

GSA Council Meeting AGENDA

Monday, 17 July 2023 at 6:00 pm

Held in-person in Council Chamber and electronically via Zoom

The GSA and the University of Alberta reside on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway, Saulteaux, Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. In acknowledging this traditional territory and its significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon it, we recognize its longer history that reaches beyond colonization and the establishment of European colonies and recognize the GSA's ongoing collective responsibility in working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples and what that means for the work of the GSA as it aims to practice the principles of being Good Relations with FNMI peoples, Nations, communities, and lands.

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

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

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair

OPEN SESSION

**Attached
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 17 July 2023 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 19 June 2023 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 19 June 2023 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
 - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

2.0 - 2.4

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements (*suggested time: 5 min*)

Presentation

5. Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) (*suggested time: 20 min*)
Tiffany Kung (Vice-President Student Life) will present the item and introduce the guest.

Guests: Monisha Vinod (Graduate Student Project Sponsor) and Carmen Norris (Senior Service Designer)

Information Item

6. 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (*suggested time: 15 min*)
Bishoi Aziz (President) will present the item.

Attachment:

- i. Outline of Issue
- ii. 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

6.0

6.1 - 6.9

Reports (suggested time: 15 min)

7. President (**Bishoi Aziz, President**)
 - i. President's Report 7.0
 - ii. GSA Board Report 7.1
 - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
 - iv. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

8. Vice-President Academic (**Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic**)
 - i. Vice-President Academic's Report 8.0 - 8.1

9. Vice-President External (**Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External**)
 - i. Vice-President External's Report 9.0 - 9.2
 - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

10. Vice-President Student Life (**Tiffany Kung, Vice-President Student Life**)
 - i. Vice-President Student Life's Report 10.0 - 10.3
 - iii. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

11. Vice-President Student Services (**Haseeb Arshad, Vice-President Student Services**)
 - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 11.0 - 11.2

12. Associate Vice-President Labour (**Muneeb Masood Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour**)
 - i. Associate Vice-President Labour's Report 12.0 - 12.1
 - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

13. Speaker (**Farhan Khalid, Speaker**)
 - i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)

14. Chief Returning Officer (**Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer**)
 - i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)

15. GSA Nominating Committee (**Violet Sun, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**)
 - i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 15.0 - 15.1

16. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Devansh Patel, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Vice-Chair**)
 - i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

17. GSA Management (**Lewie Moodley, Executive Director**)
 - i. Executive Director's Report 17.0 - 17.8

Question Period

18. Written Questions (**none received**)
19. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 19 June 2023 at 6:00 pm
Held in-person in Council Chamber and electronically via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bishoi Aziz (President)	Haroun Elyasir (Councillor-at-Large)	Victor Ladewig (Dentistry)	Leo Remillard (Oncology)
Rija Kamran (VP Academic)	Sandeep Kumar (Councillor-at-Large)	Shuai Yu (Educational Policy Studies)	Constantin Mouzaabar (Ophthalmology)
Hamid Hassani (VP External)	Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Scott Taylor (Educational Psychology)	Christian Faig (Pharmacology)
Tiffany Kung (VP Student Life)	Rajdeepsinh Solanki (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Ahmed Ahmed (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Haseeb Arshad (VP Student Services)	Andrew Pohlka (Biochemistry)	Karen Fraser (Human Ecology)	Eduardo Melo de Andrade Lima (Philosophy)
Muneeb Masood Raja (AVP Labour)	Sam Tan (Biological Sciences)	Jillian Ames (IGSA)	Abhinab Mukhopadhyay (Physics)
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Carly Weber (Biomedical Engineering)	Taylor Walsh (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Rubio Atonal (Physiology)
Camila Rodrigues de Freitas (Deputy Speaker)	Nahid Shaikh (Business MBA)	Kylie Day (Library & Information Studies)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Zain Patel (Cell Biology)	Natasha Daley (Linguistics)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Farzin Sadehlari (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Pouneh Mohammadi Nejad (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Clinton Ekaeze (Public Health)
Eric Beaudry (Councillor-at-Large)	Amanda Tran (Chemistry)	Kineshta Pillay (Mechanical Engineering)	Wendy Amoako (Rehab Science)
Arseniy Belosokhov (Councillor-at-Large)	Kiera Greenaway (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Calvin Gordon (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Nicole Lau (Renewable Resources)
Shubham Goswami (Councillor-at-Large)	Zia van Blankenstein (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	

Guests: Heather Ritz (Days of Action Program Coordinator); Aria Bondesen (Days of Action Student Intern); Elizabeth Widjaja (GSA Nominating Committee member); Saad Iqbal (GSA Senator candidate; Earth and Atmospheric Science); Zak Kaal (Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science; GSA Senator candidate).

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. The Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda**1. Approval of the 19 June 2023 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 19 June 2023 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. C Baaklini **MOVED**; T Kung **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes**2. Minutes from the 15 May 2023 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 15 May GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 June 2023. Z Patel **MOVED**; T Kung **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

Prepared by M Brzak and F Robertson for GSA Council 19 June 2023

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** A Mukhopadhyay (Physics); F Sadehlari (CME); K Greenaway (CEE); A Ahmed (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences).

- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members**

This was the last meeting for a number of GSA Council members: C Faig (Pharmacology).

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

R Kamran announced on behalf of the Selection Committee for the Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) the start of the public process of the selection. The Selection and Review Initiatives Manager (Office of the Provost) extended an invitation to graduate students to participate in small group meetings with the two final candidates. Further information was provided in the Summary of GSA Council – 19 June 2023, which was circulated to members on June 21, 2023.

Presentation

5. Days of Action

Tiffany Kung (Vice-President Student Life) presented the item and introduced guests, Heather Ritz (Community Social Worker, Student Services - Wellness Supports).

H Ritz introduced herself as the Chair of the Days of Action Committee and presented on the concepts of the Days of Action as a set of campaigns designed to address mental health education on campus, including preventative work, such as skill building, and proactive work, such as building social connections. The committee is a collaborative group of students, staff, and faculty from North Campus, Campus Saint-Jean, and Augustana; they observe several days throughout the year to promote their mission, which combines mental health and intersectional social justice, to focus on which programs they can support and advocate for.

H Ritz explained that the committee was aiming for five different Days of Action for the coming academic year, including World Suicide Prevention Day, World Mental Health Day, World Hello Day, Social Justice Day, and International Day of Happiness. She then reviewed past activities associated with these days and invited members to participate in a JamBoard session with the following questions: What gaps in programming are there for graduate students that the Days of Action Committee (DOAC) could help address?; What campaign key messages or programming would benefit graduate students?; and What indicators would tell us that key messaging & programs with graduate students are successful?. H Ritz asked specifically what members feel the gaps are in programming for graduate students that the committee should address.

Members then made a series of suggestions, including but not limited to, clearer and less severe messaging around the purpose of programming and events, with the goal of early intervention and prevention; providing messaging around achieving a healthy work/life balance; programming for building and sustaining friendships (suggestions provided such as volunteering, venturing outside of your own faculty, taking advantage of campus offerings); structured programming that graduate students can build into their regular schedule; smaller, inter-departmental gatherings that feel less daunting but also would encourage interdisciplinary interactions for those with a similar research focus.

Members were encouraged to engage with the Days of Action and to reach out to H Ritz at hritz@ualberta.ca if they have further feedback or questions.

Action Item

6. GSA Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J

Sophie Shi (GSA Chief Returning Officer) presented the item.

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S Shi noted that the proposed changes were brought about based on her experiences as CRO during the 2022 GSA General Election. These changes were put into practice for the 2023 GSA General Election, which further demonstrated that additional changes were required. These Bylaw and Policy changes regarding the CRO decisions are now being presented to Council for their approval. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J, as shown in the attached tracked changes document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. R Kamran **MOVED**; Z Patel **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** Unanimously.

Elections

7. GSA Council Elections

Elizabeth Widjaja (GSA Nominating Committee Member) presented the items.

GSA Council-Elected Officer Positions

- a. GSA Speaker (1 GSA member vacancy)
Farhan Khalid (Chemical & Materials Engineering)
Eklovepreet Singh (Mechanical Engineering)

E Widjaja asked the nominees for GSA Speaker the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve as GSA Speaker”. E Singh was not present to address the GSA Council. F Khalid was given the opportunity to respond, which is permitted for Council-Elected Officer positions if not all candidates are present.

