

**ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (ERC)**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL for August 19, 2013 Council Meeting [CANCELLED]**

To: GSA Council  
From: Isaac Odoom, CRO  
Date: August 13, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

While ERC has not recently met, extensive work is being directed towards Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy review. The Executive Director has met with the Former CRO, Daniel Prins, three times, to review his 2013 Elections Notes and Recommendations (consisting of 47 points and recommendations). A triple column detailing proposed Election Bylaw and Policy changes has gone through a number of drafts. I will be meeting with the Executive Director at the end of August and organizing a meeting with the Elections and Referenda Committee to begin reviewing the proposed Bylaw and Policy revisions to Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,

Isaac Odoom, Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Executive Director**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL for August 19, 2013 Council Meeting [CANCELLED]**

To: GSA Council  
From: Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director  
Date: August 16, 2013

Dear Council,

As you can see from the reports of the Directly-Elected Officers and from my detailed reports to the Board, which are attached, the GSA is thriving.

Most of you know that the GSA was in dire straights three years ago, and that we have had an intensive team-rebuild since then, which has involved three consecutive Council-approved increases to the GSA fee. We now have a stable staff and outstanding support for the five Directly-Elected Officers. We have modernized many systems (eg we now have direct deposit) and this has saved us staff time, allowing for new initiatives such as the Department Liaison program. We have also streamlined the way many policies are administered.

The next piece of the rebuilding of GSA infrastructure concerns our Bylaws and Policies.

In this complex review, we envisioned a full editorial sweep as the first step, and you will see the progress on this in the Governance Committee report. There is more editorial work to be done, especially as concerns integrating related policies and Bylaws. But we are setting aside the remainder of the editorial work for the time being because we need to move fast on substantive proposals to you concerning awards and elections.

You can expect these proposals in October and November. If passed, they will position the GSA well as we prepare for the 2014 general election and the next round of awards adjudication. Big thanks to all our Directly-Elected Officers, former CRO Daniel Prins for his insightful critique of the election policies he administered in 2013, and the ERC, ASC and Governance Committee for their work.

Detailed management reports to the weekly Board meetings are attached.

Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director  
Heather Hogg, Director of Operations and Labour Professional  
Courtney Thomas, Associate Director

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**Executive Director, Director of Operations, and Associate Director**  
**Report to the GSA Board, July 17, 2013**

Dear All,

**Week in Review – Strategic:**

The following have issues have dominated management's attention in the past week:

- **Elections and referenda policy review has begun.**
- **GSA Grants** (historical data has been gathered and a major review of policy will soon be underway).
- **Bylaw review** (editorial changes).
- **Flood in Triffo.**
- **Department Liaison Initiative.**
- **Provincial advocacy.**
- **Tuition forum feedback** (numerous responses on the issues of tuition, market modifiers, and MNIFs have been received and are being collated, anonymized summaries are being prepared to be shared with Administration).
- **GSA Awards** (thinking about streamlining Awards has led to a review of current policy and concrete suggestions/plans for improvement are being developed).
- **Fall Orientation and the GSA Agenda/Handbook** (planning, designing, developing a comprehensive rollout plan as well as working with the DLI to schedule departmental orientations).
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 120 likes (up 3 from last week) , Twitter = 65 followers (up 1 from last week).

#### **Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Preparation of **2013-2014 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and assisting with the **planning of Fall Orientation.**
- Assisting with the **Department Liaison Initiative** and **grants data collection.**
- **GSA Media Tracker.**
- Ongoing clean up and **organization of the GSA's hard copy and electronic files as well the wiki,** ensuring compliance with the GSA's Document Retention and Destruction schedule.
- **Filling various committee vacancies.**

**Executive Director, Director of Operations, and Associate Director  
Report to the GSA Board, July 24, 2013**

Dear All,

#### **Week in Review – Strategic:**

The following have issues have dominated management's attention in the past week:

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### **Bylaw and Policy Review**

- **Editorial** (combining bylaws and policy into one document, editorial clean up, renumbering).
- **Substantive** (conflicts (*eg* Standing Orders), elections and referenda policy review, grants, awards).

