

Discover Governance



If you plan a long hike...



You don't let a non-hiker pick your hiking boots...



...decide how much water you should pack...



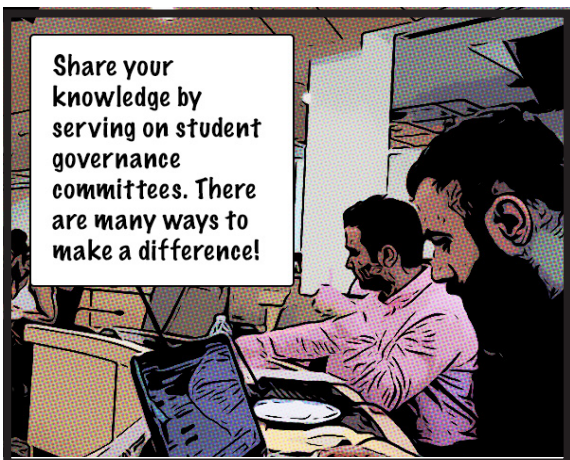
...or what shelter you need.



You depend on experienced people for advice.



Only graduate students know what they need for their unique journeys.



Share your knowledge by serving on student governance committees. There are many ways to make a difference!



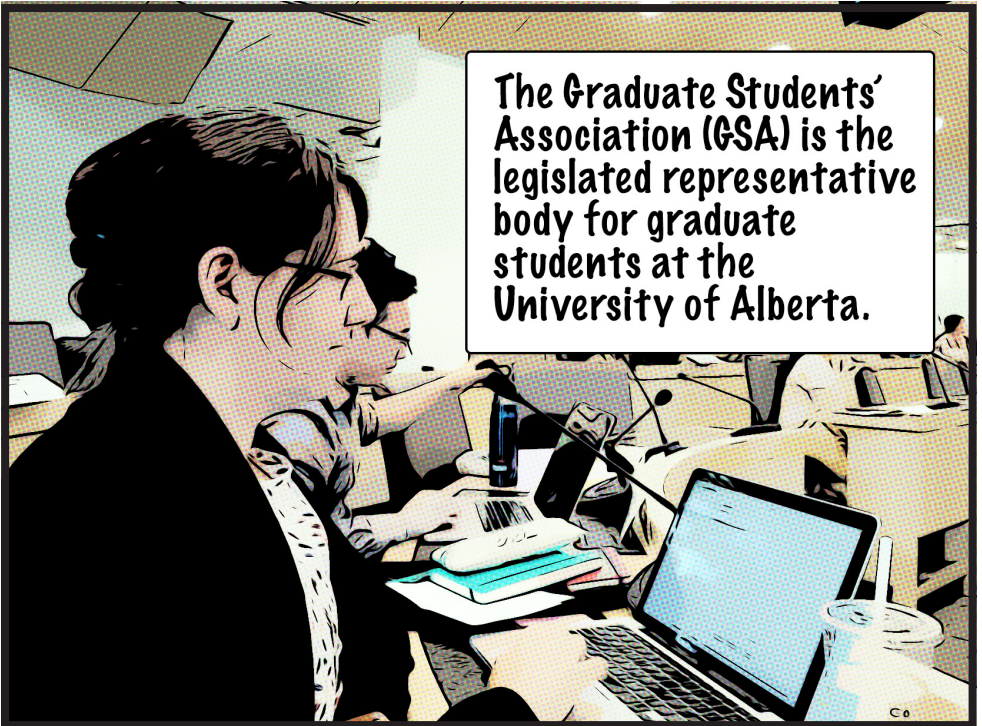
Before you begin...



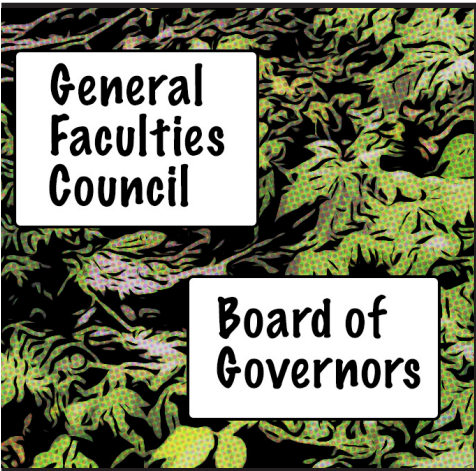
...do your research.



