

GSA Council Meeting - List of Reports Circulated
Monday, 13 December 2021
Cancelled

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1. Minutes from the 15 November 2021 GSA Council Meeting	1.0 - 1.5
2. President (Anas Fassih, President)	
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ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (no meetings this reporting period)	
5. Vice-President Labour (Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour)	
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6. Vice-President Student Services (Paresh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services)	
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7. Senator (Peter Isesele, Senator)	
i. Senator's Report (no written report at this time)	
8. Speaker (Lauren Hill, Speaker)	
i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time)	
9. Chief Returning Officer (Muneeb Muhiuddin, Chief Returning Officer)	
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (no written report at this time)	9.0
10. GSA Nominating Committee (Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)	
i. GSA Nominating Committee Report	10.0 - 10.1
11. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Vice-Chair)	
i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report	11.0
12. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)	
i. Executive Director's Report	12.0 - 12.3

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 15 November 2021 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Anas Fassih (President)	Zhiying Wang (AFNS)	Janan Assaly (History, Classics, & Religious Studies)	Alexia Maheux (Pharmacology)
Kathy Haddadkar (VP Academic)	Devyn Caldwell (Anthropology)	Anita Amir Labonno (Human Ecology)	Fadumo Isse (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa (VP External)	Madeleine Fleming (Biochemistry)	Jesse Alook (Indigenous GSA)	Avontay Williams (Philosophy)
Jessica Grenke (VP Labour)	Andrew Cook; Ish Jain (Biological Science)	Jaskiran Kaur (Internetworking)	Bryanna Chan (Physical Therapy)
Paresh Kumar (VP Student Services)	Thomas Goodhart (Biomedical Engineering)	Matt Ormandy (KSR)	Isha Ralhan (Physiology)
Lauren Hill (Speaker)	Juan Carlos Alcantara (Business MBA)	Janet Zhou (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Sophie Shi (DRO)	Jennifer Sloan (Business PhD)	Kim Jones (Library & Information Studies)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)
Amber Ali (Councillor-at-Large)	Brenna Hourigan (Cell Biology)	Hannah Lam (Linguistics)	Angela Ma (Psychology)
Hope Eze (Councillor-at-Large)	Omnath Ekambaram (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Alain Gervais (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Naima Riaz (Public Health)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Karen Hoy (Chemistry)	Daniel Hackborn (Media and Technology Studies)	Kathryn Lambert (Rehabilitation Science)
Sanhita Pal (Councillor-at-Large)	Ifaz Kabir (Computing Science)	Adrienne Watson (Medical Genetics)	Elena Schaefer (Renewable Resources)
Varshini Prakash (Councillor-at-Large)	Nathalia Fernandes Fagundes (Dentistry)	Asna Latif (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Hotaka Kobori (REES)
Abigail Ameley Quaye (Councillor-at-Large)	Xavia Publius (Drama)	Billy Wang (Medicine)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Janmejey Rao (Councillor-at-Large)	Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Rebekah McNeilly (Sociology)
MD Tanzil Shahriar (Councillor-at-Large)	Devon Heath (Educational Psychology)	Farrell Bryenton (Nursing)	Kasra Shayeganpour (Surgery)
Sabrina Rashid Sheonty (Councillor-at-Large)	Kapil Gangwar (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Benjamin Schultz; Yan Shu Kong (Oncology)	
Saeed Siddik (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Shubham Soni (Paediatrics)	

Guests: Chanpreet Singh (International Students' Association President); Shing Kit Lao (Internetworking; GSA ASC nominee); Erika Nelson (Educational Policy Studies; GSA ASC nominee); Fernanda Laís Fengler Dal Pizzol (Nursing; GSA ASC nominee); Dweej Nimesh Shah (Mechanical Engineering; GSA ASC nominee); Violet Sun (GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair); Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (GSA Nominating Committee member).

Speaker Lauren Hill in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 15 November 2021

1. Approval of the 15 November 2021 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 15 November 2021 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. A Cook **MOVED**; I Kabir **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes from the 18 October 2021 GSA Council Meeting

Members had before them the 18 October 2021 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 5 November 2021. A Patel **MOVED**; E Desnoyers **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** A Amir Labonno (Human Ecology).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** There were no departing members of GSA Council.

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

C Baaklini invited members to join the Neuroscience Graduate Students' Association's Trainee Sessions, where individuals would have the chance to present and practice talks related to neuroscience, and anyone could listen and give feedback.

T Courtney of the Political Science Graduate Students' Association invited members to get in touch with them regarding an Alberta-wide student coalition against government budget cuts and tuition hikes at telisa@ualberta.ca.

Action Items

5. 2021-2022 GSA Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report

A Fassih (President and Chair of GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2021-2022 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

A Fassih noted that enrollment was slightly higher than anticipated and there were some savings in other budget lines which helped offset the loss of revenue from Chopped Leaf, which had been closed for much of the pandemic. He also noted that additional expenses related to operational costs were incurred as some office equipment needed to be upgraded to support virtual and hybrid meetings during the pandemic.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2021-2022 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report. A Cook **MOVED**; J Sloan **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

6. 2022 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by the International Students' Association (ISA)

M Muhiudden (Chief Returning Officer) and S Shi (Deputy Returning Officer) presented the item and introduced the guest (CSingh, ISA President).

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE** the holding of a referendum on the collection of a fee from international graduate students to support the International Students' Association, to run concurrently with the 2022 GSA General Election (with only international graduate students deemed eligible to vote) and using the draft question as attached.