### **Other**

- **Department Liaison Initiative.**
- **Flood in Triffo Hall** (speaking with F&O about ways to minimize the disruption caused by flooding and ensuring the GSA has fully developed emergency procedures).
- **Provincial advocacy.**
- **NPP White Paper** (preparing to work with the SU to meet the July 31 deadline).
- **SWP Rollout meetings.**
- **Fall Orientation and the GSA Agenda/Handbook** (planning, designing, developing a comprehensive rollout plan as well as working with the DLI to schedule departmental orientations).
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 125 likes (up 5 from last week), Twitter = 66 followers (up 1 from last week).

### **Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Preparation of **2013-2014 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and assisting with the **planning of Fall Orientation.**
- Assisting with the **Department Liaison Initiative** and the **elections and referenda policy review.**
- **GSA Media Tracker.**
- **Updating GSA emergency procedures.**
- Ongoing clean up and **organization of the GSA's hard copy and electronic files as well the wiki**, ensuring compliance with the GSA's Document Retention and Destruction schedule.

**Executive Director, Director of Operations, and Associate Director  
Report to the GSA Board, July 31, 2013**

Dear All,

### **Week in Review – Strategic:**

The following have issues have dominated management's attention in the past week:

### **Bylaw and Policy Review**

- **Editorial** (combining bylaws and policy into one document, editorial clean up, renumbering).
- **Substantive** (conflicts (*eg* Standing Orders), elections and referenda policy review, grants, awards).

#### Other

- **Department Liaison Initiative.**
- Reviewing **front desk and website stats.**
- **Forward thinking about the Early Call for Talent.**
- **Provincial advocacy.**
- **NPP White Paper** (working with the SU to meet the July 31 deadline).
- **Fall Orientation and the GSA Agenda/Handbook** (planning, designing, developing a comprehensive rollout plan as well as working with the DLI to schedule departmental orientations).
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 129 likes (up 4 from last week), Twitter = 69 followers (up 3 from last week).

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Preparation of **2013-2014 GSA Agenda/Handbook** and assisting with the **planning of Fall Orientation.**
- **Designing GSA banners** for use at Orientation and Awards Night.
- Assisting with the **Department Liaison Initiative** and the **elections and referenda policy review.**
- **GSA Media Tracker.**
- Working to assist with the NoC filling a number of upcoming positions.

**Executive Director, Director of Operations, and Associate Director  
Report to the GSA Board, August 7, 2013**

Dear All,

#### Week in Review – Strategic:

The following have issues have dominated management's attention in the past week:

#### **Bylaw and Policy Review**

- **Editorial** (combining bylaws and policy into one document, editorial clean up, renumbering).
- **Substantive** (conflicts (*eg* Standing Orders), elections and referenda policy review, grants, awards).

#### Other

- **Department Liaison Initiative.**
- Reviewing **front desk and website stats.**
- **Forward thinking about the Early Call for Talent and 2014 elections.**
- **Provincial advocacy.**
- **Fall Orientation and Departmental Orientations** (planning and developing a comprehensive rollout plan).
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 133 likes (up 4 from last week), Twitter = 73 followers (up 4 from last week).

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Preparation of **2013-2014 GSA Agenda/Handbook (off to the printers)** and assisting with the **planning of Fall Orientation.**
- Assisting with the **Department Liaison Initiative** and the **elections and referenda policy review.**
- **GSA Media Tracker.**
- Various research projects.
- Compiling **statistics on the front desk.**

#### Executive Director, Director of Operations, and Associate Director Report to the GSA Board, August 14, 2013

Dear All,

#### Week in Review – Strategic:

The following have issues have dominated management's attention in the past week:

#### Bylaw and Policy Review

- **Editorial** (the Governance Committee has approved several editorial changes and have approved the sub-delegation of approval of future purely editorial changes to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the

Committee; more editorial changes are planned such as combining bylaws and policy into one document and forward thinking about alternate formatting).