GSA Deputy Speaker (1 GSA member vacancy)
Camila Rodrigues de Freitas (AFNS)

E Widjaja asked the nominee for GSA Deputy Speaker the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve as the GSA Deputy Speaker” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

GSA Chief Returning Officer (1 GSA member vacancy)
Sophi Shi (Chemical & Materials Engineering)

E Widjaja asked the nominee for GSA CRO the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve as GSA CRO” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

GSA Senator (1 GSA member vacancy)
Saad Iqbal (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)
Zak Kaal (AFNS) – AFNS GSA President
Ola Mabrouk (Chemistry)

E Widjaja asked the nominees for GSA Senator the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve as GSA Senator” and the nominees were given the opportunity to respond.

GSA Standing Committees

- b. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (2 GSA Councillor renewals; 1 GSA member renewal)
Eric Beaudry (Mechanical Engineering, CAL)
Laura Manerus (Biological Sciences, CAL)
Juliana Lasso Mendez (Pediatrics, GSA member)

The nominees for renewal of positions on GSA ACB were not all present to address GSA Council.

- c. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 GSA Councillor vacancy; 4 GSA member vacancies)
Andrew Pohlka (Biochemistry)

E Widjaja asked the nominee for GSA ERC the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

Reports

8. President

i. President’s Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziz highlighted the work being done on the GSA Strategic Work Plan, BA thanked the GSA staff and board for their work on the SWP. Furthermore B Aziz noted the change in the GSA communications strategy to engage with more graduate students. B Aziz asked for feedback from Council regarding the upcoming vote to remove smoking spaces on campus.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No written report at this time.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No written report at this time.

9. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, R Kamran noted that she has been working with the FGSR Dean and Vice Provost selection committee and encourages fellow Councilors to engage in the public forum in questioning candidates.

10. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted.

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.

11. Vice-President Student Life

i. Vice-President Student Life's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, T Kung noted that they have been working on many EDI initiatives and if anyone had any thoughts or concerns to reach out.

ii. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report

No written report at this time.

12. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted.

13. Associate Vice-President Labour

i. Associate Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Masood Raja stated that shared services have communicated that there should be no more delays in contracts and noted that all who are expecting contracts should sign them as soon as possible.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted.

14. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

15. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

16. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report at this time.

17. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted.

18. 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 16 June 2023. The report stood as submitted. The Executive Director thanked the Board and the GSA staff for their hard work.

Question Period

20. Written Questions

21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Outline of Issue

2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council **RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION** the 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

Background:

The 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) was prepared by the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), to direct efforts in the coming year and identify areas in which to work with others in the University community. This latest iteration builds upon past SWPs and incorporates initiatives of importance for the current team.

This year's SWP development started with the DEOs participating in several workshop sessions to discuss initiatives and priorities for 2023-2024. This work was accompanied by a town hall and a survey to all graduate students (as well as discussion at the May 2023 meeting of GSA Council). Based on the feedback received, a draft of the SWP was developed and further reviewed and refined by the GSA Board on 20 June and 5 July 2023.

Following GSA Council's receipt of the Board SWP for information, this outward facing document will be released to University administration, other stakeholders, advocacy partners, and the GSA membership at large. DEOs will, likewise, begin meeting with key individuals to discuss the initiatives and goals developed in the Board SWP. As always, reports on progress with these initiatives will be provided to the GSA Council in October, January, and April, in addition to the oral and written reports DEOs provide monthly.

Jurisdiction:

Post-Secondary Learning Act, Section 94(3):

"The graduate students association of a university shall provide for the administration of graduate student affairs at the university, including ... the promotion of the general welfare of the graduate students consistent with the purposes of the university."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.3.2.a:

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.5.1.i:

"The President leads development of a strategic work plan for the GSA, in concert with the other DEOs [Directly-Elected Officers]."



The Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan 2023-2024

Connect Support Advocate



Our Vision and Mission

To advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and all levels of government in pursuit of a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.

The GSA and the University of Alberta reside on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway, Saukteaux, Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. In acknowledging this traditional territory and its significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon it, we recognize its longer history that reaches beyond colonization and the establishment of European colonies and recognize the GSA's ongoing collective responsibility in working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples and what that means for the work of the GSA as it aims to practice the principles of being Good Relations with FNMI peoples, Nations, communities, and lands.

2023-2024 Graduate Students' Association Executives



Graduate students elect GSA leaders each February. Here are the 2023-2024 GSA Directly-Elected Officers (from left to right): Vice-President Academic, Rija Kamran; Vice-President Student Services, Haseeb Arshad; (forward) President, Bishoi Aziz; Vice-President External, Hamid Hassani; Vice-President Labour, Muneeb Masood Raja; and Vice-President Student Life, Tiffany Kung.

What is the Graduate Students' Association?

The GSA, as established by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, represents graduate students at the University of Alberta and provides a wealth of services to its members to enrich the graduate student experience. A separate corporate entity, the GSA is a collegial organization which co-exists alongside the University of Alberta to fully empower, represent, and advocate for graduate students.

Concurrently, the GSA is the provincially-designated labour union for the Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs), thus bestowing it with a dual set of responsibilities and obligations.



Who is a Graduate Student?

A graduate student is an emerging colleague who contributes to their field of study in pursuit of an advanced degree through collaborative work with the professoriate in research, teaching, and the cultivation of University learning environments. These contributions are accomplished through, among others: extensive course work and the development of capstone projects, theses, or dissertations (in pursuit of which graduate students are charged tuition and fees); academic employment (for which graduate students are paid); the co-creation and writing of scholarly work; contribution to the securing of academic funding; participation in the academic community via presentation, conferences, and other engagement initiatives; as well as economic contribution in the form of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The multi-faceted role of the graduate student is to take place in an environment of mutual respect and fairness — one aimed at developing skills and knowledge with lifelong benefits. This role therefore merits appropriate remuneration for labour in service of the enhancement of the institution.

What is the GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan?

The GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan is the document that steers and prioritizes the work and initiatives of the GSA in accordance with the tenets of the graduate student experience. The GSA sees this plan as a living document, shifting focus and direction as the landscape changes within the University community and beyond, often at the provincial and federal levels.

It is developed annually following extensive consultation with the graduate student community and with reference to the Strategic Work Plans of previous GSA Boards, and as such provides a planning document for this and future years.



Connect

The GSA is committed to:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The GSA recognizes a need for graduate students to plan for their future and look forward beyond their education. *The GSA will:*

- ◆ Work to increase awareness of professional development in both academia and industry.
- ◆ Work in partnership with the University to expand opportunities for professional development for graduate students.
- ◆ Advocate for Co-op work opportunities for domestic and International students.

BETTER COMMUNICATION

The GSA will strive to create more opportunities for graduate student awareness and improve GSA engagement by:

- ◆ Utilizing social media to educate graduate students about GSA services and events.
- ◆ Ensuring better access to the GSA executives for graduate students and to be responsive and engaging with our members.

Did you know?

The GSA has:

- ▶ Orientation resources specific to graduate students (we also participate in 45-50 departmental orientations annually)
- ▶ a weekly newsletter, website, and social media profiles that highlight events and ways to get involved

DECREASING UNIVERSITY BUREAUCRACY

As a result of the University's restructuring, a lot of services such as the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) have become more bureaucratic and therefore, difficult to navigate. The GSA is committed to providing guidance to graduate students on how to navigate the University's redesigned and reconfigured processes and ensuring greater transparency for our students. *The GSA will:*

- ◆ Work towards making our Executives more recognized by fellow students, accessible and approachable for students to bring concerns forward.
- ◆ Work closely with University Administration to advocate for more streamlined processes to make services accessible to students.



CONNECT

A lack of stable funding and unpredictable increases in educational and other costs can cause significant strain on graduate students' health and wellness and can inhibit academic progress.

The GSA is committed to:

UNDERSTANDING A.I. TOOLS

Artificial Intelligence, or A.I., has become an integral part of our daily lives. Graduate students have been utilizing A.I tools to help them with their personal, academic, and work lives. The GSA wants to ensure that students are educated on A.I and how to effectively and ethically use them. *The GSA will:*

- ◆ Support current and future research on A.I tools and learn its role in the academic space.
- ◆ Understand and learn A.I tools and how they can be effectively and ethically used within academia.
- ◆ Advocate for clear policies that define how AI can be utilized by students in their work and maintain educational integrity.

SUPPORT

The GSA is committed to:

STRENGTHENING INDIGENIZATION AND RECONCILIATION EFFORTS

The GSA will continue to:

- ◆ Advance the objectives of Truth and Reconciliation by advocating for initiatives that directly support Indigenous students.
- ◆ Work closely and support Indigenous groups and leaders such as the Indigenous Graduate Student's Association, First Peoples' House, Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE), and the Office of Indigenous Programming and Research.
- ◆ Support and participate in Indigenous events, ceremonies, education, and advocacies as welcomed and as appropriate.



SUPPORT

As an international graduate student, the GSA gave me an opportunity to get involved with the community, and work on my professional development and public speaking skills.

