund, Legal Defence Fund, etc), and whether possible provincial budget cuts to education would impact the GSA (it was noted that the GSA didn't receive revenue directly from the government however a significant potential budgetary risk for the GSA would be the introduction of voluntary student unionism, similar to what happened in Ontario).

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2018-2019 GSA Audited Financial Statements. F Elian **MOVED**; J Lai **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. A Yarahmady Abstained.

6. 2019-2020 GSA Spring/Summer Term Budget and Expenditure Report

Fahed Elian (President) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2019-2020 Spring/Summer Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

F Elian noted that the GSA was on track overall and in good financial health. It was asked what explained the decrease in revenue associated with ad sales in the GSA Planner and if this was expected to be a long-term trend. CT noted that this decrease was not due to any specific long-term trend, but that a few offices that had advertised in the GSA Planner in the past had some budgetary constraints and she added that this lower revenue would be accounted for when building next year's budget.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2019-2020 Spring/Summer Term Budget and Expenditure Report. L Moore **MOVED**; M Miazga-Rodriguez **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Presentations

7. Board of Governors Presentation

Fahed Elian (President) presented the item and introduced the guests, Michael Phair (U of A Board of Governors Chair), Sheri Somerville (Board of Governors Reputation and Public Affairs Committee), Mary Pat Barry (Board of Governors Governance Committee Vice-Chair and Board of Governors Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee Vice-Chair), Matthew Barnett (Non-Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors).

F Elian indicated that he had invited the Board of Governors (BoG) Chair, M Phair, along with other members of the BoG, to hear feedback and questions from GSA Council members in relation to the GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan. He emphasized that though the formal vote for GSA Council to receive the 2019-2020 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan for information would occur later in the meeting, a confidential advanced draft of this document was sent to the BoG members in attendance. F Elian provided GSA Council members with an overview of the BoG's overall mandate and voting membership, and then provided some brief background on the BoG members in attendance, along with an overview of the various BoG Standing Committees they served on.

M Phair thanked F Elian for the invitation to attend GSA Council, and outlined the membership and terms of office for BoG members (21 total members, with 15 public members appointed by the provincial government, and with terms normally lasting for three years with the possibility of renewal, with the exception of the student representatives). He noted that one of the major tasks of the BoG was to select and evaluate the President. He further reported that, as D Turpin was leaving in a year, they had started the selection process for a new President. M Phair noted that he chaired this selection committee, and that the GSA President was also a member of this committee, along with representatives from across the University. He reported they anticipated having a new President selected by February or March 2020, but that it would be a lengthy process conducted with the support of an executive recruitment firm. He indicated that the selection committee was interested in hearing input on what the University community was looking for in the next President. He discussed the recent change in the provincial government, and indicated that the province had mandated that all post-secondary institutions establish free speech policies that followed the Chicago Principles. He also noted that senior administration was awaiting the new provincial budget and its impact on the University's budget. Furthermore, he noted that the upcoming federal election could impact the U of A, as they received a significant research funding from the federal government. M Phair reported that the BoG was preparing a letter to every federal candidate in the Edmonton area and across the province to emphasize the importance of continuing federal funding to support research and innovation.

GSA Council members posed a series of questions and comments including, but not limited to:

The fact that many graduate students experience bullying, discrimination, and harassment, which contributed to poor mental health and wellbeing, and that other students experienced issues such as homelessness, and food insecurity, and it was asked how the University could better support graduate students experiencing these issues. In response, it was noted that the University had done a lot of work to increase security on campus, and that the provision of housing was more challenging as the University did not receive any government funding for housing. These costs had to be fully covered by rental rates, and there were challenges with the competing private rental market; it was also noted that the BoG discussed student wellbeing at-length, including issues of student mental health, safety, and accessibility, and that there was a commitment within the University to address these issues; and M Phair indicated that the University currently received a grant to support mental wellness from the provincial government, and that he was unsure if this funding would be continued).

That the upcoming closure of Michener Park would be a financial burden for residents and a stressor for residents who would lose their community, and it was asked what strategies were developed to support students affected by the closure. lin

response, it was noted that the closure resulted from the end of the effective life of the buildings. It was also noted that A Sherman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) was currently working on the transition and that BoG members would ask his office to report on the tangible plans to support current residents moving forward. It was further noted that BoG members were aware that the many of the residents had additional challenges with having families and being international students without accessible family supports.

Given the upcoming closure of Michener Park, whether the University had any strategies for supporting students who are parents, or plans to provide replacement housing for those affected by the Michener Park closure. In response, it was noted that members were aware that the daycares on campus were oversubscribed and that finding affordable childcare was challenging across the city and a key element in broader efforts to eliminate poverty; and it was noted that increasing the number of facilities and spaces across the city was long overdue.

It was asked whether the University was taking any action to push for wage increases of the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP) positions and for an increase to the number of positions available. In response, it was noted that the current provincial government expressed the importance of increasing the number of international students within the post-secondary system, and that this had the potential to open additional government funding in this area.

At the June meeting of GSA Council there was extensive discussion about the prevalence of student-supervisor issues, and it was asked how the University planned to work to improve the quality of graduate student-supervisory relationships and to make quality supervision an institutional priority. In response, it was noted that the BoG had discussed this issue many times and that one of the recommendations they had made was to provide mandatory training for supervisors, given the impact these relationships could have on the mental and emotional health of graduate students. The need for better reporting systems was also discussed and it was noted that it would be important to raise the need to have this as an institutional priority for University President candidates.

The fact that the University frequently brought up mental health, which was contradicted by actions taken by senior administration, such as the University trying to evict a student from residences for self-harm and attempted suicide, and it was asked what the University was actually doing for mental health. In response, it was noted that the Alumni Association had introduced a pilot program called the Alumni Student Support and Engagement Team (ASSET) through which alumni had the opportunity to assist students with regards to their mental wellness. It was also noted that while the University did provide a certain amount of mental health services on campus, these needs to be coordinated with services provided in the City, as outlined through provincial guidelines. It was further indicated that the province had also recently created an Associate Minister for Mental Health and Addictions and it was the BoG's understanding that they would be looking at how to support those in the 16 – 25 age group. It was also emphasized that the University was aware that the need for mental health supports was greater than the current resources, and that the University needed to be innovative in approaching mental health and wellness, and that students were best suited to advise the University on how to best intervene.