- **Substantive** (Ellen is re-reading bylaws and policy cover-to-cover for conflicts (eg Standing Orders), Ellen, Heather, and Courtney have developed a timeline for revisions to elections and referenda bylaws and policy, grants policy, and awards policy to move to ASC, ERC, GSAB, and Council).

#### **Other**

- **\*\*NPP White Paper** (a draft from the SU is expected Friday or early next week for review and a quick turn-around).\*\*
- **Provincial advocacy.**
- **Council welcome packages are done and the Agenda/Handbooks have arrived.**
- Several **Board policies in draft.**
- **Department Liaison Initiative** (rollout stages 1 and 2 are done, stage 3 is meeting with N Rodenburg and S Boychuk).
- **Forward thinking about the Early Call for Talent.**
- **Fall Orientation** (developing a comprehensive rollout plan as well as working with the DLI to schedule departmental orientations).
- **Social Media:** Facebook = 137 likes (up 8 from last week), Twitter = 76 followers (up 7 from last week).

#### **Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Assisting with the **planning of Fall Orientation and Departmental Orientations.**
- **Designing GSA banners** for use at Orientation and Awards Night.
- Assisting with the **elections and referenda bylaws and policy review.**
- **GSA Media Tracker.**

**Governance Committee**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL for August 19, 2013 Council Meeting [CANCELLED]**

To: GSA Council  
From: Brent Epperson, GSA President and Chair of GC  
Date: August 16, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

As stated in GSA Policy, “the Governance Committee will...make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee”.

Under the direction of the Governance Committee Chair and Vice-Chair (President Brent Epperson and Vice-President Labour Monty Bal), a second thorough review of GSA Bylaws and Policy was conducted, following on the editorial changes approved by the Governance Committee in May. This resulted in the identification of a round of editorial changes.

On August 9, 2013, the Governance Committee approved **the editorial changes to Bylaw and Policy**, effective immediately (moved by President Epperson and seconded by Vice-President Bal).

Moving forward, in order to allow the Governance Committee to focus on substantive issues, the Governance Committee also approved **the delegation to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee of future approval of “purely editorial” changes**, effective immediately (moved by President Epperson and seconded by Vice-President Bal). “Editorial” includes punctuation, italicization of Latin terms, capitalization, spelling, factual errors, font adjustment, and re-numbering.

I would be happy to report further orally.

Sincerely,  
Brent Epperson, GSA President

**GSA Board**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL for August 19, 2013 Council Meeting [CANCELLED]**

To: GSA Council

From: Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; and Courtney Thomas, Associate Director

Date: August 13, 2013

The Board reports regularly to Council by listing its agenda items, motions/agreements, and main items of discussion. Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. The President, Vice-Presidents, Director of Operations, Associate Director, Financial Manager, and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the Council meeting.

**17 July, 2013 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Provincial advocacy; TD Meloche Monnex Insurance: Semi-Annual Report; Professional Development meeting with Renee Polzhein; meeting with Provost Amrhein; lunch with President Samarasekera; meeting with Dean of Students; *and* Municipal Elections meeting.

Motions and Agreements:

Board Members **AGREED** that they were comfortable with actions that had been taken in regards to provincial advocacy.

BE **MOVED** that the GSA Board **receive for information** the attached semi-annual participation report for the period ending June 30, 2013, as provided by TD Meloche Monnex Insurance. Seconded MeB, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**24 July, 2013 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Undergraduate Research Initiative; Graduate Students on Scholarships: Semi-Monthly Payments; Parkland Institute's Conference Request for Support; GSA Fall Orientation and Departmental Orientations; *and* Prayer Space.

Motions and Agreements:

Board Members **AGREED** they were generally supportive of a small donation, but required more information to confirm, and that a donation policy should be developed.

Board Members **AGREED** it that any steps to form a new lobby group (including the number of institutions involved) required additional thought.

**31 July, 2013 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Office of University Relations Campaign (Graduate Students from Rural Alberta); Update on University of Alberta Long Range Development Plan; *PSLA* Recommendations; Student Leader's Table with the Minister; *and* Student Connect Tour.