M Muhiudden noted that the referendum question had been developed over the course of a month between himself, S Shi, the ISA, and GSA staff. He highlighted the main points of the draft question, including the proposed fee and that this was not a GSA service.

He then invited C Singh to present on the proposed use of the fee if it were collected. C Singh noted that the ISA surveyed international graduate students and received 227 responses, the majority of whom were supportive of the fee. C Singh highlighted that the fee would be assessed to only international graduate students and it would be \$3.50/term (Fall, Winter,

Spring/Summer) for full time students and \$1.50 for part time students. There would be a voluntary opt-out period for the first 30 days of each semester. The funds collected (about \$27,000 annually from international graduate students) would be used to support ISA programming in the areas of communication, outreach, and advocacy; services, events, and programs; community, diversity, and culture; health, wellness, and professional development; and the operations of the ISA. He noted that the fee would be in place for three (3) years. The ISA had registered as a society under the Alberta *Societies Act*; this required them to hold an annual general meeting (AGM), make their finances publicly available, and conduct an annual financial audit. C Singh also noted the consultation with various stakeholders had been ongoing for the past 8 -12 months. The ISA was now requesting that GSA Council approve this fee proposal to go forward for international graduate students to vote on it, as GSA Council had the authority to approve referendum questions and their inclusion in the annual GSA General Election.

Speaker requested that GSA Council members who wished to speak and who were also ISA members should disclose this.

Member asked a series of questions including, but not limited to, the role of GSA Board (GSAB) in reviewing the proposal before it was brought forward to GSA Council (A Fassih explained that the proposal came to the GSAB twice for review and, as the GSAB continued to have concerns (budget allocation, auditing, feasibility of services, deliverables), it moved it forward to GSA Council for more feedback); the low survey response rate from international graduate students and concerns around whether it was truly representative (C Singh responded that the survey was accessible and many mechanisms were used for distribution; they could not have done anything else given the online environment; other ISA members also expressed that they did not feel this was a low response rate, and should be considered representative); the difficulty of the automatic enrollment/opt-out model (C Singh acknowledged that yes, students might not know about the opt-out or forget to do so but the ISA would remind students they can opt-out); a lack of distinction between services for graduate students and undergraduate students, and the possibility of graduate students paying for services they could not use (students who had not paid would not be allowed to access services and C Singh also stated that this proposal was graduate student specific; almost 400 graduate students participated in the ISA election and about half of their current program attendees were graduate students and the ISA was already doing 70% of the things in the attached proposal but budget increases would allow for an increase in quality and the ISA wanted programs to appeal to both graduate and undergraduate so the needs of each population were balanced); concerns about the size of the annual budget and the lack of experience of the group, particularly with the lack of demonstration of deliverables (C Singh referred to established student groups with large budgets as examples of student groups who had successfully managed large budgets, such as the Engineering Students' Society); given the size of the proposed budget, members expressed concern over the lack of rigorous financial management (the GSAB brought up the issue of financial management multiple times) (C Singh expressed that their registration under the *Societies Act* would ensure appropriate financial oversight); the burdensome structure of the group (run by 130 volunteers, no professional staff); clarification around the difference between International Student Services (ISS) and the ISA and where there might be significant overlap (they worked together closely; ISS was an office of the University while the ISA was student run; could a student access services if they opt-out (exceptions were possible); why Campus Saint Jean and Augustana students were not included (it would be hard for them to access services; very few graduate students were there); if either the graduate or undergraduate proposals were contingent on the other passing (they were not); if they were not contingent, how could one be run independently when the proposal did not include separate budgets (if graduate students did not pass this, the ISA would determine why it did not pass and bring it forward again the next year; for that year, only those students paying could access services); how the wellness services being proposed differed from those graduate students currently had access to (focused more on community programs; information focused rather than counselling; more than half of this allocation would go toward professional development resources); how the ISA claimed the right to represent international graduate students when they had no jurisdiction to do so (the GSA is mandated by provincial law to represent graduate students, the ISA had no such equivalent) (C Singh stated that if the ISA said they represent all international graduate students, then it was so). Several members of GSA Council who were also ISA members spoke about the personal benefits they've experienced in participating with ISA and the need for programming specifically geared toward international graduate students; these members felt the benefits in the proposal outweighed any downsides and encouraged GSA Council to vote to move this forward. Members of the GSAAB reiterated that they reviewed this proposal extensively and found many areas of concern that they did not feel were addressed by the ISA; it was the duty of GSAB members to perform due diligence and share these concerns with GSA Council members. While some GSAB members saw value in these ISA offerings, they had concerns around the sustainability of such a large undertaking.

I Kabir **Moved** to call the question. Speaker clarified that GSA Council would first vote to Call the Question, which would effectively close debate, before moving to vote on the motion. Speaker also clarified that there was now a motion on the floor to call the question, T Courtney **Seconded**.

Motion **PASSED**.

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE** the holding of a referendum on the collection of a fee from international graduate students to support the International Students' Association, to run concurrently with the 2022 GSA General

Election (with only international graduate students deemed eligible to vote) and using the draft question as attached.
A Ma **MOVED**; A Cook **SECONDED**.

Motion **FAILED**.

7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: Recognition Awards

M T Bin Mostafa (Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council on the recommendation of the GSA Awards Selection Committee, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

It was noted that the recommended changes involved changes of wording to the description of the award sponsored by TD Insurance Meloche Monnex and clarification of its eligibility criteria of award, which mirrored the GSA's signed agreement with TD; the value and purpose of the award have not changed.