Whether, in building a profile for the next University President, it emphasized the need for a commitment to mental health. In response, it was noted that they were currently in the process of developing a profile, and that this suggestion could be brought to the Presidential Search Committee as they worked to create the profile.

Given that deferred maintenance had been identified as a critical issue facing the University in recent years, and given more stringent budgeting, it was asked how the University community could work to maintain and restore ageing infrastructure. In response, it was noted that the BoG had identified deferred maintenance as a major issue, and they were pushing hard at the provincial and federal levels for funding. It was further noted that deferred maintenance could not be addressed with the provincial grant received for the provision of educational services and that in.

Given the high costs associated with pursuing a graduate education and the 0% stipend the University offered during the current round of collective bargaining, it was asked whether the University was concerned about its ability to attract top-tier graduate students and how the University planned to better support current students who were struggling financially. In response, it was noted that, when compared to other Canadian provinces, the province of Alberta put the least amount of money into scholarships, that this had been frequently raised as an issue with the province, and that, when it came to soliciting private donations for students, personal stories could help with these efforts.

Frustration was expressed about the frequency with which advocacy work was passed onto graduate students, when it should be the University's responsibility to advocate for higher provincial funding. In response, it was noted that the University had done some advocacy work on this topic but that personal stories could generate emotional connection from the general public

and hence increase funding from the province; it was stated that the University would continue these advocacy efforts but it was highlighted that more groups asking for increase funding could help reach the government.

It was asked if there was a way to provide feedback to the University and for the Presidential search and, in response, GSA Council members discussed the importance of informing graduate students about the work of the Presidential Search Committee and ways in which they could offer their opinions, as well as the challenges associated with communicating with the entire University community and getting people engaged.

Given that mental health issues could be affected by factors such as overwhelming workloads, inability to eat properly, access to proper housing and food, and having limited time to reach out, what were the mental health initiatives that took into account preventative measures. In response, it was noted that BoG members were hoping to see more technology-supported mental health services introduced to compliment one-on-one services, and that the city was exploring innovative supports for mental health services. The importance of having access to supportive networks was also discussed, along with the fact that broader discussions around these topics also had to happen within the community.

Finally, it was asked whether the University was working to identify why its rankings on post-secondary institution lists had fallen. In response, it was noted that there were a number of different ranking systems, and that their statistics indicated that the U of A was the top-ranked University in Canada for the number of graduates who found employment within five years of graduation. It was also noted that these rankings were impacted by the fact that there were strong universities emerging in other parts of the world outside of North America.

M Barnett indicated that, as a University administrator who had worked almost exclusively with graduate students for the past eight years, he was aware of issues that graduate students were dealing with on a daily basis, including challenging financial situations and student-supervisor conflicts. He spoke about the importance of getting involved in University consultation sessions, given that the BoG had seen low student engagement in previous consultation sessions, such as the consultations related to Michener Park and housing for students who parent, and emphasized the importance of strategizing on how to get the graduate student voice heard. He discussed the work of the GSA to advocate for minimum funding packages for PhD students, and acknowledged that graduate students' work was essential to the University's mandate.

F Elian indicated that once the Presidential Search Committee had developed its portal to collect feedback from the University community, they would advertise this resource to GSA Council members and graduate students.

Action Items:

8. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan – 2019 – 2020

Fahed Elian (President) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA Board 2019-2020 Strategic Work Plan.

F Elian, GSA President, presented the GSA Board 2019-2020 Strategic Work Plan (SWP), which, as in the previous year, appeared in two formats: an outward-facing document and an internal task list, both of which were circulated in hard copy to GSA Council members in attendance. He noted that this year's main priorities had been grouped into the three categories of "Connect," "Support," and "Advocate."

The main audience for the outward facing document was the broader U of A community, such as the U of A President, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), members of the BoG, etc. Given this audience, the outward facing document was shorter and visually attractive in order to make it more engaging and more in line with best practices concerning strategic work plan design/presentation. Last year, this new design and format was well received by external stakeholders.

He further indicated that the internal task list was seen as a living document that would constantly evolve as the GSA President and the Vice-Presidents strategized about issues and approaches and as goals were realized or otherwise addressed. The internal document would not be shared publicly on the GSA website as this was an internal document with confidential, detailed information. He also added that each Directly-Elected Officer (DEOs) had their own working version of this internal task list, which included their specific plans for trying to move goal forward.

Following GSA Council's receipt of this plan for information, F Elian outlined that the outward facing document would be circulated to external stakeholders and that the DEOs would begin meeting with key stakeholders to discuss elements of this plan. He added that updates on the SWP progress would be brought forward to GSA Council in October, January, and April.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA Board 2019-2020 Strategic Work Plan. F Elian **MOVED**; D Singh **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Elections

9. GSA Council Elections

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large (CAL) (1 vacancy):

Claudia Holody (Pediatrics)
Sushmitha Thirumalaivasan (Chemical and Materials Engineering)
Muhammad Zubair (Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science)

Radim Barta (GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) Chair) presented the item, introduced the nominees, and asked them the following question: taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you'd like to serve as a GSA CAL.

Nominees for GSA Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) (1 vacancy):

Reza Azadi (Mechanical Engineering)

Radim Barta (GSA NoC Chair) presented the item and introduced the nominee. He reminded GSA Council members that the nominee would be invited to answer a series of questions from GSA Council, with himself asking the first question as a GSA NoC Chair, and then opening the floor to GSA Councillors for their questions. He asked that GSA Council members keep their questions relevant to the position, and noted that the nominee would be given up to a maximum of five minutes to answer questions. R Barta introduced the nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council and answer questions from GSA Council members.

Nominees for GSA Board (GSAB) (2 vacancies):

Damandeep Singh (Business MBA)
Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)

Not all nominees for the GSAB positions were in attendance and, as such, none were invited to address GSA Council.