The GSA is committed to:

FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES

Pursuing a graduate or doctoral degree is stressful, prosperous, and sometimes, isolating. The GSA hosts many social events such as Coffee Breaks to help students connect with one another and help foster long lasting relationships. *The GSA will continue to:*

- ◆ Aim to host social events for graduate students.
- ◆ Work closely with departments and associations to create a wider range of social events.
- ◆ Foster a welcoming community and environment for International students and support them integrating into the graduate student life on campus.
- ◆ Connect and support marginalized groups and other networks.

Did you know?

The GSA has:

- ▶ graduate student lounges at Triffo Hall
- ▶ rooms available for booking
- ▶ several fun events per year

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

We will continue to work with the GSA's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) to fulfill its mandate to ensure that the GSA reflects the principles of Equity Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and represents students who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC), as disabled or diversely abled, as students who parent, as womxn, or as LGBTQPIANU+. *The GSA will continue to support:*

- ◆ Initiatives that directly support marginalized and racialized students.
- ◆ Building partnerships with various groups and providing support to marginalized and underrepresented groups.



ADVOCATE

The GSA is committed to:

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

We understand that increasing tuition costs is an important issue for graduate students. *The GSA will continue to:*

- ◆ Advocate for fair tuition and broadly accessible post-secondary education at the University of Alberta, but also — in tandem with its partner associations — for the same across the province.
- ◆ Spearhead the goal of establishing an institutional minimum for doctoral-level funding packages.
- ◆ Advocate for improved Health and Dental coverage at an affordable price.

INCREASING INTERNSHIP AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The GSA will continue to:

- ◆ Advocate for Co-op work opportunities for domestic and international students.
- ◆ Strive to secure more scholarship opportunities for international students.

All graduate students are entitled to a safe and respectful study and work environment characterized by positive supervisory relationships and free from harassment, discrimination, and bullying.

Did you know?

The GSA offers:

- ▶ Emergency Bursaries
- ▶ Child Care Grants
- ▶ Academic Travel Grants
- ▶ Graduate Student Group Grants
- ▶ Recognition Awards
- ▶ Health and Dental Plan

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Increases in rent and housing costs have caused massive strain on our graduate students due to inflation. The current offerings of official University residences are limited in terms of pricing and/or consideration for families. *The GSA will advocate for:*

- ◆ Providing strategies for reducing rent costs for campus housing.
- ◆ Providing support to graduate students who experience vulnerability in their housing situation.
- ◆ Increased support for the Campus Food Bank and continuing to work closely with them.
- ◆ Continuing to work with the Edmonton area Student Associations to advocate for affordable student housing across the city.



ADVOCATE

In its role as a union, the GSA champions, advances, and protects the rights of its members as workers.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Personal safety has become a rising concern among our members and we are committed to working to ensure members are and feel safe in their University experiences. *The GSA will:*

- ◆ Engage with the various bodies across campus whose focus is on safety and security in our buildings and across campus in a holistic way that accounts for different perspectives of security.
- ◆ To support the development and implementation of restorative justice practices
- ◆ Engage in conversations with Edmonton Transit regarding safety on transit and utilizing the U-Pass.

INTERNATIONAL

We recognize the unique challenges faced by international students and will actively engage with internal and external stakeholders to advocate for their needs and provide necessary support. The GSA will continue to:

- ◆ Work collaboratively with the provincial government to address the concerns of international students and ensure support for any immigration plans.
- ◆ Strive to secure more scholarship opportunities for international students.

Did you know?

The GSA:

- ▶ meets regularly with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Dean of Students
- ▶ is a member of the provincial advocacy group the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

LABOUR

The GSA will continue to:

- ◆ Increase awareness and educate students about the Collective Agreement.
- ◆ The work of bolstering its bargaining position.
- ◆ Ensure that AEGSs are protected by legislated occupational health and safety standards.
- ◆ Ensure campus-wide compliance with the provisions of the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement by connecting with graduate students as well as the institutional units who serve these students.



Events:

The GSA will offer in-person events in the 2023-2024 year; these include Fall and Winter orientation opportunities, GSA information sessions which are offered for the benefit of graduate students, and regular social events.

Additionally, the GSA General Election takes place annually in February-March.



The Graduate Students' Association
1-49 Triffo Hall
University of Alberta
T6G 2E1



780-492-2175
gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca
uab.ca/gsa

President
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Bishoi Aziz
Date: 14 July 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to report to you my activities over the past month.

GSA Strategic Work Plan (SWP)

- I am excited to inform you that the board finalized the 2023/2024 GSA Strategic Work Plan. This year, we have witnessed a significant improvement in the students' engagement through the consultation process thanks to the innovative work of the GSA board and staff members. We also embarked on wide consultations with University administration. We were happy to see that our findings align with the findings from the University's Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP).

PhD guaranteed Minimum Funding Package

- The University is currently working to decide on the structure of implementing this important project. I continue to receive an overwhelmingly positive support from the University on this project. In our discussions with the FGSR Dean, we advocated for a separation between the minimum funding guarantee and the scholarships that students can obtain. Lowering the funding students receive because of scholarships discourages students from putting in the effort to apply from the beginning. We also advocate that departments should have better resources to train students on writing robust funding applications.

Advisory Working Group on Moderate Standard of Living and Bursary Applications

- This month, we had the first meeting for the advisory working group on the moderate standard of living. This group aims to revise the University's standards for calculating students' eligibility for bursaries as needs-based funding. This first meeting included an education for the members regarding how the University performs the eligibility calculation.
- To offer better advocacy, we have decided to build a survey that will be distributed to all the graduate students to gather information on the current financial situations to get an updated estimate for the cost of living given the inflationary state we are experiencing.

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 June 2023 to 17 July 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

20 June	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
20 June	Meeting with J Smith, Chief of Staff, President's Office
20 June	Meeting with C Fotang, President, Students' Union (UASU)
21 June	Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP)
22 June	Advisory Working Group on Moderate Standard of Living and Bursary Applications
22 June	Student Group Administration Consultation Meeting
23 June	Meeting with M Padfield, Deputy Provost, Students and Enrolment
27 June	GSA Executive with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
4 July	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
6 July	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition Meeting
13 July	Meeting with O Mabrouk, GSA Senator
17 July	Meeting with F Glanfield Vice-Provost, Indigenous Programming and Research

**GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to the 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 Directly-Elected Officers 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 17 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 17.5 – 17.8.

21 June 2023 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) Utilization Report for April 2022-March 2023; 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Visual – Final Draft; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Graduate Student Assistance Program Annual Statistical Report, April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. TK **MOVED**. HA Seconded. Postponed to future meeting until more information gathered.

28 June 2023 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

GSRA Survey; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

5 July 2023 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) Utilization Report for April 2022-March 2023; 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Text – Final Draft; Meeting Reports

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Graduate Student Assistance Program Annual Statistical Report, April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. SP **MOVED**. AN Seconded. **CARRIED**.

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE AND FORWARD TO GSA COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION** the 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. TK **MOVED**. HH Seconded. **CARRIED**.

12 July 2023 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Campus Food Bank Update; An Open Letter on the Hate-Motivated Attack at the University of Waterloo; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**2023-2024 Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Rija Kamran
Date: 14 July 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well. I have shared some highlights from the work I have been involved in since the last council meeting.

June 20 & July 4, 2023- Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean

I attended meetings with FGSR Dean, Dr. Roger Epp. We are continuing the discussion on the PhD guaranteed minimum funding project, next steps around formulation of operating standards and implementation of the guaranteed funding project. We are also continuing discussions on other potential ways to offset financial strains such as reduction in tuition after candidacy examination, reducing international tuition differential and extension of guaranteed minimum funding to master's programs.

June 23, 2023- Informal Discussion re: Supporting Indigenous Graduate Students and Applicants

I was fortunate to attend the informal discussion facilitated by FGSR on supporting Indigenous graduate students. This meeting was an opportunity to learn more about the barriers faced by Indigenous students in accessing graduate programs and the potential ways we can support and continue advocacy on this front.

June 23 & 26, 2023- Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders

I attended meetings with the two shortlisted candidates for the Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean position. Alongside other Directly Elected Officers (DEOs), I was able to ask some pertinent questions about the candidates' vision for FGSR and conveyed the expectations from graduate students for the new FGSR dean. The decision for the new FGSR dean has been made and will be made public soon.

July 11, 2023- Meeting with FGSR re: International tuition fees

I met Bobbi Schiestel, the Faculty General Manager of FGSR to discuss tuition issues faced by some international graduate students with regards to the change in Master of Engineering program structure and the associated fees. To provide some context, the Faculty of Engineering changed the program structure of their Master of Engineering programs, which was previously a two-year program, to be a one-year program with an optional additional year if needed. As a result of this change the entire tuition amount (close to \$40k) is assessed in year one and \$0 for year two.. We are waiting to get more statistics about the rationale for this change and possible considerations for exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Please feel free to reach out to me at gsavpaca@ualberta.ca if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. Thank you.

Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic 2023-24

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 June to 17 July 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

20 June	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
22 June	General Faculties Council Academic Programs Committee (GFC PC)
23 June	Informal Discussion re: Supporting Indigenous Graduate Students and Applicants
23 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders
23 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate Public Forum

8.1

23 June	FGSR Executive with Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean of Students Selection Meeting with T Ravio, Interview Candidate
23 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee Interview
26 June	FGSR Executive with Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean of Students Selection Meeting with H Ostergaard, Interview Candidate
26 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate Public Forum
26 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders
26 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee Interview
29 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee
4 July	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
6 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student
11 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student
11 July	Meeting with FGSR re: International tuition fees

**2023-2024 Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Hamid Hassani
Date: 14 July 2023

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you well. As the Vice President External of the GSA, I am pleased to provide an update on recent activities and initiatives.

June 19: AIESEC Meeting

The focus of this meeting was on internships offered by AIESEC, a global youth-led organization operating in 137 countries. AIESEC provides voluntary opportunities through local NGOs and companies, addressing various issues such as climate change and education. The meeting discussed AIESEC's internship program, which offers exchange opportunities lasting from 6 to 18 months and is suitable for individuals with more background and experience, including graduate students. AIESEC collaborates with companies like Sony and Microsoft, primarily for engineering and marketing positions, but opportunities in music and hotel management were mentioned as well. Participants were informed about salaries provided by companies and accommodation arrangements, with an example of around \$3000 in Colombia. Visa requirements and potential visa problems were highlighted, particularly for volunteers. While domestic students face fewer visa-related issues, countries like Italy, Romania, Mexico, Taiwan, Colombia, Egypt, Turkey, Argentina, India, and Australia were mentioned as possible destinations. Undergraduate students interested in volunteering may not receive direct financial support from AIESEC, but there is an International Work Experience Grant available to assist with program fees. The approval process takes approximately one month, with an additional three weeks for reviewing necessary procedures. It was also mentioned that participants could pay for an additional person to accompany them during the exchange, and some countries offer visa-on-arrival options. AIESEC has no restrictions on the number of students that can be sent.

June 22: Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council

This meeting included representatives from various student councils and associations across Alberta. Anika Zepp from the Alberta Student Executive Council (ASEC) provided general information and discussed plans for an advocacy week in November. The goal of having Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) members by the next meeting was mentioned. Another member noted that a meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education had been scheduled. He also mentioned receiving a government grant of \$15,000 for anti-racism initiatives to highlight student achievements. Members raised concerns regarding the importance of transparency with graduate bodies and regular surveys to gather feedback, safety on Calgary transit, anti-racism efforts in collaboration with Black Lives Matter, and expressed a desire to showcase student arts by returning funds to students. They also mentioned researching the impact of proximity to universities and campus time requirements on students' academic success, as well as issues related to campus food security and poor funding at the University of Calgary. Other topics included concerns about academic misconduct, the Alberta International Students' New Committee's objectives, and the Alberta 2030 plan. The next meeting is scheduled for July, with a focus on housing and accommodation priorities.

June 23: Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders

During the meeting, the selection committee addressed questions raised by Jillian Ames, President for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), regarding guaranteed funding. It was emphasized that having a guaranteed funding plan is crucial, as other universities have more comprehensive and effective plans in place.

The discussion also encompassed topics such as admissions, prioritizing the experiences of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, decolonization, reconciliation, and support for Indigenous students. The importance of

communication and capturing feedback was highlighted as a key factor in enhancing the overall experience of graduate students. Additionally, it was noted that there is a lack of decolonization and reconciliation initiatives, which should be addressed. Efforts to recruit more Indigenous students were discussed, including the establishment of a centralized platform where potential and current indigenous students can connect and form a community. The committee expressed the importance of making resources and support more visible, such as creating an easily accessible platform for indigenous students.

Furthermore, the committee discussed the idea of bringing employers and partners to the university to create job opportunities for students. This would provide valuable support for graduates and enhance their prospects after completing their studies.

I acknowledge that the candidate for the Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean position was able to provide satisfactory answers to most of the questions raised during the meeting. However, there were some questions that the candidate was unable to address adequately.

June 27: Meeting with Roger Epp

The meeting began with the sharing of priorities by the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), but given Roger Epp's impending departure within the next 2-6 months, future priorities remained uncertain. Key topics discussed included the need to increase the student population by approximately 30% for the upcoming year. Various models of minimum funding package were explored, with a suggested figure of around 25,000 CAD. Participants discussed the possibility of advocating for additional funding. Indigenous student support was another focal point, with considerations for offering preferential treatment to Indigenous students. Issues related to problems between supervisors and students were also discussed, along with potential changes to scholarships and awards by the federal government. The importance of improving the University's website was highlighted. The meeting emphasized that funding packages have remained unchanged for over two decades and that ongoing tuition fees are insufficient for supporting University operations and communication with graduate students. The University expressed support for internship programs and planned to engage with the government on this matter. Finally, a call was made for an increase in the number of academic grants available for the current year.

July 4: Dean of Students' Office, Executive Director Selection Committee

The meeting began with introductions. The committee reviewed the summary of the previous confidential meeting and focused on the Student Experience Action Plan. They noted that the Student Welfare Plan (SWP) had been approved on June 30th and discussed a growth plan. The committee mentioned that the University's strategic plan would be released in September and emphasized important aspects of the student experience based on input from 200 individuals. Discussions included the SWP draft principles, highlighting the significance of transparent and affordable housing, support for academic success, smooth university transitions, and accessibility. The meeting also addressed equity in academic recruitment, the presence of bias, and the need for clear protocols. The committee stressed expanding the candidate pool, prioritizing student intentions, and regularly updating advertisements. They emphasized the importance of a deliberate selection process, identifying reasons for candidate exclusions, and addressing gender bias. To ensure fairness, the committee discussed using an interview template, along with alternative methods such as chat-based and online questioning, to gather information from candidates.

July 6: Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition

The meeting was attended by graduate student representatives from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and Concordia University of Edmonton. The meeting discussed various topics and policies related to the operations and advocacy work of ab-GPAC.

The meeting addressed the importance of advocacy policies and working with the provincial government. Mental health emerged as a significant problem across the province. Internship positions and student leadership were discussed, along with the development of strategic and annual work plans based on feedback from each Graduate Student Association (GSA).

The meeting mentioned two committees: the governance committee, and the treasurer, who oversaw finances. The understanding of the provincial government and its policies, including the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Action document, Alberta Nominee Program, and Alberta student grants and loans, were also discussed.

The political landscape was briefly touched upon, highlighting the shift in power from the conservative party to the NDP. The meeting highlighted the presence of other advocacy organizations, such as the Alberta Student Executive Council (ASEC), Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA), Alberta Post-Secondary Network, and the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), which represented different student groups and had varying approaches to advocacy. The term of the UCP government from 2019 to 2023 was discussed, along with the impact of their policies on operating grants, tax credits, tuition fees, student grants, and loans. The meeting concluded with a reminder of an upcoming board retreat in August.

I am delighted to announce that Jessica Revington from the University of Calgary and I have been appointed as co-chairs for ab-GPAC. It is a tremendous honor to take on this leadership role within the organization.

As co-chairs, Jessica and I are thrilled to have the opportunity to guide ab-GPAC's mission and advocate for the needs and concerns of graduate students in Alberta. We are committed to fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment, where the voices of graduate students are heard and their interests are represented effectively.

Together, Jessica and I will work closely with the executive team and our fellow members to develop strategic plans, initiate impactful advocacy campaigns, and build strong relationships with stakeholders. We believe in the power of unity and will strive to strengthen the bonds among GSAs across Alberta, enabling us to amplify our collective voice and drive positive change.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the members of ab-GPAC for entrusting us with this responsibility. We are excited to embark on this journey as co-chairs and look forward to making a meaningful impact on the lives of graduate students throughout Alberta.

Thank you for your support, and we are eager to serve you as co-chairs of ab-GPAC!

Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External 2023-2024

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 June and 17 July 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 June	Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council
23 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders
27 June	GSA Executive with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
28 June	Dean of Students' Office, Executive Director Selection Committee
4 July	Dean of Students' Office, Executive Director Selection Committee
6 July	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition Meeting
11 July	Meeting with FGSR re: International tuition fees
13 July	Meeting with O Mabrouk, GSA Senator
14 July	Chancellor Committee Consultation
17 July	Dean of Students' Office, Executive Director Selection Committee

**2023-2024 Vice-President Student Life
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Tiffany Kung
Date: 14 July 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a restful June, as well as spending time and receiving care from community in light of recent events. Please do not hesitate to access University resources if you need support, or reach out if you need someone to talk to. Please find attached my report regarding the meetings I've attended this month.