MOTION: That GSA Council on the recommendation of the GSA Awards Selection Committee, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. A Cook **MOVED**; Devon H **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

Discussion Items

8. Academic Restructuring Update

A Fassih (President) presented the item and noted that the Academic Leaders' Task Group has concluded its work and that the release of their report to the public was forthcoming.

Elections

9. GSA Council Elections

Violet Sun (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented the item.

GSA Standing Committees

- a. GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (4 GSA member vacancies)
 - Shing Kit Lao (Internetworking)
 - Erika Nelson (Educational Policy Studies)
 - Fernanda Laís Fengler Dal Pizzol (Nursing)
 - Dweej Nimesh Shah (Mechanical Engineering)

V Sun asked the nominees the following: "please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Awards Selection Committee." The nominees were given the opportunity to respond.

- b. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 GSA Councillor vacancy)
 - Juan Orozco (Business MBA)

Nominee was not in attendance.

Reports

10. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih wished to bring attention to the recent commitment made by the University to continue to subsidize the Graduate Student Assistance Program until 2026; a change from the previous year-by-year arrangement. Other ongoing work related to the establishment of a formal Graduate Student Alliance of Canada in partnership with the student leadership at UBC Graduate Students' Society; and recruitment for the position of Sexual Violence Response Coordinator at the University.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted.

iv. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report

No written report at this time.

v. 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 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, K Haddadkar noted that she was turning her attention to the issue of funding packages and how these offers operated in theory versus practice.

12. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M T Bin Mostafa noted that the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council was launching its Advocacy Week soon and he would be meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, as well as with prominent members of the NDP. Some of the priorities for these conversations would be the topic of affordable child care, supports for caregiving students, and increasing student aid and lifetime loan limits, among others.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee

No written report at this time.

iii. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Update to Member Organizations

No written report at this time.

13. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Grenke highlighted newly-elected Faculty Stewards, as well as the remaining vacancies in this vein. She also noted that preparations were underway for collective bargaining for the next GSA Collective Agreement, as this process would commence in December.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted.

14. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, P Kumar shared that more than 40,000 campus community members had registered via the CampusReady app and of these, less than 1,000 were reporting as unvaccinated.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Mohiuddin stated that planning was underway for the 2022 GSA Election. He encouraged members to reach out with any questions.

18. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, V Sun emphasized the immense value of the governing bodies which currently had vacancies for GSA Councillors or Alternates. Time commitments were varied, and especially for the GSA Governing Committee and GSA Nominating, who conducted most of their business via email. Vacancies would be advertised again.

19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted.

20. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas noted, for anyone interested in getting involved with student governance, that the Discover Governance program was launching in late November and follow-up events would take place in January.

Question Period

21. Written Questions: None submitted.

22. Oral Questions

I Kabir asked if there was any advocacy related to assignments due during Reading Week. K Haddadkar explained that there was no University policy that prohibited a professor from assigning work during Reading Week.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

President
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well, and excited for the end of the Fall semester. The last month has been extremely busy for me, as I strive to execute and implement the remaining initiatives in the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. To that end, I have attended many meetings to advocate for our members and ascertain that every effort is made to improve the experience of graduate students at the University.

This time of year is when the University presents a proposal for the next year's tuition to the Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC). As it has been the case the last three years, graduate students face a 7% increase for 2022-2023. In the last committee meeting, I stood firm in the face of this increase and mentioned that the GSA is against any increase but I am open to a conversation on the possibility of grandfathering the 2021 cohort similar to the tuition rebate that was negotiated between the GSA, Students' Union (SU) and the University in 2019. While I am aware it is a tough ask, and the University already made that concession in 2019, I remain optimistic about a resolution which, I hope, could culminate in an increase in our Graduate Student Support Fund, if the University is not willing to grant another rebate. I continue to use every advocacy avenue at my disposal including meetings with the University President and Provost to advocate for this matter. I anticipate to be able to report on the result of my advocacy efforts on this front at the January Council meeting.

Tuition is not the only game in town in my advocacy relations with the University. Amidst other initiatives, I also support the Vice-President Student Services in his respective portfolio, which includes emergency bursaries for students in financial need. As I reported earlier, Paresh and I are in conversation with the Registrar's Office about the establishment of a technology bursary program. Next week, we have a meeting with Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, to discuss the possibility of a joint program between the GSA, Registrar, Office of Development, and (potentially) the Dean of Students on technology bursaries for students with financial needs. Indeed, mobilizing our resources in this area was ignited by a discussion in the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) where a student mentioned they were not able to purchase a laptop for their studies.

On the external front, I attended a couple of meetings with MLAs from both the elected party and opposition as part of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) advocacy week. I met with Minister of Advanced Education Nicolaidis, Associate Minister Issik, NDP Municipal Affairs Critic Ceci, and the whole NDP Caucus. I am also scheduled to meet Minister Glubish, Minister Shandro, and NDP Health Critic Shepherd in the next few days. Our advocacy asks center around funding for care-giving students, students financial aid, and immigration. As an early part of this advocacy effort, the Ministry of Advanced Education signed the Student Financial Assistance Amendment Regulation Order in session on Wednesday, 8 December, expanding eligibility for aid to include micro-credential programs, increasing support for students with disabilities, and allowing student on medical leave to maintain interest-free status. While this might have been on the table for the government for a while, our advocacy efforts have equally propelled the fruition of this initiative. Further, cognizant of the vitality of a graduate student-focused immigration stream for both international students and the province, GSA VP External, Mohd Tahsin, and I made immigration opportunities a top priority for the advocacy week and worked closely with our colleagues from other institutions to ask the government for its operationalization. While no promise has been made, we are cautiously optimistic that it comes to fruition in the future.