Reports

10. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition F Elian highlighted that the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) strategic work plan which had been developed during their recent retreat with himself and M Waddingham in attendance. He noted that two items identified as priorities were: scholarships and internships for graduate students, and express permanent residency entry for graduate students. He added that during the recent student leader orientation meeting with the provincial government, issues such as mental health funding, scholarships and internships, and next steps for red tape reduction were discussed. Lastly, F Elian added that he had established contact with the office of the mayor and that he hoped to foster collaboration, especially as they pertain to low income housing and mental health funding, between the GSA and the City of Edmonton.

GSA Council members posed a number of questions including, but not limited to, the implementation of Smart Fare (F Elian and C Labonté noted that this was a very slow process and the University and other post-secondary institutions had received little communication from Edmonton Transit Services, but that a pilot program was expected to launch in September 2020), and what the position of the GSA was in advocating for immigration opportunities for graduate students and PhD students in particular (F Elian noted that it was a priority to advocate for immigration avenues for graduate students and that the topic was well-received by D Nicolaidis, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education as well as J Copping, Alberta Minister of Labour and Immigration).

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No written report at this time.

11. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition D Ashley noted that B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the FGSR, had recently begun her term and encouraged members to say hello when they see her.

A GSA Council member raised a concern regarding plans to address deferred maintenance on the Gunning/Lemieux Chemistry Centre (D Ashley noted that deferred maintenance was a widespread concern and that it was a University priority to find ways to tackle it).

12. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Waddingham highlighted the work of the Freedom of Expression Advisory Group, which was planning to lead consultations with students, and the discussion at the student leader orientation with the provincial government where the government expressed their desire to reduce regulations and rules that made the student experience more cumbersome. He added that, as mentioned by F Elian, ab-GPAC priorities were advocacy to streamline Permanent Residency processes for international students as well as scholarships and internships for all students, including international ones. He also noted that his report included the June communiqué from ab-GPAC, and that the latter included a call for volunteers to join policy writing groups.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted.

iii. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted.

13. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition S Mohammad informed members of new GSA labour handbills intended to reach out to academically-employed graduate students, and encouraged members to take some on their way out to distribute in their department.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No written report at this time.

14. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Labonté informed members that she and F Elian had met with the FGSR Office of Advancement to discuss fundraising priorities including mental health, professional development, and interdisciplinary collaboration. In their discussion, C Labonté suggested that they considered support for graduate students who parent and for graduate students affected by the Michener Park residence closure. She also noted that she had joined the University Leadership Network, and she encouraged members to inform her of any leadership opportunities they were aware of.

GSA Council members posed a number of questions regarding the GSA Health and Dental Plan including, but not limited to, if there was a possibility to augment the dental coverage, in particular for more dental care services than simply regular cleaning (C Labonté noted that she would raise that with Studentcare) and whether there was a possibility that the vision care could be

made more comprehensive (C Labonté indicated that she could look into how this might impact the cost of the overall plan).

15. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

16. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

17. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report at this time.

18. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition R Barta stressed the importance of GSA Councillor positions on the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee, both of which worked primarily via email, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, which meets regularly in person. He encouraged members to consider these opportunities as a great way to bolster professional resumes as well as to get engaged with the greater University community. He further encouraged members to contact him directly at radim@ualberta.ca with any questions.

GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

No written report at this time.

19. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 July 2019. The report stood as submitted.

Question Period

20. Written Questions

None.

21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Fahed Elian
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope, regardless of this unpredictable summer weather, you still had time to re-charge and de-stress from the last academic year. A couple of weeks are left before a new academic year starts, so enjoy them, take it easy, and I hope you are looking forward for the upcoming year.

This last month, my team and I finalized the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) priorities for 2019-2020. The GSA SWP was shared with stakeholders on and off-campus. The next months will include plenty of meetings with stakeholders to further discuss the GSA SWP and how the GSA can work collaboratively with others to address our priorities. My team and I started acting on the SWP goals immediately after it was finalized in July, and in the following report, I will share with you highlights of my advocacy work from this last month.

Student-Supervisor Relationships

Negative student-supervisor relationships are an obstacle and a barrier to graduate students' success. I personally had a rough experience during my MSc degree here at the University of Alberta. This experience required me to switch labs and supervisors to do my PhD. Consequently, I lost the privilege to transfer directly from MSc to PhD, which will thus make my time in graduate school longer. I always thought that was just a personal experience, but during my campaigns when I ran in GSA elections, I noticed that this issue extends way beyond my personal experience. Moreover, when my team and I had our SWP consultation with GSA Council members at the June meeting, the one common concern that almost every group shared was negative student-supervisor relationships and their consequences.

I immediately knew this is one of the main priorities for my advocacy this year, though it has been a priority for the GSA for years. I invited members of the Board of Governors (BoG) to the July GSA council meeting to listen to our members' concerns. Student-supervisor relationships, the Michener Park closure, and the need for increased financial support (scholarships and stipends), amongst others, were highlighted as some issues of concern. On that note, I would like to thank the BoG Chair, Michael Phair and BoG members who attended our Council meeting to listen to GSA Council members' concerns.

Following the July Council meeting, I had a chance to continue discussion on student-supervisory relationships separately with three BoG members, Lynne Paradis, Sheri Somerville, and Mary Pat Barry. The outcomes of these meeting are that student-supervisor relationships will be a standing item on the agendas of the Board Governance Committee (BGC) and Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC). BLRSEC is chaired by Lynne Paradis and co-chaired by Mary Pat Barry, and will be reporting to the BoG on this item and will be discussing strategies and actions that could be used by senior administration to tackle this issue. This year, I am also a member of BLRSEC.

Additionally, student-supervisor relationships will be an item on the first meeting agenda of the Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee that is chaired by Sheri Somerville, where negative student-supervisor relationships as a potential reputational risk for the University for Alberta will be discussed. Marc, as GSA Vice-President External, is serving as a delegate for me on this committee.