Meeting with Lula Adam (Coordinator Student Equity and Diversity, Dean of Students' Office) (June 20)

I met with Lula Adam to discuss potential collaborations between our offices for the coming year. Lula discussed that her role is mostly focussed on education and training, and mostly for undergraduate students. However, she committed to working together on any overlapping initiatives throughout the year.

She shared with me the drop-in graduate student support groups (every Tuesday, from 11am-12pm between July 4 and August 27 in SUB 4-02) that are meant to connect graduate students to their peers across campus. I was able to attend the first group and had a wonderful time; I encourage everyone to attend to connect with grad students from different departments and faculties!

University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC) (June 20)

The Safety and Security Committee discussed trends in security across campus over the past few years. In general, incidents have doubled since 2022, but have started trending down since January. The Building Action plan that will focus on creating celebrated entrances and reducing building hours is still in progress. Bike cages and security cameras in these areas are also in progress.

Results from the student safety survey were discussed. In general, students did not feel very safe and secure on campus in general, though a majority felt more / the same secure than other public spaces. Students felt safer during the day, and many individual concerns regarding specific buildings were collected. If you're interested in reading the report, please reach out to me at gsavpsi@ualberta.ca and I will be happy to inquire into getting you access to the presentation.

Meeting regarding the Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) (June 21)

Trevor Philips and Sarah Wolgemuth from the SEAP team met with Bishoi Aziz and I to discuss updates to SEAP. These updates and more will be covered in the presentation SEAP will be giving at Council. If you have further concerns or thoughts, please reach out to me at gsavpsi@ualberta.ca.

Meeting with Ravina Sanghera (Incoming Dean of Students) (June 21)

Bishoi Aziz, Haseeb Arshad, and I met with Ravina Sanghera and discussed priorities for the year. The Dean of Students hope to onboard an Executive Director in August who will be able to help with the Dean's work. Ravina will be on vacation for the next couple months, and discussions will continue once she returns to work.

Advisory Working Group on Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) and Bursary Applications

This group met for the first time to discuss the group's mission statement. The group included Norma Rodenburg (Vice Provost & Assistant Registrar), and representatives from the Students' Union (UASU) as well as from the GSA. Briefly, the group is meeting to discuss bursary and need-based funding to students (~\$2M to graduate students every year). The bursaries require demonstrated financial need, which is calculated via the Common Assessment Practice.

The Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) is set at basic living expenses for one month, and includes: rent, utilities, food, clothes, household necessities, cell/internet bills, tenant/home insurance. Other considered costs that are not in the MSOL are: transportation (e.g. for students who parent), a dependent's school fees, medical/para-medical costs, child care, minimum debt payments. The values allotted for each category are informed by provincial and federal loan standard allowance values, the average cost research of expenses within Edmonton, and family composition.

This group will continue to meet over the summer, and is intended to advise on the appraisal and disbursement of bursaries to students. A survey is being prepared by the GSA to poll for concerns and considerations that should be considered in this process (e.g., those who may be financially responsible for dependents who are not children, how best to communicate these programs, etc.). If you have any thoughts, please contact one of us (gsavpsi@ualberta.ca, gsavpsse@ualberta.ca, gsapresi@ualberta.ca) and we will be sure your concerns are heard.

Student Group Administration Consultation Meeting (June 22)

Members of the GSA, the UASU and the Dean of Student's office met to discuss the administration of student groups. This meeting was the beginning of the Dean of Students' consultation process, which will continue into the next year. If you have any concerns regarding student group administration, please reach out at gsavpsi@ualberta.ca and I would be happy to elaborate.

Informal Discussion about Supports for Indigenous Students (June 23)

A number of University admin as well as Indigenous graduate students across campus, Roger Epp (Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research), Shana Dion (Assistant Dean, First People's House) met to discuss supports for Indigenous students. Many Indigenous students shared experiences and barriers they encountered on their journey to grad school, including the devaluation and lack of appreciation for non-data-driven work, community work, feelings of fear, a lack of belonging in academia, impostor syndrome, and more.

In general, calls were made to: support Indigenous students when they are working with their community off campus, streamline the University experience, foster an on-campus community for Indigenous students, recruit and retain Indigenous staff and faculty members as well as work with Undergraduate students to lower barriers to grad school in prospective students, create a full-time support staff position for Indigenous students (for example, through Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE)), connect Indigenous students with meaningful projects, increase compassion for Indigenous students on campus, make steps such that Indigenous students no longer need to perform their trauma to sit on committees to push for change, facilitate Indigenous students and supports connecting and communicating with each other, and make grad school more relational rather than transactional.

Meeting with Roger Epp, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) (June 27)

Members of the GSA met with Roger Epp to discuss work for the year. Supervisory relationships, support for external advocacy around Tri-Council funding, improving communication to students (e.g., the FGSR website), increasing internships, and ensuring graduate students see benefits from increased tuition were discussed. As the new FGSR Dean will be onboarding soon, Roger's focus will be on transition, and pushing for a few initiatives before he leaves, including increased support for Indigenous students, which we will be meeting to discuss in the future.

Meeting with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) (June 27)

I met with the IGSA to discuss how the GSA can support the IGSA in their efforts for the upcoming years. Their main requests focused around funding for operations and events. I will be working with the GSA, Florence Glanfield's office, and the IGSA to hopefully secure more funding for them this year, and a sustained source of funding for the future.

Meeting with Tim Ira (Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for Indigenous Initiatives & Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences) (June 29)

I met with Tim to discuss his new role, as well as possible collaborations into this coming year. Tim recommended others at the University I could connect with for this work, and is open to collaborations throughout the year as opportunities arise.

Current Students Discovery Interview (June 29)

Members of the GSA met with members of the University communications team as well as Adverb, the social media company who will be managing the University's social media. The group discussed what graduate students may be interested in seeing from the University's social media, including communications about academic and wellness supports, internship opportunities, different models of excellence, and more. I will be meeting with Ashley Bilodeau to discuss how the FGSR website could be improved. If you have any ideas and concerns, please let me know and I will be sure to bring it forward to this meeting.

Meeting with Evelyn Hamdon (June 30)

Evelyn and I met to discuss feedback on the new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) module that was released recently, as well as potential collaborations on campus. It was decided that it would be more efficient for me to communicate with Carrie Smith (Vice Provost EDI), who would then communicate with her as needed. Evelyn extended an invitation to the EDI Leads Group, which meets bimonthly.

Meeting with a Graduate Student RE: Accessibility (July 4)

I met with a student to discuss physical accessibility on campus. The conversation centered around mobility barriers on campus, and the lack of resources available with navigating campus if you require mobility aids (e.g., wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and more). I will be bringing these concerns to my meeting with Carrie Smith (Vice Provost EDI) on July 28. If you have additional thoughts concerning accessibility, please reach out.

Meeting with M Griffiths (UASU Vice President Student Life) (July 5)

Michael and I met to discuss the possibility of joint hosting movie nights related to certain relevant dates and months. Some examples include movies showcasing black excellence during Black History Month, or movies promoting queer joy during Pride month. As these talks are still very preliminary, the goal is to begin hosting these movie nights, if feasible, by Winter semester, pending the completion of the Myer Horowitz theatre construction.

Graduate Students in Residence Association Survey (July 5)

With the help of K Huising's office (Associate Vice President Campus Services), I sent out an email probing for interest in a graduate students in residence association to host social events for students living in all residences across campus, as well as advocate for students at an institutional level. According to the results of the survey (can be accessed here via UAlberta email:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CA3SpRCiklYMXjpyNFicfleCzuz3JMpt/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100539688921334572487&rtpof=true&sd=true>), I am meeting with interested students to discuss whether there is sufficient interest in its creation. If you have any concerns or suggestions regarding this, please reach out (gsavpsi@ualberta.ca).

World Hello Day Planning Committee (July 6)

The group discussed general ideas for what the event could look like, including key messaging, messaging tone, and ideas for in-person events. For future updates or to provide thoughts on World Hello Day, please email gsavpsse@ualberta.ca.

Campus Climate Survey Report Review (July 10)

Haseeb and I met with a number of other University members and admin to discuss a survey on sexual and gender-based violence at the University that was conducted due to government mandate. The contents of the survey are confidential for now.

Meeting with M Brown (Diversity, Inclusion & Service Learning Intern, Campus Services, Residence) (July 10)

M Brown and I met to discuss potential collaborations between the GSA and the residence EDI team for the following year. M Brown expressed support for the potential EDI movie series collaboration with the UASU. We have committed to keeping in communication throughout the year.