I have also been engaged in efforts with the President, Provost, and Vice-President External Relations to align our messaging to the government about performance-based funding. The latter was introduced by the provincial government for post-secondary institutions in the form of an investment management agreement (IMA). While projected to start in the fiscal year of 2020-21, the government delayed its implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a robust united voice from student groups in the province. This year, the government has asked

2.1

institutions for feedback on three performance metrics to be implemented in the next years. The impetus for us in joining the University in messaging to the government is to mitigate, or better yet, prevent, any further budget cuts that may result if the University does not meet those performance metrics.

This concludes my month of advocacy. Feel free to reach out to me (gsa.president@ualberta.ca) should you have any further questions. I hope you all a blissful seasonal holiday!

Thank you,
Anas Fassih, GSA President 2021-2022

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 November and 13 December 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

17 November	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
18 November	Meeting with S Dew, Provost
19 November	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
20 November	Campus Food Bank Strategic Planning Meeting
22 November	ab-GPAC meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaidis
23 November	Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee Presentation
23 November	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy Week Meeting with J Ceci, NDP MLA
23 November	Information Session on Government of Canada's Recruitment of Policy Leaders Program
23 November	Board Finance and Property Committee
24 November	Board Governance Committee
24 November	Graduate Students of Canada Monthly Meeting
24 November	Joint Student/University Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-instructional Fees (MNIFs)
24 November	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
26 November	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
26 November	Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC)
29 November	Meeting with C Singh, International Students' Association (ISA) President
29 November	General Faculties Council (GFC)
29 November	Festival of Nine Carols (29 Nov)
30 November	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) (30 Nov)
30 November	Meeting with J Pratt, Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) President
1 December	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
1 December	Meeting with M Dube, Government Affairs & Public Policy Director
1 December	Graduate Student Societies of Canada Meeting
2 December	Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer
2 December	End-of-Term Celebration with Rapid Fire Theatre
3 December	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)
6 December	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
6 December	General Faculties Council (GFC)
6 December	Meeting with R Ley, Students' Union (SU) President
8 December	Association Presidents' Meeting
8 December	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
8 December	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC)
9 December	Board of Governors
9 December	Board of Governors Holiday Virtual Engagement
10 December	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
13 December	Meeting with the M Padfield, University Registrar

GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council
 From: Anas Fassih, President and Chair of the GSA Board

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 12.0-12.3.

17 November 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan Survey; GSA Council Debrief; Summary Report on the GSA Return to Campus Survey; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

1 December 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan Survey; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

8 December 2021 Special GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Item:

International Week 2022: Request for an External Grant; Winter Term GSA Board Meetings; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** an external grant of \$800 for International Week 2022, as requested in the attached letter from Nadine Riopel (Global Education Events Planner, UAI). PK **MOVED**. KH Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met on 1 December 2021 to discuss the 2022-2023 GSA operating budget. At this meeting, members engaged in a high level discussion of the anticipated features of the budget and agreed on several elements to be included in a draft budget, which will be prepared shortly and considered in January (the committee will next meet on 24 January 2021 and will make a recommendation concerning the 2022-2023 operating budget at this time; the budget will then come before GSA Council for its February meeting). I am happy to report that we are in an excellent financial position (even allowing for the current economic strictures occasioned by the pandemic) and are taking a conservative approach to budgeting as we anticipate returning to near-normal expenditures in the 2022-2023 year.

Additionally, GSA BFC members agreed to do a review of the GSA Investment Policy and met with J King and J Perrot from ATB Wealth for a preliminary discussion. ATB will develop some draft updates to the GSA Investment Policy, using feedback from the committee, and these will also be reviewed in the new year.

I am happy to answer any questions either via email or when GSA Council next meets in January.

Sincerely,
Anas Fassih, President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) circulated a survey earlier in Fall 2021 to help it narrow its focus as it embarks on its first project. This survey sought consultation from graduate students and requested feedback on their experiences and vision for the GSA, the graduate student community, and beyond. The committee attempted to meet on 8 December 2021 to review the results of the survey but did not meet quorum. The GSA EDIC will aim to meet again in the new year to review the survey and determine next steps.

Sincerely,

Anas Fassih, President and Chair of the GSA EDIC

**Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Kathy Haddadkar
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

We've finally made it to December. I am thinking of each of you as we enter the exam period and the holiday season. Things have been productive at the GSA this month as we continue to serve graduate students during this busy time. Despite the many meetings, classes and events leading up to the end of December, I hope you will remember to do something that brings you joy over the Christmas break. Wishing you a happy holiday and a bright new year!

Here are some of my meeting highlights for this month:

18 November – Video Vignette for Graduate Supervisory Development

- As a key component of the Student Supervisory Initiative, the Graduate Supervisory Development videos are part of the faculty training modules; they aim to train incoming faculty who wish to become graduate supervisors on key elements of the graduate student-supervisor relationship, including elements related to academic employment
- In collaboration with J Grenke, GSA VP Labour, I was involved in the filming of an introduction to the Graduate Supervisor Development project where I shared their connection to the Student Supervisory Initiative and introduced the first module pertaining to graduate teaching and academic employment

24 November – Working Group on the EDI Review of Teaching Awards

- As this was our last working group meeting, we discussed and reflected on the work completed over the course of our time together which included going over Google form responses for our concluding meeting
- Questions arose regarding how we will continue our work by recognizing collective persons through teaching awards, how we can increase the number of awards and how we can acknowledge a teaching applicant's service and hard work
- This could potentially be satisfied with portfolio letters from the Provost to add to an academically-employed graduate student's dossier or a scholarship to offset a junior colleague's tuition
- We concluded by acknowledging that this important work is ongoing and that the future committee will need to consider the in-depth structure of teaching awards and their nomination process to consider the impact they will have on future applicants