Motions and Agreements:

BE **MOVED** that the GSA provide \$500 for the Parkland Institute's Annual Conference which the Board sees as consistent with the GSA's vision. Seconded MoB, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**07 August, 2013 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

External Grants: Proposed Addition to the GSA Board Policy Manual; Municipal Elections meeting; PAW Furniture meeting; CASA Teleconference; Governance Committee Editorial Bylaw and Policy changes; *and* Strategic Work Plan meeting with AVP Academic and Vice-Provost Academic Programs and Instruction.

Motions and Agreements:

BE **MOVED** that the GSA Board approve the proposed addition to the GSA Board Policy Manual (External Grants), as outlined in the attached draft policy, effective immediately with minor editorial amendments. Seconded CM. **CARRIED** unanimously.

**14 August, 2013 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Student Representation and the PSLA; provincial lobbying; Mental Health Space in Triffo Hall; Media Training; orientations; Student Connect project; U-Pass and subsidy; HCAG.

Motions and Agreements:

Board Members **AGREED** that they would be willing to further explore the initiative if there was a consensus between the student associations and conversation with the SU.

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)  
REPORT TO COUNCIL for August 19, 2013 Council Meeting [CANCELLED]**

To: GSA Council  
From: Lacey Fleming, Vice-Chair of the NoC  
Date: August 13, 2013

Dear Council Members,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee is a summary of discussion/decisions the NoC has made since its last report together with a list of all vacancies filled.

The Bylaw governing the NoC is located in Part V (Standing Committees). Policy governing NoC is found in the GSA Policy Manual, in the sections titled "Nominating" and "Standing Committees." As provided for in its terms of reference, the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC) has been conducting business via e-mail.

## **Bodies External to the GSA**

As noted above, Council has delegated to the NoC the responsibility of filling positions on all committees external to the GSA. Normally, all vacancies are advertised. According to the Policy Manual, "advertising may be waived in instances where, in the NoC's view, it is urgent to fill a vacancy" (GSA Policy Manual, Nominating, 5.2).

### **1) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council: VACANCIES AVAILBLE FOR FGSR COUNCILLOS (20 positions) AND ALTERNATES (5 positions)**

There are 20 Councillor positions and 5 Alternate positions available on FGSR Council. These positions were advertised in the GSA Newsletter and Website on August 6, 2013. Alternates are responsible for attending FGSR Council and Caucus meetings when FGSR Councillors are unable to attend meetings. **To date, the GSA Nominating Committee has only received 8 bios and resumes for the 20 Councillor and 5 Alternate positions.** The Nominating Committee encourages graduate students and GSA Councillors to submit a bio and resume for these positions (email [gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) if you have any questions about these positions).

### **2) Faculty of Arts Council**

In June 2013 4 of the 5 positions on the Faculty of Arts Council were filled. Following a proactive search for another graduate student to serve on the Faculty of Arts Council the Nominating Committee elected **Owuraku Kusi-Ampofo (PhD Political Science)** to serve on the Faculty of Arts Council for 2013-2014. The Faculty of Arts Council graduate student representatives for 2013-2014 are as follows:

1. Jasmin Hirschberg (PhD Modern Language and Cultural Studies)
2. Jennifer Hinnell (PhD Linguistics)
3. Susan Cake (PhD Sociology)
4. Pushpa Achary (PhD Comparative Literature)
5. Owuraku Kusi-Ampofo (PhD Political Science)

### **3) ONECard Student Advisory Group**

This advisory group requires one graduate student-at-large representative. This position was advertised through the GSA newsletter and website on June 24, 2013. The deadline for applications was Wednesday July 10, 2013. Three applications were received. **Pedro Waterton (PhD, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences) was elected to serve on this advisory group.**

### **4) Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Medical Sciences Library Committee**

This committee requires one graduate student representative enrolled in a graduate program in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry involved in basic sciences research. This position was advertised through the GSA newsletter and website on June 24, 2013. The deadline for applications was Wednesday July 10, 2013. No applications were received, so the GSA Nominating Committee began a proactive search for a representative. **Virigina Pimmet (PhD Cell Biology) was elected to serve on this committee.**