I am also working on this concern closely with the new Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and I will be reporting on this issue to GSA Council whenever there are new updates. Additionally, given the changes to the BoG Chair and new BoG members that the government announced [today](#), I will build relationships with these new members and continue to make sure these issues stay at the forefront during this transition.

Meeting with Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Advanced Education

Last month, and as outlined in his report, Marc and I had a couple of meetings with the Minister of Advanced Education. In the first meeting we were representing the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). We attended this meeting with Kostya Tebenev, who is the third U of A GSA representative on ab-GPAC, and the ab-GPAC Treasurer. At this meeting, we discussed graduate student scholarships, professional development and funding, permanent residency for international students, and employability.

Marc and I had another meeting with the Minister as U of A GSA representatives. We again addressed the importance of education funding, and how budget announcement delays could potentially negatively impact graduate students' provincial scholarships. Moreover, we addressed the value of improving the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP) to consider international graduate students as skilled candidates for provincial express entry and nomination. Since our meeting, I have also contacted the Minister to get updates on the current status of graduate students' scholarships, specifically the QEII scholarships. I am also connecting with the FGSR on this issue (more on that below) and will report further when I have more information.

As an additional follow-up to this meeting, Marc and I will develop a proposal addressing the need for and benefit of having a provincial express entry stream for international graduate students that will be submitted to the Minister by September. I also shared with the Minister the idea of having a provincial student council that can be consulted on proposals that directly impact post-secondary students in the province. I will develop a one-page proposal for the Minister on this suggestion to be submitted to his office by September.

Meeting with Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR

Dylan and I met with Brooke Milne, the new Dean of the FGSR, who started her term on 1 July. We discussed next year's Michener Park closure, graduate students' scholarships in light of provincial funding delays, and student-supervisor relationships. The FGSR is in the process of addressing delays with provincial scholarships and developing a communication plan on this issue. Additionally, she is very keen to tackle and address graduate students' concerns, most importantly around supervision quality and mentorship. We look forward to working with Brooke this term and will be inviting her to attend a GSA Council meeting in the fall to present her vision for the FGSR and to listen to our members' concerns.

City of Edmonton

After I started my GSA presidency term in May, I noticed the lack of direct communication and relationship between the City of Edmonton and the GSA. To achieve one of my visions for the GSA this year for improved municipal advocacy, a communications plan and relationships with city officials first need to be established. My goal is to have this relationship and communication with the City of Edmonton extend beyond my term as a GSA President.

To this end, shortly after my meeting with Bin Lau, Advisor to the Mayor, as outlined in my last GSA Council report, I met with Sandra Robertson, City of Edmonton Senior External Relationships Advisor. During this meeting, we discussed a series of topics, including but not limited to: scheduling regular meetings between the GSA and the City of Edmonton; the release of the TEC Edmonton annual review and arranging for me to speak to this review on behalf of graduate students at the 19 August City of Edmonton Executive Committee meeting; low-income housing for students who are parents (in light of the Michener Park closure in August 2020); and mental health supports for graduate students.

As follow-up from this meeting, the City is in the process of identifying lands where housing for low-income families could be placed, and I will be meeting with Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), as he is the City's primary contact from the U of A on this project. Finally, an official invitation to the Mayor to attend the GSA Fall Social event on 4 October 2019 has been sent out, and I hope he will be available to attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, ideas, suggestions or just to grab a coffee and chat. I am here to listen and serve all of our members.

Warmly,
Fahed

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 July 2019 and 19 August 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 July	Meeting with D Nicolaides, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
18 July	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Dinner with H Ring, Caldwell Partners re Presidential Search
23 July	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
24 July	Review of N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
24 July	Meeting with S Robertson, City of Edmonton Senior External Relations Advisor
26 July	Meeting with A Bhatnagar, Students' Union (SU) President
29 July	Phone meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
29 July	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Governance Committee Meeting
30 July	GSA Departmental Orientation (Physical Therapy)
30 July	Meeting with L Paradis, Member of the Board of Governors (BoG)
31 July	Meeting with D Nicolaides, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
1 August	Meeting with K Foster, Studentcare Director of Partnership and Development and C Yamagishi, Studentcare Program Manager
2 August	Meeting with S Somerville, Member of the Board of Governors (BoG)
6 August	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
6 August	Board of Governors (BoG) Reception with D Nicolaides, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
7 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting
8 August	Meeting with M P Barry, Board Governance Committee (BGC) Vice-Chair and Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC) Vice-Chair
12 August	Phone meeting with S Mawani, Member of Calgary's Multi-Generational Housing Board
14 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Meeting with Alberta Innovates
16 August	Meeting with K Tebenev, U of A GSA Representative on the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director Search Committee

GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting

To: GSA Council
 From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director
 Date: 16 August 2019

The GSA Board (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. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. 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 12 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 12.1-12.4.

17 July 2019 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Academic Success Centre 2018-2019 Summary Report on Use of the GSA's Subsidy; GSA Council Debrief; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary report, as submitted by the Academic Success Centre. FE **MOVED**. DA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

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

Members discussed the **Board of Governors Presentation at GSA Council**.

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

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

Members discussed the **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Communications Meeting and the Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director**.

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

24 July 2019 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

2019-2020 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **APPROVE AND FORWARD TO GSA COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION** the 2019-2020 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. FE **MOVED**. SM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

31 July 2019 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Actual Expenses for Attendance at the ab-GPAC Retreat, 21-22 June 2019, in Rocky Mountain House, AB: Business Travel Expenses; GSA Agreement with Studentcare; Graduate Student-Supervisor Relationships; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

The GSA Board is asked to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Retreat, 21-22 June 2019, in Rocky Mountain House, AB. FE **MOVED**. SM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

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

Members discussed the **GSA Agreement with Studentcare**

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

Members **AGREED** to initiate a request for proposals process with various insurance brokers, including Studentcare.

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

Members discussed the **Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director**.