How does university governance work?



The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is the legislated representative body for graduate students at the University of Alberta.



General Faculties Council

Board of Governors



GSA Council



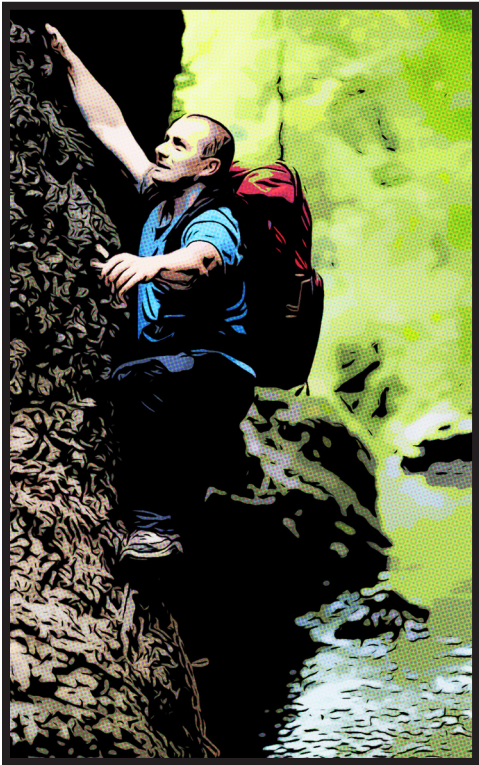
FGSR Council



Analyze your needs.



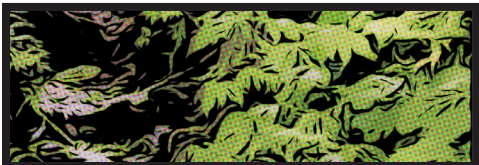
What skills do you have?



How much time do you have?



What do you want to change?



Do you need training?



How can you help graduate students?

Imagine yourself as a GSA elected leader.



Work with a team of like-minded leaders in order to fulfill goals to...



...enrich the grad student experience...



...create positive change in areas of supervision, inclusion, and supports ...



...and foster mental health initiatives.



Why is the GSA important?



The GSA is the only association, mandated by provincial legislation, that represents all graduate students to University administration and the government.



Want to know more?



GSA
Appeals and
Complaints Board

Skills: Impartiality
and neutrality,
and training in
procedural fairness

Time: Training time and
then time is dependant
on appeals and
complaints received

Hear and decide on
appeals of decisions of
the CRO and complaints
about GSA Officers

GSA
Awards Selection
Committee

Skills: Impartiality and
training on adjudica-
tion processes

Time: Approx. 7 hours
per year

A fun committee that
adjudicates awards
for other graduate
students

GSA
Budget and Finance
Committee

Skills: Budget
and investment
management; auditing
and auditing processes

Time: Approx. 14
hours per year

Work to provide for
the long-term financial
health of the GSA

GSA
Elections and
Referenda Committee

Skills: Election
management and
planning processes

Time: Approx. 12
hours per year

Help the CRO plan the
General Election and
any associated referenda
on GSA services

GSA
Equity, Diversity, and
Inclusion Committee

Skills: Development
and oversight of EDI
initiatives

Time: Approx. 12
hours per year

Actualize the GSA's
commitment to EDI
initiatives on campus

GSA
Governance
Committee

Skills: Governance
policy analysis
and governance
development

Time: Majority of work
done through email

Advise GSA Council on
GSA governance
including changes to
GSA Bylaw and Policy

GSA
Labour Relations
Committee

Must be an
academically-employed
graduate student

Time: Depends on
status of initiatives

Discuss the concerns of
academically-employed
graduate students
and the Collective
Agreement

GSA
Nominating
Committee

Skills: Impartiality and
Neutrality

Time: Majority of work
done through email

Replenish graduate
student representatives
to Councils, committees
and other bodies

GSA
Board

Must be an elected
student executive or
Council member

Weekly two-hour
meetings

Make decisions about
all about all major
advocacy and strategic
initiatives for the GSA