26 November – Exceptional Tuition Increase (ETI) Discussion with Student Groups and the Provost

- This was a formative meeting with Provost and Vice-President (Academic) S Dew, SU President R Ley, and ISA President C Singh to acknowledge the potential for upcoming tuition increases for international students in 2023 and for us to roughly trace tuition increases on the whole from several years back to the present, as well as to discuss the University's most recent proposals to government for exceptional tuition increases to certain programs (the Provost previously presented on this matter to GSA Council)

8 December – Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee Meeting

- This meeting was kept brief with a revised agenda that included discussion of changes regarding entrance requirements to the degree of Masters of Education in Études en langue et culture, Faculté Saint-Jean for approval within the 2022-2023 calendar year, which were approved to move forward to FGSR Council for consideration, as were changes to the graduate calendar language of the graduate dentistry programs (MSc: Dental Hygiene, Oral Medicine, Orthodontics, Periodontology + PhD: Orthodontics, Dentistry, Oral Biology, Periodontology) pending a few clarifications of language to make changes more accessible to graduate students in these programs

I warmly welcome further discussion and correspondence on this report, as well as any other academic-related matters and can be reached at gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca.

Respectfully,

Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic 2021-2022

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 18 November and 13 December 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 November	Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee
18 November	Video Vignette for Graduate Supervisory Development
19 November	Meeting of the GFC <i>ad-hoc</i> Review Committee
19 November	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
22 November	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students
24 November	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSA FGSR) Council Caucus
24 November	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee
24 November	Working Group on the EDI Review of Teaching Awards
24 November	Centre for Teaching and Learning Open Education Symposium Steering Committee
24 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
25 November	GSA General Faculties Council (GSA GFC) Caucus
26 November	Exceptional Tuition Increase (ETI) Discussion with Student Groups and the Provost
26 November	Joint Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs)
29 November	General Faculties Council (GFC)
20 November	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
2 December	End-on-Term Celebration with Rapid Fire Theatre
3 December	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)
6 December	General Faculties Council (GFC)
8 December	Policy Review Committee Meeting
9 December	GFC Programs Committee (GFC PC)
9 December	Meeting of the GFC <i>ad-hoc</i> Review Committee
10 December	Emergency Bursary Appeal
10 December	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Associate Dean (Student Services)
13 December	GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight

**Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Last month was quite busy with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) advocacy week, where I had the opportunity to meet with provincial Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). This year, we identified three asks to take to the provincial government and opposition MLAs. The asks include recommendations on providing flexible supports for caregivers along with implementing the \$10/day childcare program by the federal government; making post-secondary education more accessible to all Albertans by increasing the Alberta Student Grant for full-time students and at the same time increasing student loan limits; and lastly, creating more opportunities for international students in Albertan institutions to remain in Alberta after graduation by expanding eligibility criteria in the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP). The GSA President and I were in the working groups for international student immigration, where we intensively contributed to researching the data and building arguments and rationale for this ask. Furthermore, I also contributed to our ask for more student aid, where I worked with the Executive Director of ab-GPAC.

As part of our advocacy efforts, I had the privilege to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides in the Alberta Legislature building, where we were joined by our colleagues from the University of Calgary and the Concordia University of Edmonton GSAs. I am happy to report that we received positive feedback from the Minister and were assured that he would help us in conveying our priorities to other MLAs from his party, most notably the Minister of Labour and Immigration, Tyler Shandro. Moreover, I am happy to report that the Executive Director for ab-GPAC, Brandon Simmons, has already scheduled a meeting with Mr. Shandro, which I will attend on 16 December.

We also met with NDP MLAs individually and the NDP Caucus, where we presented our advocacy asks and requested their support. The feedback we received from them was also positive and encouraging. In our meeting with Joe Ceci, NDP Municipal Affairs Critic, we came to learn about crucial details of our asks as he critically analyzed the numbers and data behind them, which helped us in our latter meetings with the Provincial Government. Another event that is worth mentioning is that in our meeting with Rod Loyola, NDP MLA, I was encouraged to send him the supporting documents behind our asks on AINP, which he said he would raise during question period during the assembly.

Other than that, I have been active in Residence Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings, where we are currently discussing the University residence budget and its implications. I also took part in the GSA's End of Term Rapid Fire Theatre event, which was funny this time as well. It was great to see such a big turnout from our councillors and I hope you had a good time too!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any question or concern related to external advocacy or campus services.

Thank you,

Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External 2021-2022

4.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 November to 10 December 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

16 November	Student Services and Experience Meeting
17 November	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
22 November	ab-GPAC meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides
23 November	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy Week Meeting with J Ceci, NDP MLA
25 November	Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council
25 November	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy Week Meeting with W Issik, Associate Minister of Status of Women
26 November	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
27 November	Alumni Council Retreat
30 November	Student Services and Experience Meeting
1 December	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
2 December	End-of-Term Celebration with Rapid Fire Theatre
3 December	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)
6 December	Physical Activity and Wellness Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
7 December	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
8 December	Post-Secondary Education Task Force Meeting

**Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Jessica Grenke
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I wish you all a holiday season full of rest and renewal! I hope you take the time to engage in activities which recharge your spirit and remind you what you are here to do.