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

7 August 2019 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Change of GSA Health and Dental Plan Coverage: Repatriation of Bodies; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** the addition of coverage for the repatriation of bodies to the GSA Health and Dental Plan to a maximum of \$10,000 within 365 days after an incident resulting in death, to begin retroactively on 1 September 2019, with the cost of the Plan to remain at \$500.36/annum for 2019-2020, as approved by GSA Council on 18 March 2019. FE **MOVED**. DA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

14 August 2019 GSA Board Meeting: Cancelled

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Fahed Elian
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA GC reviewed and approved a recommended editorial change to GSA Bylaw and Policy, via email, on 9 August 2019. As per the 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).

This editorial change was made to Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy: Responsibilities and Attendance of GSA Standing Committee, GSA *Ad Hoc* Committee, and GSA Subcommittee members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees, H.POL.5.7.b and H.POL.5.7.c. These sections still referred to a Board of Governors (BoG) committee that no longer exists, and the fact that the GSA previously had guaranteed membership on up to three BoG Standing Committee (which is no longer the case). Therefore, the approved editorial changes now align with other changes previously made to the section on the President's officer portfolio to reflect these changes to BoG committee membership.

At the end of July, the GSA GC also voted to recommend to GSA Council changes to two sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy. The first, was for Section M: GSA Health and Dental Plan, GSA Policy: GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, and the second was for Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Recognition Awards and Adjudication Criteria. Following the GSA Board's review and onward transmission to GSA Council, these recommended changes, they will be brought forward to GSA Council for review and approval at the 16 September 2019 GSA Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Fahed Elian, President and Chair of the GSA GC

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Dylan Ashley
Date: 16 August 2019

Hi Fellow Graduate students,

With many of the committees I sit on in hiatus during the summer, this past month is one of the few relatively quiet ones for me. Most of my committees are resuming in the next few weeks. Here are a few highlights to give you a snapshot of what I've been up to this past month.

- Along with Fahed, I had my first few meetings with the new Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Brooke Milne, and they've been productive. She's passionate about improving student-supervisor relationship oversight and that's key to ensuring that we can make headway on that project this year. I believe she is an asset to the graduate student population and I'm excited to be working with her.
- I've taken advantage of the fact that large swaths of my committees are on summer hiatus to, along with the GSA President, begin preparing an advocacy presentation for the upcoming Canadian Association of Graduate Studies conference. This is a conference that is attended annually by graduate program administrators. Every year the GSA also sends the President and VP Academic. This conference allows us to get a broader perspective on what's happening in graduate studies at other institutions relative to us.
- Along with the other executives, I met with the Presidential Search consultants who will be finding candidates for the next U of A president. While the GSA President sits on the actual Presidential Search Selection Committee, this was a way for them to consult with all of us to better understand the kinds of traits the GSA would like to see in the next U of A President. I believe that the graduate student perspective was well heard in this meeting.
- I've gone through several training sessions to increase my effectiveness in my role. These have so far proven valuable and I've begun to notice the effects of them.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca.

Sincerely,

Dylan Ashley

3.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 July 2019 and 19 August 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I am on academic leave from 15-23 August 2019.

16 July	Meeting with R Polziehn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Director of Professional Development
18 July	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Dinner with H Ring, Caldwell Partners re Presidential Search
19 July	Public Speaking Session with W Doughty, Assistant Dean Student Success
23 July	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
6 August	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
8 August	GSA Departmental Orientation Training
9 August	Public Speaking Session with W Doughty, Assistant Dean Student Success
13 August	Meeting with V Ruétalo, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Associate Dean

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham
Date: 16 August 2019

Salutations colleagues,

Although GSA Council for the month of August has been cancelled, I am glad to have an opportunity to update you all on the meetings and other pertinent events taking place before I departed on my vacation to Russia, where I am writing this report. If you have the opportunity to visit the Russian Federation, I personally recommend St. Petersburg for the laid-back atmosphere, incredible historical valence, and varied architecture; the cuisine is also exceptional. For those interested in the Second World War, the hero city of Volgograd (former Stalingrad) is host to unparalleled museums and monuments detailing the conflict due to the city's role in ultimately stopping the Axis advance and ending the war; if you are unfamiliar with the Battle of Stalingrad, I would recommend dedicating some time to review it. Of course, Russia is best navigated with a guide who is a native speaker of the language, but I noticed no shortage of tour groups at the major attractions in the metropolitan areas.

Onto GSA matters; Fahed (as he also reports) and I met with the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, under the U of A GSA banner on 31 July, following our initial meeting with him with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). The primary topic of our discussion was our proposal to improve the provincial nomination program for international students who graduate from Albertan universities with graduate degrees, to allow for the streamlining of immigration procedures for highly-trained professionals produced right here in the province. The U of A GSA will begin researching similar programs from other provinces to assess what would best fit the needs of graduate students at the University of Alberta, and will begin drafting proposals for upcoming meetings. We also had a lengthy discussion around the provincial post-secondary budget that will be announced in October 2019, and requested that student voices be included in relevant consultations going forward, especially if decreases to the Campus Alberta Grant are planned.

With regards to mandated policy changes, the Advisory Group for Free Expression is beginning its initial stages of consultation with the University community, and is now accepting input at free.expression@ualberta.ca. Members of the committee have also been invited to GSA Council in September, at which time you will be able to share your comments and concerns in-person.

My final update is for ab-GPAC, whose Board of Directors has decided to initiate an Executive Director search. The posting for the position is closed at the time of writing my report, and the interview and hiring process will now begin. On behalf of the U of A GSA, I would like to thank Nicole van Kuppeveld for her diligence and efforts in establishing ab-GPAC has a major student advocacy group in the province, and her continued work during this transition period. We will keep GSA Council updated as the hiring process concludes, along with updates on upcoming provincial advocacy initiatives.

As always, I welcome all comments on these or other matters; see you all next month.

Kind regards,
Marc Waddingham

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 July 2019 and 19 August 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I was away from 1-18 August 2019.