GSA
Council

Must be department
rep or
councillor-at-large

Weekly monthly
meetings

Represent students on
the highest governing
body of the GSA

Departmental
GSAs

Grad students can
also sit on their
departmental GSAs

Locate information in
your department
webpages

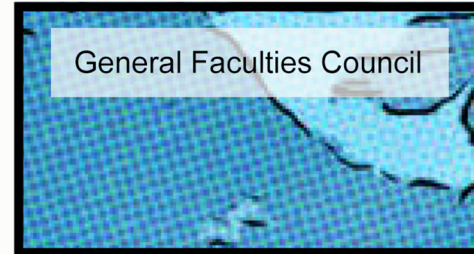
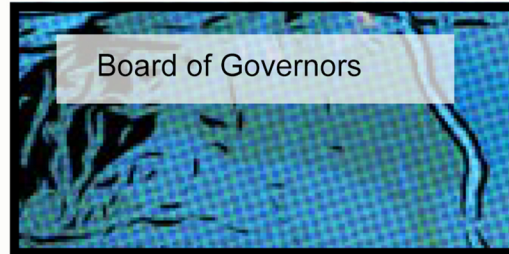
Departmental GSAs
are self-governing:
talk to your
department

The President of the GSA is the only graduate student representative allowed by legislation to sit on the Board of Governors, the highest administrative body at the University. All 21 members are appointed.

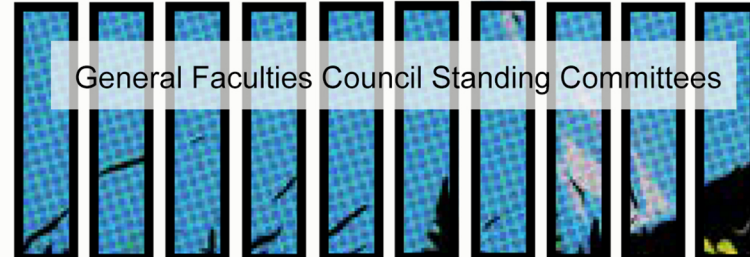
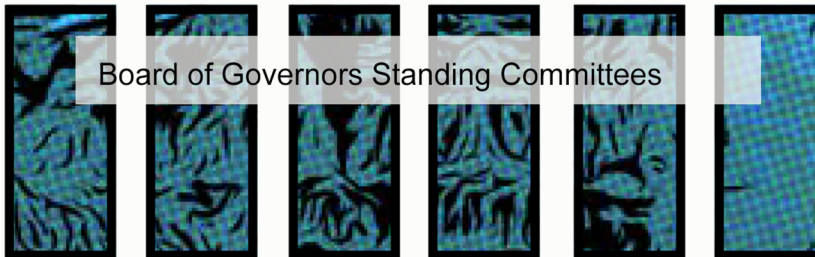


The Government of Alberta sets guidelines for the provincial universities that affect funding provided, fee increases, and other matters. The Government of Alberta appoints the Chair of the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors and General Faculties Council Standing Committees have graduate student representatives. The GSA has the only graduate student representatives on Board of Governors Standing Committees.

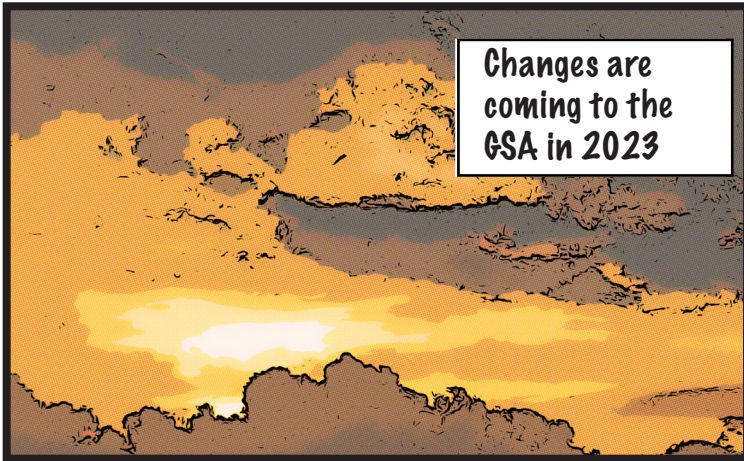


The General Faculties Council, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, is responsible for the academic affairs of the University.