Thank you again for engaging in your union community. As we prepare for collective bargaining it is more impactful and appreciated than ever. Below is a summary of advocacy activities since my last report to you:

Collective Bargaining

Thank you to everyone who engaged in our collective bargaining priorities survey. As Councillors, I'm especially grateful to those who not only filled it out themselves, but spread the word through their departmental networks. As outlined in my GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) report, you supplied us with valuable information on how the Collective Agreement can better serve you. We are preparing our first bargaining proposal based on community feedback and expert review by the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) of our Collective Agreement. The resulting bargaining mandate will require the approval of Academically-Employed Graduate Students prior to tabling at negotiations. Please keep your eyes peeled for the mandate ratification email which will be hitting your inboxes shortly. It is vitally important you provide us with your feedback and votes so we can head to the bargaining table in as strong a position as possible. Spread the word to your department constituents!

Our Union Community

I have been working hard at building union solidarity within and across our institution, and am pleased to report the following developments:

- Welcome to our newest faculty steward, Kenna McDowell (Faculty of Arts)! I had the pleasure of training two new members of the faculty steward network in early November and look forward to seeing their work within their faculties. I am also working with our PSAC representatives to develop specialized training packages for our stewards beyond the basics and hope to announce further details early next year.
- I also continue my regular meetings with the Vice Presidents Labour of the University of Lethbridge and University of Calgary. As the U of L is entering negotiations just prior to us, while the U of C will enter just following us, these conversations are highly beneficial in determining strategy and the provincial bargaining context.
- Myself and representatives from the GSA LRC were invited to represent the University of Alberta at NASA's (the Non-Academic Staff Association) Information Rally. I was pleased to show

solidarity with our campus union colleagues and will continue to support their efforts to achieve fair compensation for their workers.

I look forward to reporting our progress over the next month. Please contact me with any questions/comments, or just to chat.

In solidarity,

Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour 2021-2022

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 November and 13 December 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

16 November	Sexual Violence Coordinator Selection Committee
16 November	Faculty Steward Training
16 & 17 November	GSA Negotiating Team (GSA NT) and GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) Collective Bargaining Caucus
17 November	Meeting with the Public Service Alliance of Canada
19 November	Joint Work Site Health and Safety Committee Meeting
23 November	Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Rally Information Meeting
24 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
26 November	Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) Information Picket
30 November	Meeting with a Graduate Student
30 November	Joint Provincial GSA Labour Meeting
30 November	Meeting with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)
1 December	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
2 December	End-of-Term Celebration with Rapid Fire Theatre
3 December	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)
6 December	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
6 December	GSA Negotiating Team (GSA NT) and GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) Collective Bargaining Caucus
9 December	Meeting with a Graduate Student
13 December	Sexual Violence Coordinator Selection Committee Interviews

**GSA Labour Relations Committee
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Jessica Grenke
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

We have entered another round of collective bargaining as the current Collective Agreement expires in August 2022, and the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) has been working closely with our chief negotiator, John Eustace from the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). On 16 and 17 November, and 6 December, we held bargaining caucuses to discuss the current state of bargaining and to assess the current version of the Collective Agreement.

After previously hosting some town halls, we sent out a bargaining survey to all Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) from 17-24 November to gather information from our union members on their priorities for this round of bargaining. Members from the PSAC have taken information away from both the survey and the bargaining caucuses to complete research and start building a strategy to move forward.

We plan to send out a bargaining mandate to all AEGSs to vote on before the winter break, and I ask that you encourage your members to keep an eye out for this in their Ualberta email.

The GSA continues to recruit Faculty Stewards, and the GSA LRC has been reviewing applications and appointing individuals to these roles. The GSA LRC most recently appointed one (1) additional faculty steward in the Faculty of Arts. We are still looking for individuals to fill this role from: Business, Campus St. Jean, Education, Law, Public Health, and Rehabilitation Medicine. If you know of an AEGS that could be a good fit in any of these faculties, please encourage them to reach out to me.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour and Chair of the GSA LRC

**Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Paresh Kumar
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you all are doing well. Here are the main takeaways from the meetings I attended last month:

- **Rapid Testing:** Rapid testing is available only for those who have an approved vaccine exemption. As of now, we have less than 300 approved exemption cases. Tests must be performed within 72 hours of the person going to campus. There is no decision on whether rapid testing will be continued for next year or not.
- **Veteran Friendly Campus (VFC) Program:** I met with Breanne Bradley who is the Navigator of the VFC Program. This is a research-funded initiative aimed at improving and supporting the academic experience of Canadian Armed Forces veterans attending the U of A. This project is headed by the Office of the Dean of Students, in collaboration with the Heroes in Mind, Advocacy and Research Consortium (HiMARC) in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Veterans Affairs Canada, and the Canadian Armed Forces. Breanne helps veterans navigate services throughout campus. I met with her to give her a better sense of the programs, events and services at the GSA to help veterans in a better way. As of now, we have 32 members who have declared themselves as veterans.
- **Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs):** MNIFs will be increasing in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for next year, as has been agreed upon by the GSA, SU, and University. This will equate to approximately an \$11 increase in 2022-2023. Some concerns were raised from Athletics regarding the fee being accessed at only half the regular rate for part time students while these students have full access to the fitness centre and facilities.
- **Campus and Community Recreation (CCR):** CCR has been working to improve their website after receiving feedback on its accessibility from myself and colleagues at the SU, and hopefully soon we will be able to share with you a new website with clear information regarding their services and associated availability and costs. I also want to encourage you to enrol in [Wellness 101](#) and provide us feedback so that we can improve the course as needed.
- **Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Program Support Team (FGSR GPST):** The capstone proposal requirement has been removed from the admission form for the Master in Internetworking (MINT) program. In addition, we discussed the number of extra courses graduate students can take as part of their program, and it was decided that a maximum of 12 credit courses apart from mandatory credit courses can be taken as part of a program.
- **Student Experience Committee Meeting:** I was selected as a panelist to share the issues we think graduate students are facing at the U of A. It was good to be a part of the panel because I got the chance to take forward concerns I have heard from our members.
- **Touchdown Spaces:** The University has created a list of spaces that are available on campus for students during the final exam period, which you can find here: uab.ca/dropin. There are also now bookable study spaces in the libraries for up to 4 hours per day during the final exam period, which are also available in the touchdown list.