Council of Residence Associations Meeting (July 12)

I met with M Griffiths (Vice President Student Life, University of Alberta Students' Union) and other student residence association representatives. The group discussed the terms of reference, which will cement the GSA's participation in the association, and will be revisited if the creation of a Graduate Students in Residence Association is created. The group discussed administrative matters such as expectations, and the appointment of a delegate to their Steering Committee.

Meeting with Andy Knight, Provost Fellow of Black Excellence and Leadership (July 13)

I met with A Knight to discuss potential collaborations. We discussed an upcoming symposium that is scheduled for February 2024 highlighting Black excellence, the creation of a black studies certificate and MOOC, and more. I discussed briefly initiatives the GSA are pursuing, including the EDI movie series and financial support for the IGSA.

Meeting with a Graduate Student RE: Graduate Students in Residence Association (July 13)

I met with a graduate student to learn more about how residence life currently operates. The student informed me about: cross-residence social events that are open to all students (graduate or undergraduate), various concerns of students living in residence, and introduced the idea of GSA Executives coming to residence to meet students monthly.

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 June to 17 July 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

20 June	Meeting with L Adam, Coordinator, Student Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity, Student Services
20 June	University of Alberta Security and Safety Committee (UASSC)
21 June	Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP)
21 June	Meeting with R Sanghera, Incoming Dean of Students
22 June	Advisory Working Group on Moderate Standard of Living and Bursary Applications
22 June	Student Group Administration Consultation
23 June	Informal Discussion re: Supporting Indigenous Graduate Students and Applicants
23 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate Public Forum
26 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders
27 June	GSA Executive with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
27 June	Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA)
29 June	Meeting with T Ira, Strategic Officer, Indigenous Initiatives & Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion, College of Social Sciences & Humanities
29 June	Current Students Discovery Interview re: University of Alberta's Social Media Strategy
30 June	Meeting with E Hamdon, Senior Advisor, Equity and Human Rights, Office of the Provost
4 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student RE: Accessibility
5 July	Meeting with M Griffiths, VP Student Life, Students' Union (UASU)
6 July	World Hello Day Working Group
10 July	Campus Climate Survey
10 July	Meeting with M Brown, Diversity, Inclusion & Service Learning Intern, Campus Services, Residence
12 July	Council of Residence Associations (CORA)
13 July	Meeting with A Knight, Provost Fellow, Black Excellence and Leadership
13 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student RE: Graduate Students in Residence Association
14 July	Meeting with K Huising, Associate Vice-President, Campus Services
17 July	Institute Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee
17 July	Meeting with F Glanfield, Vice-Provost Indigenous Programming and Research

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad
Date: 14 July 2023

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you with the best of health. For my meetings from 20th of June to 17th of July, I will use the following space to summarize some of the important ones.

- **National Standard of Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting (June 21):**
We discussed the implementation of the National Standard of Mental Health, and student concerns regarding mental health were categorized into priority areas, including top priority, medium level priority, and low priority. The committee emphasized the importance of prioritizing mental health issues and their impact on student well-being. Also, the project coordinator, Bri Bucalo announced she would be stepping down, with Chelsea Butler appointed as her successor starting in August. The committee is committed to developing an action plan based on staff and student survey data, aiming to address mental health concerns effectively. The plan is scheduled for presentation in mid-fall.
- **Advisory Working Group on Moderate Standard of Living and Bursary Applications Meeting (June 22):**
During the meeting, the committee members were engaged in productive discussions regarding the current Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) and the need-based bursaries provided by the University of Alberta. The committee highlighted the significant annual funding of \$43.7 million allocated for student support, including \$3.1 million specifically for graduate funding. Norma Rodenburg, Acting Registrar, was announced as the new chair of the group, replacing Melissa Padfield. Norma provided a brief overview of the reports on student financial support during the meeting. The executives from both the SU and GSA were requested to reflect on the MSOL, leading to the drafting of our survey that will be distributed to graduate students via email, seeking their input on the matter.
- **Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights (VLHR) Committee Meeting (June 22):**
I attended the VLHR chair meeting, where the Dean of Education, Jennifer Tupper, announced her retirement as chair, and Carrie Smith, Vice Provost of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), was introduced as her replacement. The committee agreed to make changes to the terms of reference and distribute them to the new committee members prior to the next scheduled meeting. Doug Weir, University of Alberta International Deputy and Director, provided an update on the invitation extended to two potential candidates for a visiting lecture on Human Rights, scheduled for early October. Additionally, he mentioned that the summer internship program, funded by the VLHR committee, had already commenced with two students undertaking their internships.
- **Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders Meeting (June 23):**
This meeting provided an opportunity for graduate students to engage one-on-one with Tracy Raivio, candidate for the position of FGSR Dean. During the meeting, students had the opportunity to ask questions and gain insights into Raivio's vision for the role. Discussions centered around her plans to ensure guaranteed funding for graduate students and her strategies for supporting students in effectively presenting their research to academic and non-academic staff. Raivio demonstrated composure and proficiency, leaving a positive impression on the attendees.
- **Services-Student Management Committee Meeting (SS-SMC) (June 26):**

During the SS-SMC meeting, the importance of FreshService technology and an AI assisted chatbot implementation throughout the UofA webpage was discussed. We also discussed establishing specific hours for different services provided to students. Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost and Chair, n that required consultation, a concern was raised regarding potential complications if students need to obtain signatures from different departments with multiple operating hours, potentially causing added frustration and delays. It was suggested to pilot this in September when departments return to regular office hours. This approach would allow for concrete pilot results to be gathered before presenting the proposal to the Board of Governors.

- **GSA Executive with R. Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean (June 27):**
This was an introductory meeting, where each Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) highlighted their priorities for the year. Dr Epp addressed the transition within the FGSR Dean office and emphasized the importance of establishing an early connection with the new Dean. Several key topics were discussed, including minimum funding, an increase in travel grant funds, the creation of a centralized resource hub for graduate students, and fostering positive teacher-supervisor relationships. Dr Epp acknowledged the dedication and motivation of the current staff at the Dean of Students and FGSR, emphasizing the importance of building lasting relationships with these individuals, as they are trusted to provide the best possible support to students.
- **Current Students Discovery Interview re: University of Alberta's Social Media Strategy Meeting (June 29):**
The meeting focused on generating innovative ideas to enhance the University of Alberta's social media presence. The UofA social media team posed questions to the attending DEOs, seeking insights into their specific needs and preferences. We suggested that the university should highlight the research successes of graduate students and actively promote scholarship opportunities. One suggestion put forward was to create Instagram reels featuring examples of students' research accomplishments, which could significantly enhance the visibility and impact of their work. Additionally, there was a discussion on utilizing social media platforms to combat misinformation effectively. The meeting highlighted the potential of leveraging of social media to amplify graduate students' achievements and strengthen the university's online presence.
- **Meeting with S. Flower re: Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) Meeting (July 4):**
The purpose of this meeting was to address concerns and provide clarification regarding the utilization report of the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) as well as the procedure for lodging official complaints against Homewood Health. S. Flower outlined that students can either directly file a complaint with Homewood or send an email to Sarah. In the latter case, Sarah will assist by having the student sign a personal information waiver form and then raise the complaint with Homewood on the student's behalf. The meeting aimed to ensure that students have a clear understanding of the process and options available for addressing concerns related to the GSAP and interacting with Homewood staff.
- **Campus Climate Survey Meeting (July 10):**
The meeting revolved around the discussion of a confidential survey report on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) on campus. This survey was mandated by the Government of Alberta to be conducted in every institution throughout the province. Participants expressed concerns regarding the validity of certain reported figures, raising questions about the accuracy and reliability of the data. Deb Eerkes, Sexual Violence Response Coordinator, acknowledged these concerns and informed the attendees that she would utilize the suggestions provided during the meeting to address the issue with the Leger staff who conducted the survey.
- **Meeting with K. Friese, Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness, Student Services (July 11):**

During the meeting, various topics were discussed, including potential funding for the Campus Food Bank (CFB), the creation of a new open space for CFB operations, and the establishment of an outdoor garden area. Additionally, there was a conversation regarding the feasibility of starting a peer support program for graduate students, which would be facilitated by the GSA. Kevin suggested meeting with the Director of the peer support program on campus, as well as Tiffany Sampson, who runs the Unitea program, to gather insights on logistics and budgetary requirements for initiating such a program. Exploring collaboration and learning from existing programs were emphasized as initial steps before fully launching the program. The meeting also involved discussions on identifying appropriate data metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Standard for Mental Health, particularly as the implementation phase nears completion. The focus was on developing a comprehensive assessment strategy to gauge the performance and impact of the national standard.