### **5) Animal Care and Use Committee: Health Sciences**

There are **three (3)** positions for graduate students on the Animal Care and Use Committee, which were advertised through the GSA newsletter and website on July 8, 2013. **Representatives must be a current animal user on an approved protocol associated with the respective Animal Care and Use Committee (Health Sciences).** Two of the three positions have been filled. **Ann-Marie Przyslupski (MSc Pediatrics)** and **Ninad Mehta (PhD Medical Microbiology and Immunology)** were elected to serve on the Animal Care and Use Committee: Health Sciences and the Nominating Committee is proactively searching for **one (1)** representative.

### **6) Student Group Services Granting Committee**

The GSA VP Student Life normally serves on this committee. The GSA VP Student Life has approved **Leigh Spanner (PhD Political Science)** to serve as his proxy on this committee for 2013-2014.

**President  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Brent Epperson, President  
Date: August 15, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

July 15 Meeting with Provost Carl Amrhein

I met with Provost Amrhein to discuss his work at the Conference Board of Canada and the possibility of the GSA participating in the dialogue on a federal strategy for postsecondary education. Dialogue on this opportunity continues.

July 16 meeting with President Samarsekera:

I met with President Samarasekera and the GSA VPA, VPL, and VPSL to discuss the GSA's priorities for the year. The President was supportive of our strategic planning objectives and confirmed that Catherine Swindlehurst would pick one of the GSA's 3 nominees to serve on the task force on university governance. The President indicated that the university would not be able to provide additional funds for assisting international graduate students with Canadian Permanent Residence applications; however, the GSA will continue dialogue with the administration on this initiative. The President requested GSA research on the prayer space issue and the provincial immigrant nominee program, which is in progress. The GSA confirmed that we would submit our white paper on graduate student tuition and fees, based on feedback from our forums, by the end of August.

July 17 TBAC/MBAC

GSA VPA, AD, and I attended this meeting to discuss ongoing tuition and fee matters with the SU and university administration.

July 22 Meeting with SU VPEX Adam Woods:

I met with SU VPEX Adam Woods to discuss the municipal elections forum and the future of student advocacy in the province.

July 22 Meeting with Dean Shirvani:

GSA VPA Colin More and I met with Dean Shirvani. We discussed registration status for graduate students on FGSR approved leave and for GSA elected officials.

July 22 Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell

GSA VPA Colin More, GSA AD Courtney Thomas and I met with Acting Provost Ferguson Pell and Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic) Colleen Skidmore. We discussed graduate student concerns with the university budget situation through 2014/2015.

July 23 Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell and Colleen Skidmore and SU Elected Officials

GSA VPA Colin More, GSA AD Courtney Thomas and I met with Acting Provost Ferguson Pell and Colleen Skidmore to discuss information sharing with the GSA and SU in the university budgeting process.

July 25 meeting with BoG Member Don Fleming:

I met with BoG Member Don Fleming to discuss ongoing challenges for the U of A BoG and graduate student advocacy in the province.

July 25 Public Interest Alberta Task Force on Post-Secondary Education:

GSA VPL Monty Bal and I met with other members of the Public Interest Alberta task force on postsecondary education to discuss a provincial advocacy campaign and deepening cooperation between key postsecondary actors during the 2013-2014 year.

July 29 Meeting with Provost Carl Amrhein

I met with Provost Amrhein to discuss his work at the Conference Board of Canada and the possibility of the GSA participating in the dialogue on a federal strategy for postsecondary education. Dialogue on this opportunity continues.

July 29 MacEwan Reception:

I attended the MacEwan Reception for networking with provincial student leaders and discussed advocacy and challenges in the coming year.

July 30 Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education Meeting and Orientation

I attended the Ministry's orientation for provincial student leaders. The dialogue was limited and structured by Ministry officials. It was a start to the discussions on opening the Post Secondary Learning Act, but it is too early to tell if we should be encouraged or concerned by the dialogue. It was a good opportunity to coordinate and exchange ideas with provincial student leaders.