6.1

- For safety related updates or COVID measures, please refer to the University's safety measure general directives:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/campus-safety/safety-measures-general-directives/index.html>.

I wish you all a restful and safe holiday season. Feel free to reach out to me with any comments/concerns regarding this report or any other specific issue you want to discuss regarding student services at gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca

Thank you,
Paresh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services 2021-2022

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 November and 13 December 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 November	U-Pass Administrative Committee
22 November	Student Experience Committee Meeting
23 November	Meeting with K Friese, Assistant Dean of Health and Wellness
23 November	Veteran Friendly Campus Meeting
24 November	Days of Action (DOA) Committee
25 November	General Faculties Council Student Conduct Policy Committee (GFC SCPC)
26 November	Joint Student/University Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-instructional Fees (MNIFs)
26 November	Campus and Community Recreation Meeting
29 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Program Support Team (FGSR GPST)
29 November	Campus Food Bank Annual General Meeting
2 December	End-of-Term Celebration with Rapid Fire Theatre
3 December	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)
6 December	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
8 December	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC)
9 December	Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee
9 December	Campus Food Bank Board Meeting
13 December	Meeting with the M Padfield, University Registrar

GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Muneeb Mohiuddin
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

I met with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) on 18 November 2021. As reported by Jennifer in the GSA ERC report, the committee is discussing an array of matters related to the 2022 General Election. The nomination forms for the 2022 General Election were approved by me on the recommendation of the GSA ERC following this meeting (I also worked closely with the GSA office staff on their design, as well as the development of instruction sheets for filling out the forms).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me: gsacroff@ualberta.ca.

Sincerely,
Muneeb Mohiuddin, GSA Chief Returning Officer

GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Kenzie Gordon
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear 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,
Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

Memorandum to GSA Councillors

As reported previously on multiple occasions, there are a number of vacancies on GSA Standing Committees for GSA Council Members (Departmental Councillors, Alternates, and Councillors-at-Large). These positions play a pivotal role in the GSA's ongoing efforts to keep its processes transparent and itself accountable and long-term vacancies adversely impact these efforts. **GSA Councillors (including Alternates) are strongly encouraged to consider serving on these committees.**

It is important to note that the time commitment for these committees varies greatly. While some meet regularly throughout the year (usually every two (2) to three (3) months) others meet less frequently, and some do almost all of their work over email. Additionally, **there is an appreciation of people's schedules and other commitments and accommodations are routinely made for those who cannot attend all meetings.**

Service on these bodies is an excellent way to make sure your voice is heard and a great opportunity to add to your CV/resume!

On behalf of the GSA NoC, I strongly encourage GSA Councillors (and Alternates) and Councillors-at-Large to consider the next round of vacancies, which will be circulated to GSA Council electronically and which are listed below. Questions can be directed to me at mlgordon@ualberta.ca or GSA Elections Coordinator Monica Brzak at gsanomco@ualberta.ca.

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Committee (GSA ACB) (Two (2) GSA Councillor Positions)

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors will be circulated via email to GSA Council 10 and 17 December 2021, and 7 January 2022 with a nomination deadline of 11 January 2022.

2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Committee (GSA ACB) (Two (2) GSA Member Positions)

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA members will be circulated via the GSA newsletter on 10 and 17 December 2021, and 7 January 2022 with a nomination deadline of 11 January 2022.

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

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors will be circulated via email to GSA Council 10 and 17 December 2021, and 7 January 2022 with a nomination deadline of 12 January 2022.

4) GSA Board (GSAB) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor will be circulated via email to GSA Council 10 and 17 December 2021, and 7 January 2022 with a nomination deadline of 12 January 2022.

5) GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/NoC) (Two (2) Joint GSA Councillor Positions)

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors will be circulated via email to GSA Council 10 and 17 December 2021, and 7 January 2022 with a nomination deadline of 12 January 2022.

External Committees: Vacancies

6) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (Four (4) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the four (4) vacancies for Alternates on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 12 and 19 November with a nomination deadline of 24 November 2021.

Two nominations were received; MD Saiful Islam and Mehrdad Yousefpoori Naeim were elected. The remaining vacancies will be readvertised.

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Jennifer Bertrand
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 18 November 2021 to continue planning the 2022 GSA General Election.

At this meeting, members reviewed and recommended to the Chief Returning Officer the 2022 GSA General Election Directly-Elected Officer and Councillor-at-Large Nomination Forms. The GSA ERC also discussed various issues related to the 2022 GSA General Election Forum.

The GSA ERC will next meet in January 2022 to continue the process of planning the 2022 GSA General Election.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bertrand, Chair of the GSA ERC

Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 13 December 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 10 December 2021

Dear GSA Council Members,

The office, following a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC), is beginning to prepare a draft budget for 2022-2023. Following further review by the GSA BFC and the GSA Board (GSAB), the proposed GSA 2022-2023 operating budget will come before GSA Council in February. We remain in a good financial position but it will be prudent for the GSA to continue to proceed with caution in the upcoming fiscal year as we continue to grapple with the ripple effects associated with the pandemic. The winter term financial and expenditure report will also come forward to GSA Council in February and we will host some Budget 101 sessions in advance of that for anyone interested in learning more about the GSA's budget.