These were the highlights of the meetings that I have attended up until the submission of this report. I look forward to working with all the members of the GSA Council. Please feel free to reach out to me at vpss@ualberta.ca if you have any concerns or would like to discuss any matters with me.

Thank you,

Muhammad Haseeb Arshad,
Vice-President Student Services 2022-2023

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 June and 17 July 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

21 June	National Standard of Mental Health Advisory Committee
22 June	Advisory Working Group on Moderate Standard of Living and Bursary Applications
22 June	Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights (VLHR) Committee
23 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Interview Candidate with Graduate Student Leaders
26 June	Student Services-Student Management Committee Meeting (SS-SMC)
27 June	GSA Executive with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
29 June	Current Students Discovery Interview re: University of Alberta's Social Media Strategy
4 July	Meeting with S Flower re: Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)
10 July	Campus Climate Survey
11 July	Meeting with K Friese, Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness, Student Services

**2023-2024 Associate Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Muneeb Masood Raja
Date: 14 July 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I have attended several meetings between 20 June and 17 July 2023 which are listed in the table below. The details of these meetings are stated below.

Meetings with K Gunn, Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC) (21 June & 6 July):

In these meetings, we discussed different trainings that can be organized in collaboration with PSAC for academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs) to ensure that students are well aware of their rights and equipped with the right knowledge to protect those rights. A lot of the discussion also focussed on how different universities are having trouble bargaining, which is something that was unheard of until a few years ago. This is mainly due to the rise of inflation and cost of living going up and universities not being able to provide sufficient pay/funds to AEGSs. I plan on strengthening our union to ensure in case we face such issues, we are in a better position as a union before the bargaining period begins.

GSA Executive with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean (27 June):

All the Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) met with Dr. Roger Epp and shared their priorities for their terms. The DEOs also shared their feedback and asked questions of the FGSR Dean. Dr. Epp shared his priorities including the minimum funding guarantee, increasing the size of graduate classes, identifying gaps and barriers for Indigenous students, single place communication platform for graduate students, etc.

Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean (6 July):

I had a meeting with Dr. Epp to discuss several issues and gaps that I found in the collective agreement after consultation with graduate students over the last couple of months. We discussed the Graduate Research Assistantship Fellowship (GRAF) appointment in detail and how there is no clear language around the supervisor expectations from graduate students when it comes to the GRAF appointments and how the overall system lacks in regard to holding the supervisor accountable. We also spoke about the Short-Term Academically-Related Employment (STARE) appointments and the possibility of its misuse along with some other issues.

I also discussed the possibility of including the labour training that will be held in collaboration with PSAC to fulfill the professional development (PD) requirement. After consultation with Dr. Epp, we concluded that once the trainings are set up, they will be sent to FGSR to be approved by different faculties. If we can accomplish this, these trainings would not only increase the awareness of the students around the collective agreement, but will also contribute towards the PD credits.

Finally, I would really appreciate any feedback from the respected council members related to any labour-related matters.

Thank you,
Muneeb Masood Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour 2023-2024

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 June and 17 July 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

21 June	Meeting with K Gunn, Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC)
21 June	Meeting with a Graduate Student

12.1

27 June	GSA Executive with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
6 July	Meeting with K Gunn, Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC)
6 July	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
10 July	Campus Climate Survey

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Violet Sun
Date: 14 July 2023

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 email.

Sincerely,
Violet Sun, 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 ewidjaja@ualberta.ca or GSA Elections Coordinator Monica Brzak at gsanomco@ualberta.ca.

GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 29 June and 7 July with a nomination deadline of 11 July 2023. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 29 June and 7 July with a nomination deadline of 12 July 2023. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 17 July 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Lewie Moodley
Date: 14 July 2023

Dear GSA Council Members,

As the GSA's fiscal year ended on 31 March 2023, in early July 2023 we had the auditors come out to the GSA in person and they performed the annual financial audit. We are now waiting on the findings from this annual audit. The audit, as well as the preparation of the first term's budget and expenditure financial report of our new fiscal year, is expected to be completed in the coming months. Following their review by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, both of these items will come forward to the GSA Council. The GSA's audited financial statements will then proceed onward to the University Board of Governors, as per the requirements of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

An important element of the GSA's annual audit is a review of our various corporate documents. As a separate corporation from the University, we are the signatories to multiple contracts, agreements, memorandums of understanding, etc. In advance of the audit coming forward to GSA Council next month, I have included the below list of all of the documents that define us as a corporate entity and which are constantly monitored by the staff team.

The office has been working to complete all the essential training needed for new executives and as well as the final activities of onboarding the new team. We are also working closely with the new team to support the finalisation of the 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, which is on the agenda for the 17 July meeting to hear feedback from members of GSA Council. The office has been supporting the board with their new initiatives and currently working on the preparation for the Fall orientations.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 17.5-17.8) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Lewie Moodley, GSA Executive Director

Documents that Define the GSA as a Corporate Entity

<i>Agreements with Expiry Dates</i>		
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Campus Food Bank	Regulates GSA involvement with the Food Bank.	GSA gives \$27,000/annum to Campus Food Bank (increased in 2018-2019 budget, 2019-2020 budget, 2020-2021 budget, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 budget, and 2023-2024 budget). Original MoU expired 30 April 2015. Subsidy is set out annually in letters to the Campus Food Bank.
Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement	Sets out terms and conditions for graduate students serving as GTAs, GRAs, and GRAFs.	Current agreement with the Board of Governors expired 31 August 2024.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Agreement re GSSF	MoU that provides for funding allocations to the GSA for the GSSF.	Support from the University confirmed annually in advance of 31 March for the upcoming fiscal year.
Collective Agreement with NASA covering office staff	Sets out terms of employment for GSA staff.	Renegotiated in April 2012, 2015, and 2020. Current agreement expires in 2025.
Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)	Provides for a wide range of personal counselling.	Referenda held in 2009 and 2021; originally signed 31 December 2010 for a 2-year period with the possibility of four 2-year extensions; reviewed and re-signed in August 2013. Dependents added in December 2013. Current agreement expired 31 December 2014 but is described by the Administration as a rolling plan. Reviewed annually. Support from the University was confirmed at \$84,000 for 2022-2025 (thereafter confirmed annually in advance of 31 March for the upcoming fiscal year) with the remainder paid by graduate students pursuant to a referendum vote.
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for Health and Dental Plan.	Provider changed in 2012. Re-signed in 2014 and 2020. Current agreement expires 31 August 2025. Service levels, claims, etc are reviewed annually.
Liability Insurance	General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance (covers elected officials and administrative/professional staff). The GSA is not covered for alcohol use.	Doubled our liability insurance in 2012 and our Directors and Officers insurance in 2013. Switched brokers in 2016. Current Directors and Officers insurance expires 28 January 2024. Current General Liability insurance expires 17 May 2024.
North Power Plant and Dewey's	<p>2009 Memorandum of Agreement with the Students' Union regarding the operation of Dewey's.</p> <p>2010 Memorandum of Understanding with the U of A for use of North Power Plant Space for the Tory Building decant.</p> <p>1997 Memorandum of Agreement with the U of A guaranteeing graduate social space in North Power Plant or at another location; 2004 Letter of Confirmation on this MoU from the Dean of Students. The space includes the current sustainability offices.</p>	<p>Expired August 2012 - conversations about use of space are ongoing.</p> <p>No Expiration - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoU.</p> <p>No Expiration - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoA.</p>