August 1 Meeting with SU President Kusmu

Petros and I discussed collaboration on university and provincial political priorities, including tuition and fee matters and democratic governance.

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August 6 Meeting with Colleen Skidmore and Bill Connor:

I met with Colleen Skidmore and Bill Connor from the Provost's office to discuss the GSA's SWP priorities. We identified several areas of potential collaboration, including the possibility of future assistance for international graduate students applying for permanent residence and prayer space issues.

August 6 Meeting with Provost Carl Amrhein:

I met with Provost Amrhein to discuss his work at the Conference Board of Canada and the possibility of the GSA participating in the dialogue on a federal strategy for postsecondary education. Dialogue on this opportunity continues

August 7 Meeting with Beverly Eastham (CAUS):

Beverly and I discussed the future of student political advocacy in Alberta and challenges surrounding the opening of the PSLA this year.

August 7 meeting with Amanda Nielsen (AUGSA President) and Duncan W (MacEwan SU):

GSA AD Courtney Thomas and I met with Amanda Nielsen and Duncan W to discuss the future of student political advocacy in Alberta and challenges surrounding the opening of the PSLA this year.

August 12 meeting Robin Everall and Jake Tremblay (Dean of Students Office):

GSA AD Courtney Thomas and I met with Robin Everall and Jake Tremblay to discuss the roll out of the new mental health strategy and new service locations available in the fall.

August 13 Media Training:

I attended University of Alberta media training with GSA VPL Monty Bal, GSA VPSS Megha Bajaj, and GSA AD Courtney Thomas. The presentation provided useful advise that we will pass on to future GSA elected officials.

August 14 Meeting with Dean Shirvani

We discussed registration status for graduate students on FGSR approved leave and for GSA elected officials, payroll issues in Human Resources, and the professional development advisory committee composition.

---End---

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 8, 2013, and August 15, 2013*

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July 8	Meeting with Dean of FGSR
July 8	Meeting with SU re Academic Governance Task Force
July 9	Meeting with President Samarasekera
July 10	GSA Board
July 11	Lunch with VP Clark and Babiuk
July 12	Meeting with Student Group
July 15	Meeting with Provost Amrhein
July 15	GSA Council
July 16	Lunch with President Samarasekera
July 17	M-BAC/T-BAC
July 17	GSA Board
July 17	NASA President Retirement
July 19	Meeting with Student
July 22	Meeting with SU VP External
July 22	Meeting with Dean FGSR
July 22	Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell
July 23	Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell and AVP Skidmore
July 23	Labour Meeting
July 24	GSA Board
July 25	Meeting with Board Member
July 25	Public Interest Alberta PSE Task Force
July 29	Meeting with Provost Amrhein
July 29	MacEwan Reception
July 30	Meeting with Minister Lukaszuk
July 31	GSA Board

**GSA Vice President Academic**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL for August 19, 2013 Council Meeting [CANCELLED]**

To: GSA Council  
From: Colin More, VPA  
Date: August 15, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

As the GSA continues to explore **opportunities for national representation**, I participated in some productive conference calls with CASA representatives this reporting period. Discussion focused on a series of national advocacy issues, including a **draft CASA report on the commercialization of research in Canada and another on reforms of the student loan system**. Discussion on these matters will continue into fall.

I also met with the SU VP Academic, Dustin Chelen, regarding **attributes and competencies**, which you have heard about before from both myself and former GSA Vice-President Academic, Nathan Andrews. Dustin and I discussed the formation of a potential task force overseen by a Provost's Fellow to address the issue.

Along with Brent, I attended two meetings with **Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell and Associate Vice-President (Academic) Colleen Skidmore**, which he addresses in his report to you.

Megha and I also met with Renee Polziehn, Outreach Director at FGSR, to discuss **professional development for graduate students**. We continue to work towards improving opportunities for professional development as outlined in our Strategic Work Plan.

Finally, I attended a meeting about a **new research service called ORCID**. **This system gives each researcher a unique identifier** and there may be some interest in implementing it with graduate students, who are at the beginning of their research careers. The discussions are still at a very early and general stage but I will keep you updated.