We are also working with the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee to prepare for the 2022 GSA General Election. In advance of the General Election nomination period opening, the office will be working with the GSA Nominating Committee to host several Discover Governance sessions in January for those interested in running for elected office. The schedule for those events is available on the GSA website.

Finally, the office is accepting applications for the GSA Recognition Awards, training members of the GSA Awards Selection Committee concerning the adjudication of said applications, and preparing online orientation materials for the start of the winter term. We are also forward planning some online event programming for the new year.

As always, the detailed weekly reports from the management team to the GSAB are attached for your review and I hope everyone has a restful and safe holiday break.

Best,
Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 17 November 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 10 November 2021:

Strategic

- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2022 GSA General Election (the committee will meet later this week).
- Meeting with the GSA's client rep with Kids and Company (usage rates are low, but that's not surprising given the pandemic and because it's a new service, but there's a lot of uptake of their webinar series and they will start supplying us with additional advertising materials).
- Action associated with the November meeting of GSA Council.
- Beginning to plan the development of the 2022-2023 operating budget (reviewing the current budget, setting up meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC), drafting recommendations from the financial team for the GSA BFC to consider, etc) and preparing to support a review of the GSA's investment policy by the GSA BFC – the committee will next meet on 1 December.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network and planning training sessions for newly appointed stewards, advising individual graduate student workers, and preparing for the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (developing a survey regarding bargaining priorities, with assistance from PSAC).
- Moving forward a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January, following consultation with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (this body has just completed a very thorough review), the GSA Governance Committee (an email vote will be circulated shortly), and the GSA Board).

Operations

- Planning various Discover Governance events, an end of term event with Rapid Fire Theatre, and forward planning for GSA Awards Night (an in-person event, scaled down and with appropriate safety measures, may be possible by late March) and online winter orientation.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter); and planning Discover Governance programming.
- Facebook = 1,722 likes (up 6 from 8 November); Facebook posts reached 775 users since 6 November. Twitter = 1,232 followers (down 2 from 6 November; our tweets earned 462 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 758 followers (up 3 from 6 November); Instagram posts reached 4 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October (now accepting applications for travel within Canada as well as online; uptake on travel option remains very low); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 1 December 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 17 November 2021:

Strategic

- Finalizing office closure dates over the holiday break and working on a long planned reconfiguration of staff space in the GSA office.
- Drafting the second Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council for review by the GSA Board.
- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2022 GSA General Election (the committee met recently and will meet again in the new year).
- Beginning to plan the development of the 2022-2023 operating budget (reviewing the current budget, drafting recommendations from the financial team for the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) to consider, etc) and preparing to support a review of the GSA's investment policy by the GSA BFC – the committee will be meeting this afternoon.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network and planning training sessions for newly appointed stewards, advising individual graduate student workers, and preparing for the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (developing a survey regarding bargaining priorities, with assistance from PSAC).
- Moving forward a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January, following consultation with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (this body has just completed a very thorough review), the GSA Governance Committee (an email vote will be circulated in January), and the GSA Board).

Operations

- Assisting a GSA Graduate Student Group with registration issues they've encountered with Student Group Services.
- Hosting Discover Governance sessions and preparing for an end of term event with Rapid Fire Theatre.
- Forward planning for GSA Awards Night (an in-person event, scaled down and with appropriate safety measures, may be possible by late March) and online winter orientation.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter); and planning Discover Governance programming.
- Facebook = 1,722 likes (up 0 from 15 November); Facebook posts reached 327 users since 15 November. Twitter = 1,236 followers (up 4 from 15 November; our tweets earned 522 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 763 followers (up 5 from 15 November); Instagram posts reached 129 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October (now accepting applications for travel within Canada as well as online; uptake on travel option remains very low); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 8 December 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 1 December 2021:

Strategic

- Preparing for the office closure dates over the holiday break (prepping January GSA Council and GSA Board material, etc).
- Development of the 2022-2023 operating budget (following the review of various recommendations with the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)) and supporting a review of the GSA's investment policy by the GSA BFC.
- Drafting the second Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council for review by the GSA Board.
- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2022 GSA General Election (the committee will next meet in the new year to finalize things).
- Hosting Discover Governance sessions for those interested in potentially running in the 2022 GSA General Election.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network and planning training sessions for newly appointed stewards, advising individual graduate student workers, and preparing for the next round of negotiations (working with PSAC and the GSA Negotiating Team to draft the GSA's bargaining mandate, which will be subject to a ratification vote by the bargaining unit) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee.
- Moving forward a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January, following consultation with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (this body has just completed a very thorough review), the GSA Governance Committee (an email vote will be circulated in January), and the GSA Board).

Operations

- Opening of the application period for GSA Recognition Awards and hosting a Recognition Awards 101 session.
- Forward planning for GSA Awards Night (an in-person event, scaled down and with appropriate safety measures, may be possible by late March) and online winter orientation.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council and via the GSA newsletter), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter).
- Facebook = 1,721 likes (down 1 from 1 December); Facebook posts reached 287 users since 1 December. Twitter = 1,238 followers (up 2 from 1 December; our tweets earned 717 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 765 followers (up 2 from 1 December); Instagram posts reached 172 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October (now accepting applications for travel within Canada as well as online; uptake on travel option remains very low); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.