17 July	Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) Annual Breakfast
18 July	Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
18 July	Meeting with D Nicolaidis, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
18 July	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Dinner with H Ring, Caldwell Partners re Presidential Search
19 July	Meeting with M P Barry, Board Governance Committee (BGC) and Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC) Vice-Chair
19 July	Meeting with E Heaton, Residence Coordinator
23 July	Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) Annual General Meeting
24 July	Review of N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
25 July	Meeting with the Office Team re Graduate Student Outreach Proposal
25 July	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
30 July	Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
30 July	Free Expression Advisory Group Meeting
31 July	Meeting with D Nicolaidis, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
7 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting
19 August	Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
19 August	GSA Departmental Orientation Training

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Shanawaz Mohammad
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone is doing well. First, I would like to welcome all the newly admitted graduate students and also the new academically-employed graduate students who will start their positions in the fall. Moreover, I would like to summarize the list of meetings I have attended.

Meeting with Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

On Monday, I will be meeting again with G Kulczycki to further discuss some problems graduate students may face, such as financial issues, health and safety issues, and campus safety issues.

Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions (CGEU) Conference

I have been attending the CGEU conference in Toronto this past week. CGEU is a collective of graduate labour unions and organizing member from across Canada and the United States. Members represent a wide range of graduate and undergraduate students employed as teaching assistants, research assistants and administrative staff. The main goal of the CGEU is to build solidarity across movements and to build connections between graduate student workers. In attending this conference, I am looking to learn more about how other student unions work to better inform our efforts in supporting and advising academically-employed graduate students.

Meetings with GSA stakeholders to Discuss Shared Priorities

This summer I have been meeting with various stakeholders such as the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (OSDHR), the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), the Post Doctoral Fellows Association (PDFA), and the Ombuds office to discuss shared priorities. I recently had a very productive discussion with NASA about collective bargaining and labour issues faced by both associations, and I will continue meeting with NASA in the future to discuss shared labour issues and strategies.

I also discussed harassment and discrimination issues faced by graduate students with Wade King, who is the Director of the OSDHR, and will be working closely with him and the Dean of Students to align the requirements from the new Occupational Health and Safety Act with the University's harassment and discrimination policies.

I also kindly request that every Councilor ensures that graduate students who are under the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement (CA) are aware of this agreement and communicate that I am happy to provide information sessions on the CA to their department. Moreover, if any graduate student comes to you regarding collective agreement issues, harassment, safety and security issues, please have them email me, and I would be very happy to meet with them.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the regarding the CA, please reach me at gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca.

Best Regards,
Shanawaz Mohammad, GSA VP Labour

5.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 July 2019 and 19 August 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I was away from 9-14 August 2019 and at a conference from 14-18 August 2019.

16 July	Meeting with B Hogeveen, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Vice-Dean
17 July	Meeting with J Causgrove Dunn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Associate Dean
18 July	Public Speaking Session with W Doughty
18 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student
18 July	GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) Dinner with H Ring, Caldwell Partners re Presidential Search
22 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student
23 July	Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Sub-Committee Meeting
24 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student
25 July	Meeting with R Martignago Mariath, Post Doctoral Fellows Association (PDFA) President
25 July	Public Speaking Session with W Doughty
30 July	Meeting with V Ruétalo, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Associate Dean
30 July	Meeting with W King, Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Director
31 July	Meeting with E Johannson, Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) President
7 August	Meeting with a Graduate Student
8 August	GSA Departmental Orientation Training
8 August	Meeting with B Epperson, Graduate Ombudsperson
14-18 August	Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions (CGEU) Conference
19 August	Meeting with G Kulczycki, Vice-President Finance and Administration

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019**

To: GSA Council
From: Chantal Labonté
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

Over the past month, I have been involved in important service and support related projects. I would like to highlight some of the areas and initiatives of focus over the past month. Please find a full list of the meetings I have attended attached to this report.

Sexual Violence

In August 2018, a working group on restorative initiatives for sexual violence presented a report to the Sexual Violence Response Advisory Council Executive Steering Committee. [This report](#) defines restorative justice practices and recommended that the University invest in restorative justice practices. In June 2019, I was invited to join the Restorative Initiatives for Sexual Violence Working Group. This working group is tasked with proposing how the University might provide restorative initiatives on campus. The group meets regularly to discuss questions around scope, logistics, and risks involved. The group anticipates submitting a report to the University in early fall. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of this work with you then.

In November 2017, the Sexual Assault Response Implementation Committee released a report to the community. In this report, the committee reviewed actions on recommendations made in the January 2016 Review of the University of Alberta's Response to Sexual Assault. A recommendation that had not been, and continues to not, be acted on was the hiring of a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator. Jared Larsen, SU Vice-President Student Life, has made this a priority during his term. He is early in the process of exploring how this position can come to be introduced at the U of A. As the process becomes clearer, I will be joining him in advocating for action on this recommendation.

Transit

As you may be aware, the City of Edmonton is moving towards implementing Smart Fare. The anticipated roll out of the U-Pass using Smart Fare is September 2020. On July 16, myself and other stakeholders from institutions across Edmonton met with ETS and Vix Technology, which is the company responsible for Smart Fare. Vix Technology communicated their expectations for the role of institutions in administrating and distributing the U-Pass through Smart Fare cards. The University is now working with Vix Technology to establish the necessary processes to move from distributing the U-Pass stickers to the U-Pass via Smart Fare. I will provide updates as they become available.

Graduate Student Groups

Graduate student groups provide a graduate student experience and community for the members of the GSA. On 22 August, I will be hosting a workshop with graduate student group executives. The purpose of our time together is to establish better collaborative relationships, provide support for graduate student groups, and to better understand how the GSA can support the important work of graduate student groups. Executives of student groups who are interested in participating are encouraged to send me an email at gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca. This work is a part of a larger collaborative outreach plan that I worked to develop with Marc, GSA VP External, in an effort to better connect with graduate student groups and GSA councillors.

6.1

I welcome any questions or concerns regarding this report. Please do not hesitate to share your suggestions and comment regarding any student service-related issue you or anyone from your department may be experiencing.

Sincerely,

Chantal Labonté
VP Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 July 2019 and 19 August 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I was away from 12-13 August 2019.