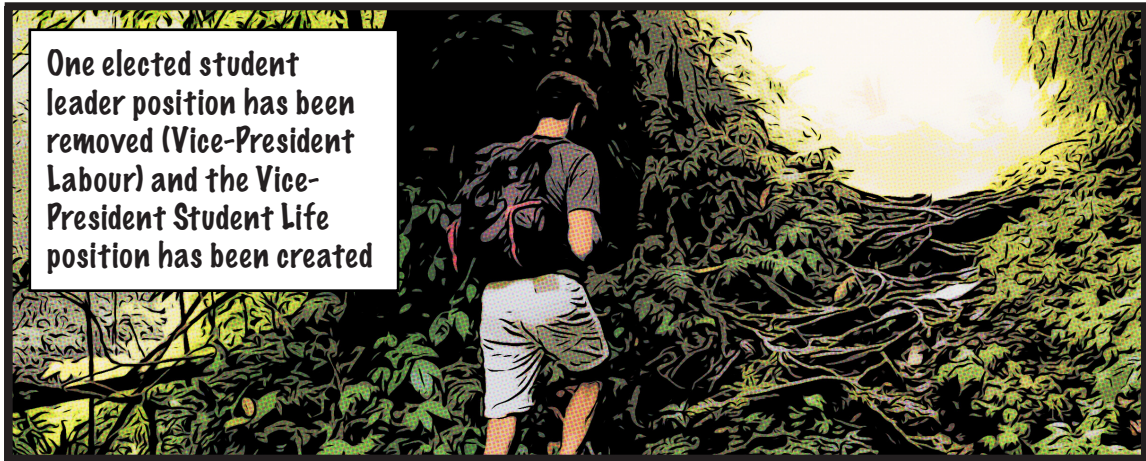


Other councils, committees, and working groups (including FGSR Council and Alumni Council) that make important decisions about graduate programs

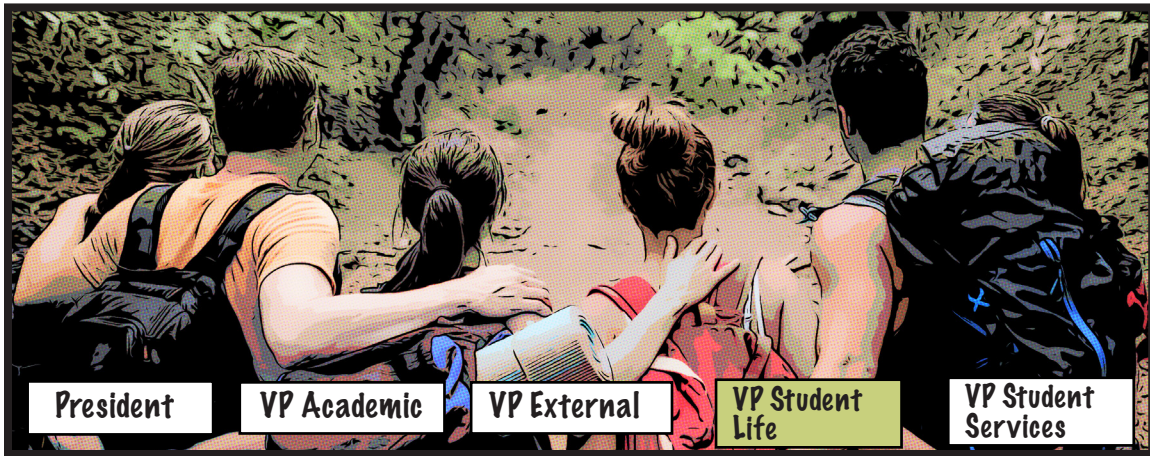
University Administration and key stakeholders that oversee graduate student affairs and supports



Changes are coming to the GSA in 2023



One elected student leader position has been removed (Vice-President Labour) and the Vice-President Student Life position has been created



President

VP Academic

VP External

VP Student Life

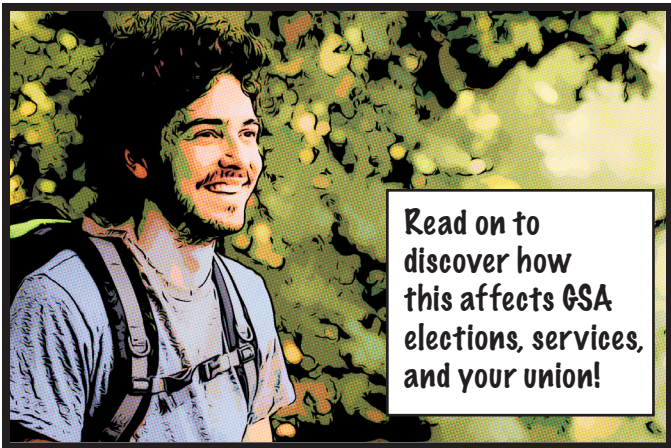
VP Student Services



and there is a brand new position created to aid graduate student workers...