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance as well as some funding for GSA events and the TD Student Service Award (given out at GSA Awards Night).	Renewed in 2016 and 2021 for a period of 5 years. Current agreement expires 31 August 2026.
Triffo Hall Lease	Detailed lease covering Triffo Hall office space.	First-ever lease was signed in June 2011; 5-year term, four renewals (three now remaining). Re-signed in 2016 and 2021 and current agreement expires 31 June 2026 (notification of desire to renew must be given 6-12 months before expiry).
U of A Financial Services	Stipulates when GSA receives membership fees collected by the U of A on our behalf.	Re-negotiated and signed in April 2012. Re-negotiated again in 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022. Current agreement expires 30 April 2025.
U-PASS	Governs U-PASS.	Referenda held in March 2013, February 2017, and February 2021. New agreement signed in 2021. Current agreement expires in 2025.
Kids and Company	Cost-sharing arrangement with the Students' Union to provide access to child care facilities around the city for graduate students (guaranteed access to full or flexible part-time child care spaces at a Kids and Company centre within 6 months of registration, discounted access to back up day child care passes, other limited services).	Signed in March 2021 for a one-year. Agreement renews annually.
GSA Indigenous Graduate Student Award	Governs an annual award of \$750 for an Indigenous graduate student, as adjudicated by First Peoples' House.	Renewed every six years (next renewal will be in 2027).
Agreements with No Expiry Dates (Ongoing)		
Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council	Society under the <i>Societies Act</i> .	Registered in March 2015 along with U of C, U of L and AU GSAs. U of L withdrew in 2017/2018. Annual Societies Act filing required. (The former Alberta Graduate Council disbanded in 2013).
ATB Financial Banking	Operating account.	Switched from BMO to ATB in May 2016 (as they also manage the GSA's investments). Signing authorities reviewed/updated annually.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
ATB Financial Investments	GICs, investments.	Agreement was signed on 11 April 2016 and reviewed and updated on 14 March 2022. Reviewed annually with a next in-depth review scheduled for 2024.
Career Centre and Academic Success Centre Agreements	Provides for subsidy of certain Career Centre and Academic Success Centre courses for grad students.	Annual subsidy of \$12,000 (increased in 2017-2018 budget, 2019-2020 budget, and 2020-2021 budget). Reviewed annually.
Ceridian (Payroll)	GSA staff and elected officials are paid by direct deposit.	Outsourcing is cheaper/more efficient than in-house production of cheques. Agreement signed 30 May 2011.
Info Sharing with Studentcare and University	Allows Studentcare access to specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes regarding the GSA's Health and Dental Plan.	Reviewed with the U of A Privacy Officer and Studentcare in 2012 and a new agreement signed on 3 May 2013. GSA to give notice of 6 months if wanting to terminate.
PAW Centre	Sets out terms of operation of PAW. SU also a signatory to the Agreement.	Referendum held, agreement signed in April 2012.
PAW Centre Leased Space	Sets out terms of rights and obligations of SU and GSA with respect to the leased space in PAW.	Negotiated business terms with SU concerning the food vendor space (currently occupied by Chopped Leaf until September 2024, following the negotiation of their lease in 2019) – agreement concerning the leased space signed in April 2017. Reviewed annually.
Personal Information Sharing Agreement with the U of A	Provides specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes, e.g. emailing the newsletter, elections.	Signed in May 2013.
Student Connect (Office of the Registrar)	Administers the GSA's Emergency Bursary program. GSA distributes funds.	2006 AEGS Memorandum of Settlement between GSA/BoG provides for establishment of an emergency bursary program with terms of reference developed by GSA and "distributed through the University Bursary Program."
Student Group Services	Outlines the responsibilities of the GSA and Student Group Services with respect to the registration and oversight of graduate student groups.	Developed in 2011 and redrafted in 2018. Reviewed annually.

U of A Human Resources Direct Deposit	Provides for direct deposit through Bear Tracks of GSSF allocations to graduate students and T4A production by U of A.	Agreement negotiated in 2012. Major infrastructure change from cheque processing by GSA.
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
U of A IST	Provides service, support, and regular review of the GSA's IT infrastructure.	Signed in June 2017. Reviewed annually.
Western Archives	Provides secure shredding of GSA material once every two months.	Signed in July 2018 for a term of two years with automatic renewals annually after that. Reviewed annually.
Xerox	Covers the leasing of one photocopier.	Original agreement expired 31 March 2018. Thereafter the agreement renews automatically on a yearly basis. Reviewed annually.

Other Corporate Documents

Audit (based on GSA Council-approved budget)	As a separate corporation from the University, we hire our own auditor. Requirement of the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> to provide audited financial statements to the Board of Governors annually.	Audit occurs annually in May/June. Audit field workers are typically on-site in late May/early June.
GSA Bylaw and Policy	Approved by GSA Council as enabled by the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> . Sections pertaining to collective bargaining approved by the GSA Labour Relations Committee as per the <i>Labour Relations Code</i> .	Reviewed regularly.
Contract with ED/Letters of Appointment	Sets out terms of employment for administrative/professional staff.	The ED's contract and other standard appointment letters for administrative/professional staff have been reviewed by our lawyers. Regular performance reviews conducted.
Referenda Master File	All referenda questions that actively impact graduate students (eg U-PASS, PAW Centre, GSAP, GSA Health and Dental Plan, etc).	Compiled and filed. Ongoing as referenda arise.

GSA Board, 21 June 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 7 June 2023:

Strategic

- Final stages of work around the SWP, this will be going to council July 17 2023
- First draft of the annual report completed and being reviewed by EH and LM
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Ongoing Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

Operations

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.
- PD has been finalized for the new role known as the Strategic Operations Coordinator, it has been advertised on Indeed, UofA switchboard and LinkedIn. No stand out candidates as yet.
- Laura has booked various training sessions into VP's calendar, please see your calendar for a range of these training sessions.
- Draft version of 2023-2024 GSA Planner completed, including messaging from the Deans and GSA President.
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA students), General Facilities Committee (advertised via newsletter), and Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (advertised via newsletter).
- Facebook = 1993 followers (up 2 from 13 June); Facebook posts reached "375" users since 13 June. Twitter = 1,343 followers (up 2 from 13 June); our tweets earned 229 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1028 followers (down 1 from 13 June; Instagram posts reached "14" users over the last week.
- Processing grants – new funding period opened 1 April for Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), Child Care Grants (CCGs) – next period starts 1 July.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 28 June 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 7 June 2023:

Strategic

- Final stages of work around the SWP, this will be going to council July 17 2023

- First draft of the annual report completed and being reviewed by EH and LM, been sent to BA
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Ongoing Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

Operations

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.
- PD has been finalized for the new role known as the Strategic Operations Coordinator, it has been advertised on Indeed, UofA switchboard and LinkedIn. No stand out candidates as yet.
- Laura has booked various training sessions into VP's calendar, please see your calendar for a range of these training sessions. 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Professional Development will appear in your calendars.
- Draft version of 2023-2024 GSA Planner completed, including messaging from the Deans and GSA President.
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA students), General Facilities Committee (advertised via newsletter), and Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (advertised via newsletter).
- Same as the previous report. Facebook = 1993 followers (up 2 from 13 June); Facebook posts reached "375" users since 13 June. Twitter = 1,343 followers (up 2 from 13 June); our tweets earned 229 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1028 followers (down 1 from 13 June; Instagram posts reached "14" users over the last week.
- Processing grants – new funding period opened 1 April for Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), Child Care Grants (CCGs) – next period starts 1 July.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 5 July 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 28 June 2023:

Strategic

- Final stages of work around the SWP, this will be going to council July 17 2023
- First draft of the annual report completed and being reviewed by EH and LM, been sent to BA
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Ongoing Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation

- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

Operations

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.
- PD has been finalized for the new role known as the Strategic Operations Coordinator, it has been advertised on Indeed, UofA switchboard and LinkedIn. Shortlist of candidates being formed.
- Laura has booked various training sessions into VP's calendar, please see your calendar for a range of these training sessions. 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Professional Development will appear in your calendars.
- Draft version of 2023-2024 GSA Planner completed, including messaging from the Deans and GSA President. Ordering will be placed in the coming week/s for the planners.
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee have vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), and GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council).
- Same as the previous report. Facebook = 1993 followers (up 2 from 13 June); Facebook posts reached "375" users since 13 June. Twitter = 1,343 followers (up 2 from 13 June); our tweets earned 229 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1028 followers (down 1 from 13 June; Instagram posts reached "14" users over the last week.
- Processing grants – new funding period opened 1 April for Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), Child Care Grants (CCGs) – next period starts 1 July. Orientation eClass scripts are being sent out to each DEO for short video clips and we continue to prep Fall orientations.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 12 July 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 5 July 2023:

Strategic

- Work has been completed on the SWP, this will be going to council July 17 2023
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Ongoing Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

Operations

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.

- PD has been finalized for the new role known as the Strategic Operations Coordinator, it has been advertised on Indeed, UofA switchboard and LinkedIn. Shortlist of candidates being formed.
- Laura has booked various training sessions into VP's calendar, please see your calendar for a range of these training sessions. 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Professional Development will appear in your calendars. This is a 3 hour online unit.
- Draft version of 2023-2024 GSA Planner completed, including messaging from the Deans and GSA President. Ordering will be placed in the coming week/s for the planners. Final reviews have been conducted.
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee have vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), and GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Ads for these vacant positions to go out this week via the newsletter.
- Same as the previous report. Facebook = 1993 followers (up 2 from 13 June); Facebook posts reached "375" users since 13 June. Twitter = 1,343 followers (up 2 from 13 June); our tweets earned 229 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1028 followers (down 1 from 13 June; Instagram posts reached "14" users over the last week.
- Processing grants – new funding period opened 1 April for Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), Child Care Grants (CCGs) – next period starts 1 July. Orientation eClass scripts are being sent out to each DEO for short video clips and we continue to prep Fall orientations.