16 July	U-Pass Advisory Committee Meeting
18 July	U-Pass Administrative Committee Meeting
18 July	World Hello Day Working Group Meeting
18 July	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Dinner with H Ring, Caldwell Partners re Presidential Search
19 July	Meeting with E Heaton, Residence Coordinator
22 July	World Mental Health Day Working Group Meeting
23 July	Restorative Initiatives for Sexual Violence (RISV) Next Steps Working Group Meeting
24 July	Days of Action (DOA) Committee Meeting
25 July	Meeting with the Office Team re Graduate Student Outreach Proposal
25 July	Meeting with K Gilliland, ACCESS Outreach Team Advisor
1 August	Back to School Planning Meeting
6 August	Restorative Initiatives for Sexual Violence (RISV) Next Steps Working Group
6 August	Meeting with J Larsen, SU Vice-President Student Life
7 August	Leadership Network Meeting
8 August	GSA Departmental Orientation Training
8 August	Meeting re World Mental Health Day (WMHD) Gallery Opening
8 August	World Hello Day Working Group Meeting
9 August	Meeting re E-scooters on campus
14 August	Restorative Initiatives in Sexual Violence (RISV) Next Steps Working Group
15 August	U-Pass Administrative Committee Meeting

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee (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 Council-Elected Officers

1) GSA Deputy Speaker (One (1) GSA Member Position)

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA NoC will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO “on or about 1 May of every year” and nominations will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC “by 30 May or the next working day” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Section D.BYL.3.1.b and Section D.BYL.3.1.c). This position was advertised in the GSA newsletter in advance of the June 2019 and July 2019 meetings of GSA Council, but no nominees were received. It will be advertised again.

Current Vacancies

1) GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member will be circulated via the GSA newsletter in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

2) GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor will be circulated via email to GSA Council in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

3) GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (Two (2) GSA Councillor Position)

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors will be circulated via email to GSA Council in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

4) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member will be circulated via the GSA newsletter in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

5) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor will be circulated via email to GSA Council in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

6) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member will be circulated via the GSA newsletter in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

7) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (Two (2) GSA Councillor Positions)

Information regarding the positions for two (1) GSA Councillors will be circulated via email to GSA Council in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

8) GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member will be circulated via the GSA newsletter in advance of the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

9) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (Up to 25 Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding these positions was first circulated in the GSA newsletter of 26 July 2019 with a deadline of 14 August 2019. The names of the elected representatives will be reported at the 16 September 2019 meeting of GSA Council.

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear GSA Councillors,

The GSA ERC has been working on recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda. After several initial meetings to debrief following the 2019 GSA General Election and to review related GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA ERC met on 22 August to review and discuss recommended changes and, on 8 August, voted electronically to recommend this proposal to GSA Council.

The recommended changes included in this proposal mostly concern administrative matters (moving content from GSA Bylaw to GSA Policy, ensuring parallelism between sections, etc) and are aimed at loosening regulations surrounding campaigning. The changes can be summarized as follows:

- Addition of definitions for campaign materials and campaign volunteers;
- Clarification to outline that candidates cannot volunteer for the campaign of another candidate given that candidates are prohibited from campaigning jointly (ie, as a slate) and acting as campaign volunteers for each other could be construed as joint campaigning;
- Introduction of a new section that stipulates that no campaigning will be done during GSA meetings or events;
- Clarification of when the GSA elected officers can participate in campaigning (DEOs and the Senator (or their delegates) may not campaign at meetings or events at which they are acting in an official GSA capacity, while the Speaker and CRO and their deputies may not campaign at all);
- Restructuring of the section on campaigning with the creation of a new subsection containing all information about campaign materials in one place, structured around print material, email material (including the new provision that the CRO need only approve email material when it is being sent either from or to a University of Alberta email address), and social media material (including an addition of a statement concerning messaging accounts);
- Removal of a section with regards to penalties when exceeding the spending limit or failure to report campaign expenses as this section implies either that disqualification is the only penalty for these breaches, or that these breaches, more than all the others listed, could result in disqualification;
- Introduction of a new section outlining a process for the CRO to follow when the CRO directly discerns an alleged breach, as opposed to it being reported to them;
- Addition of a statement that clarifies that provisional results become official if no complaints are received by the outlined deadline, in order to complement the existing statement stipulating that results will become official after any existing alleged breaches or appeals have been handled; *and*
- Modification of the timeline to fill vacant Councillor-at-Large seats; the process to fill these seats will stop on 1 December, instead of continuing until the seats are filled as is currently stipulated.

This proposal will be presented to GSA Council for consideration at the 16 September and 28 October meetings. In advance of those meetings, I encourage any GSA Councillors with questions about the proposal to contact me via email.

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

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 19 August 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear GSA Council members,

Since the last meeting of GSA Council in July, the GSA office has been engaged, alongside our regular work of supporting the work of the Directly-Elected Officers and offering support to the various standing committees of the GSA committees, with the following projects:

- Planning for our annual Fall Orientation event (being held this year from 1-3:30 pm on 27 August in CCIS – we expect the event to be attended by some 300 plus new graduate students and, as always, it will feature an information fair, several door prize draws, and light refreshments)
- Planning for the departmental orientations that we offer each year (in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, we hope to visit over 40 departments this year)
- Production of the GSA Planner (you are all welcome to come and pick one up by visiting us at the GSA office in Triffo Hall)
- Early stage planning of the GSA fall social event
- Working with the marketing firm Habit Creations to produce three short videos about the GSA (featuring information on GSA member benefits, how to get involved with the GSA, and the importance of voting)

I am happy to answer any questions and, as always, the weekly reports from management to the GSA Board are attached.