...the Associate Vice-President Labour



Read on to discover how this affects GSA elections, services, and your union!



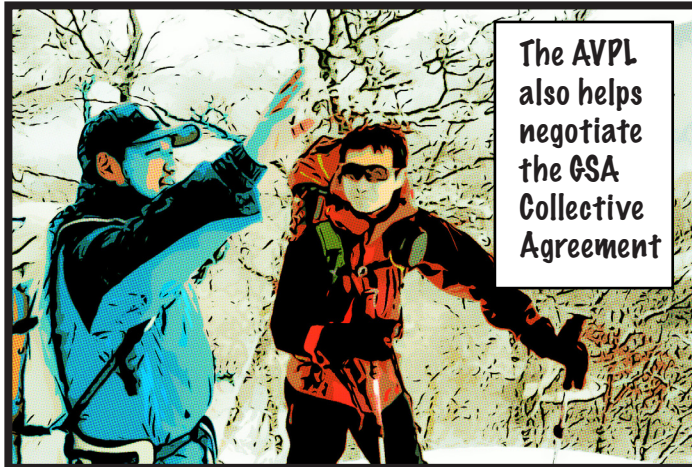
2 new positions



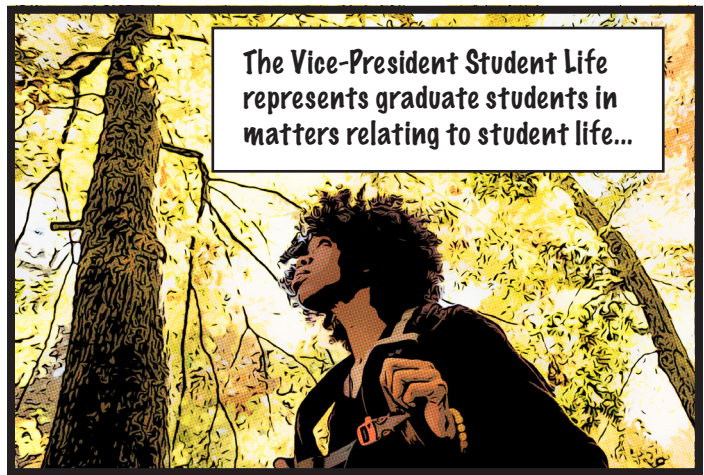
The GSA Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL) will work to support graduate students in partnership with the Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC)...



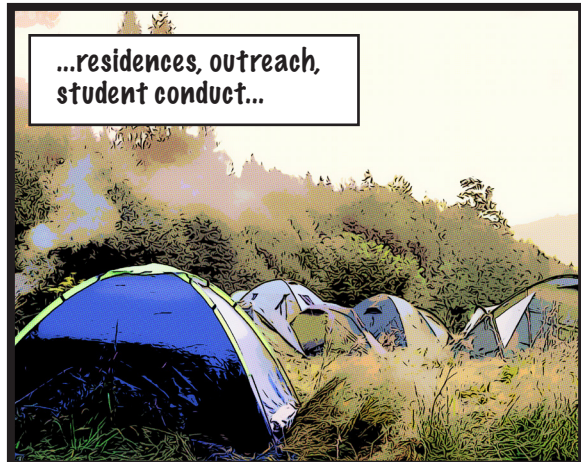
...and available to advise on GSA collective agreement issues and inquiries