Best,

Courtney Thomas
GSA Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 17 July 2019

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 10 July 2019:

Strategic

- Meeting with FGSR staff to discuss dissemination of a GSA poster to departmental graduate coordinators and a short GSA administrative presentation to the Graduate Program Administrators Committee.
- Discussing the GSA's agreement with Studentcare for the provision of the GSA Health and Dental Plan and reviewing previous renewals of said agreement.
- Finalizing a first-stage marketing/outreach strategy (and preparing for an upcoming meeting with the marketing firm to begin the project).
- Releasing the 2019-2020 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan to stakeholders.
- Researching the effects of the implementation of Smart Fare technology on U-Pass programs at other institutions.
- Reviewing recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda in advance of a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and reviewing proposals concerning recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Recognition Awards and the GSA Health and Dental Plan.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (discussing the process for a ratification vote and associated communications plan) and contacting a consultant concerning best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization.
- Planning for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Labour Relations Committee and reviewing past GSA attempts to create a steward program.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Fall Orientation, departmental orientations, and the fall social event (projected date of 4 October).
- Circulating GSA engagement material to UAI for distribution.
- Working with graduate students in the Sociology department to re-establish a departmental GSA there.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Board (2), GSA Governance Committee (1), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (1) and GSA Nominating Committee (1), and vacancies for a Councillor-at-Large, the GSA Deputy Speaker, and the GSA Deputy Returning Officer; assisting with the election of Councillors in Sociology and Occupational Therapy).
- Facebook = 1,322 likes (up 3 from 10 July) and 1,383 followers; Facebook posts reached 803 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 103. Twitter = 955 followers (down 1 from 10 July); our tweets earned 1,400 "impressions" over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed within four and a half hours (40 applications funded and \$82,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. New granting periods open 1 October 2019.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 24 July 2019

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 17 July 2019:

Strategic

- Meeting with Habit marketing to discuss next steps (three videos (one on member benefits, one on member engagement, and one on voter engagement) will be produced, the office will begin the process to soliciting video participants, filming will likely be done primarily in Triffo).
- GSA 101 training session for new GSA Board members.
- Reviewing and organizing/consolidating files related to previous GSA legal involvements.
- Releasing the 2019-2020 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan to stakeholders.
- Researching the effects of the implementation of Smart Fare technology on U-Pass programs at other institutions.
- Reviewing past GSA involvement with residence associations.
- Reviewing recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda following a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and reviewing proposals concerning recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Recognition Awards and the GSA Health and Dental Plan.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (discussing the process for a ratification vote and associated communications plan) and contacting a consultant concerning best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization.
- Planning for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Labour Relations Committee and reviewing past GSA attempts to create a steward program.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Fall Orientation, departmental orientations, and the fall social event.
- Developing a onboarding/welcome package for new GSA Graduate Student Groups.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Board (2), GSA Governance Committee (1), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (1) and GSA Nominating Committee (1), and vacancies for a Councillor-at-Large, the GSA Deputy Speaker, and the GSA Deputy Returning Officer; assisting with the election of Councillors in Sociology and Occupational Therapy).
- Facebook = 1,322 likes (up 0 from 17 July) and 1,383 followers; Facebook posts reached 1141 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 420. Twitter = 956 followers (up 1 from 17 July); our tweets earned 891 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed within four and a half hours (40 applications funded and \$82,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. New granting periods open 1 October 2019.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 31 July 2019

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 24 July 2019:

Strategic

- Moving forward with Habit marketing to create videos (three videos (one on member benefits, one on member engagement, and one on voter engagement) will be produced), including solicitation of video participants, obtaining permissions for filming, and reviewing scripts.
- Attending a session on supporting students with disabilities.
- Reviewing and organizing/consolidating files related to previous GSA legal involvements.
- Scheduling meeting with stakeholders to discuss the 2019-2020 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Researching the effects of the implementation of Smart Fare technology on U-Pass programs at other institutions.
- Reviewing past GSA involvement with residence associations.
- Reviewing recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda following a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and reviewing proposals concerning recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Recognition Awards and the GSA Health and Dental Plan.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (discussing the process for a ratification vote and associated communications plan) and contacting a consultant concerning best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization.
- Planning for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Labour Relations Committee and reviewing past GSA attempts to create a steward program.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Fall Orientation, departmental orientations, and the fall social event.
- Developing a onboarding/welcome package for new GSA Graduate Student Groups.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on FGSR Council and on various selection committees for faculty members awards of excellence, vacancies on the GSA Board (2), GSA Governance Committee (1), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (1), and GSA Nominating Committee (1), and vacancies for the GSA Deputy Speaker).
- Facebook = 1,324 likes (up 2 from 24 July) and 1,386 followers (up 3 from 24 July); Facebook posts reached 1185 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 274. Twitter = 956 followers (up 0 from 24 July); our tweets earned 676 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed within four and a half hours (51 applications funded and \$101,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. New granting periods open 1 October 2019.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 7 August 2019

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 31 July 2019:

Strategic

- Moving forward with Habit marketing to create videos (three videos (one on member benefits, one on member engagement, and one on voter engagement) will be produced) to boost GSA member engagement (draft scripts for voice over components are under review).
- Reviewing and organizing/consolidating files related to previous GSA legal involvements.
- Scheduling meeting with stakeholders to discuss the 2019-2020 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Reviewing recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda following a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (proposals have now been circulated for an email vote prior to appearing before GSA Council for approval and before the GSA Board for information) and reviewing proposals with the GSA Governance Committee concerning recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Recognition Awards and the GSA Health and Dental Plan.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (discussing the process for a ratification vote and associated communications plan), reviewing previous GSA attempts to establish a steward program, and contacting a consultant concerning best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization.
- Planning for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Labour Relations Committee.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Fall Orientation, departmental orientations, and the fall social event.
- Preparing for the September meeting of GSA Council and to circulate reports in association with the cancelled August meeting.
- Developing an onboarding/welcome package for new GSA Graduate Student Groups.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on FGSR Council and vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee (1), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (2), and GSA Nominating Committee (2), and vacancies for the GSA Deputy Speaker).
- Facebook = 1,327 likes (up 3 from 31 July) and 1,389 followers (up 3 from 31 July); Facebook posts reached 476 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 54. Twitter = 957 followers (up 1 from 31 July); our tweets earned 381 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed within four and a half hours (51 applications funded and \$101,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. New granting periods open 1 October 2019.