The AVPL also helps negotiate the GSA Collective Agreement



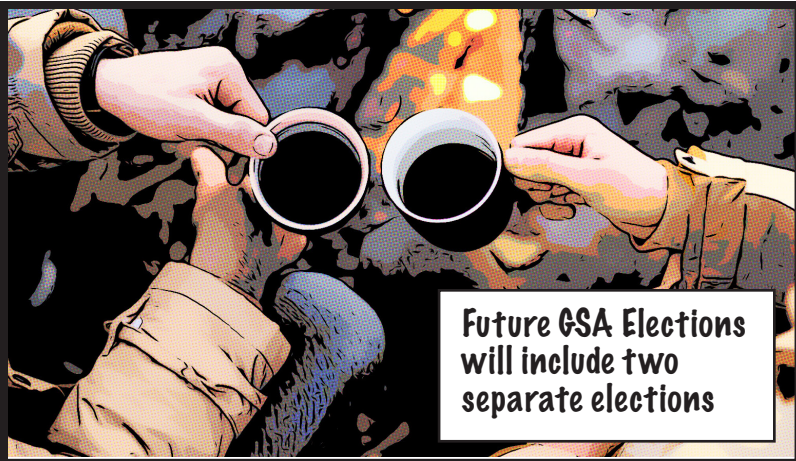
The Vice-President Student Life represents graduate students in matters relating to student life...



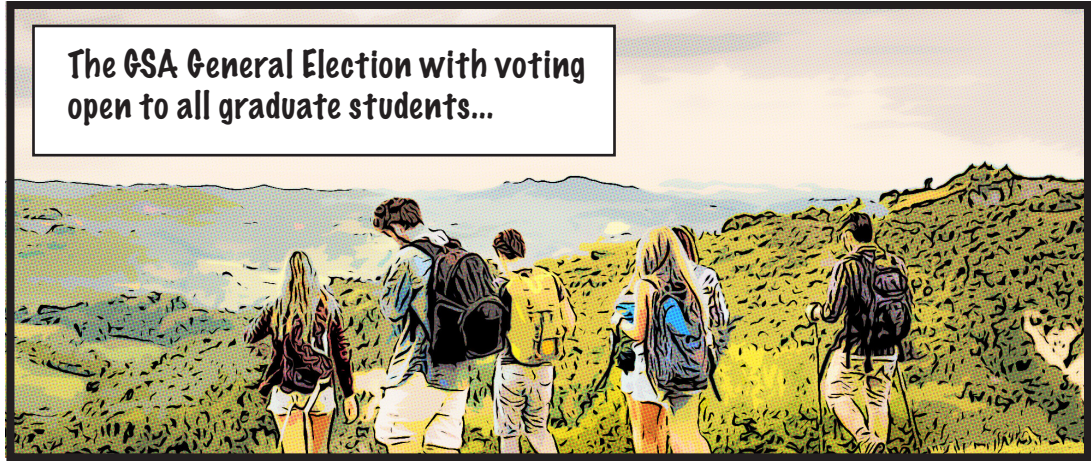
...residences, outreach, student conduct...



...and student group engagement



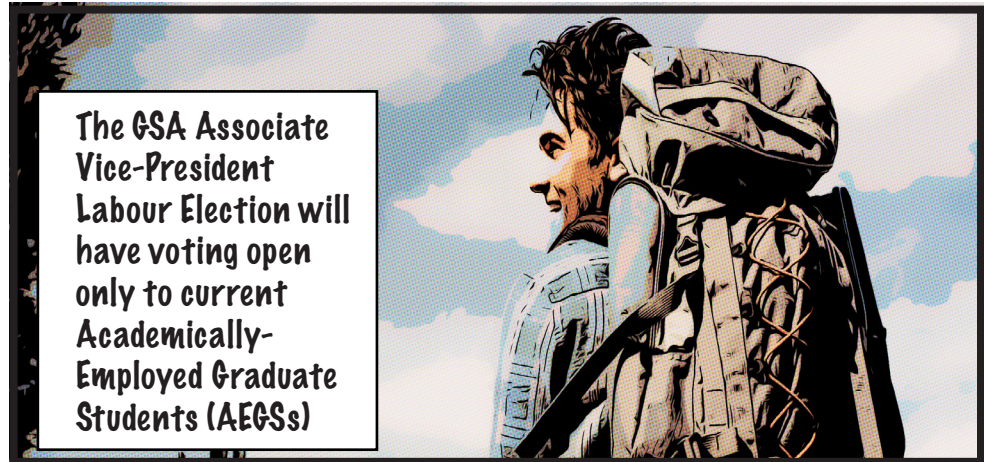
Future GSA Elections will include two separate elections



The GSA General Election with voting open to all graduate students...



...will elect the GSA President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Student Life, and Vice-President Student Services



The GSA Associate Vice-President Labour Election will have voting open only to current Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs)



Graduate Research Assistants



Graduate Teaching Assistants



Graduate Research Assistant Fellowship holders