I hope you are having a great summer!

Sincerely,  
Colin More, Vice-President Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 8, 2013, and August 15, 2013*

July 8	Meeting with Dean of FGSR
July 8	Meeting with SU re Academic Governance Task Force
July 10	Integrated Planning and Budgeting Session
July 10	GSA Board
July 11	Lunch with VP Clark and Babiuk
July 11	Professional Development Meeting

July 15	Meeting with Dean of Students
July 15	Meeting with SU VP Academic
July 15	GSA Council
July 16	Lunch with President Samarasekera
July 16	Students' Union Council
July 17	M-BAC/T-BAC
July 17	GSA Board
July 22	Meeting with Dean FGSR
July 22	Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell
July 23	Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell and AVP Skidmore
July 24	GSA Board
July 30	ORCID Meeting
July 31	GSA Board

**Vice-President Labour  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Monty Bal, VPL  
Date: August 15, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I attended a number of meetings since last GSA Council. Below are highlights from some of these meetings in chronological order.

**Graduate Student Assistance Program**

I, along with ES and CT, had a meeting with a representative from the GSAP program. We had a good discussion about what types of services and benefits are available to graduate students and how much they're being utilized currently. The representative urged us to encourage graduate students to use GSAP services as the rates of usage currently are low. Due to this, we would encourage all of you pick up a brochure on GSAP services at the GSA offices, which include information on the mental health, health, financial, and legal counseling services which GSAP offers and use them in the upcoming years. We also will be working with GSAP to better reach students next year through more targeted efforts for students who may not be as easily accessible.

**Public Interest Alberta**

I, along with BE, attended a PSE related constituents group meeting at the PIA offices. The goal of this meeting was to discuss, with other student and staff groups, what goals and interests these groups would have in the upcoming PSLA reforms. We were told that the PIA has extensive resources available province-wide which could be used to assist us in getting out any type of message we thought would better advance our interests. The group will continue as a task force to deal with the issue of PSLA reforms.

**Municipal Elections meeting**

This was a follow up meeting to an effort between the GSA, SU, Grant Mac SU, and NAIT SU to better inform students on the issues involved in the upcoming elections in Edmonton. The group seeks to provide a database of answers to questionnaires given to both mayoral candidates and candidates at the ward level for students to make better informed decisions on issues which matter to them. This will be done in conjunction with a media campaign to raise awareness, which will be capped with a mayoral forum at one of the participating institutions (likely to be Grant Mac). Further, the group has already achieved one of its goals, with the city agreeing to install voting booths on campus at the participating institutions during the election period, making participation for students easier.

**Physical Therapy Orientation**

I participated in my first GSA orientation for an incoming departmental class. I will participate in many more in the upcoming weeks and we are working hard to improve our presentation to better meet the needs of the specific departments. To this end, the GSA staff is working harder to understand the unique

aspects of each department we are presenting to so that we can offer insights which would be of most use to the students there.

### **Student Connect Advisory Committee**

There is a great new effort at the Registrar's Office to make the student experience, with respect to services they offer more efficient and streamlined. In September, they will be launching the Student Connect program, which will provide among other things, coordinated referral service to students who go to the Student Connect center at the Registrar's office. Students will be issued a ticket, which will allow them to know how long they would have to wait for the service they've come in for. This will eventually be enhanced with the text message service allowing students to go elsewhere while waiting in line. Finally, the service will work with departments, the FGSR, and GSA to provide better referral coordination for students who need services from these other external partners.

The major take away from all these meetings is, in spite of the budget issues that the university is dealing with, there are a number of services which are currently available, and in other cases being enhanced to serve student needs. I would urge all of you to explore these services and make use of them as a healthy usage rate is one of the better ways to ensure that a program continues to operate and receive university funding.

Finally, once again, if there are any issues regarding our TA/RAships and your contracts, please contact me or Heather Hogg before you've signed the contract to allow us to more proactively deal with a potential problem. We also urge you to continue to inform yourself on the new AEGS CA and let us know if there are any issues which you feel might need to be addressed as we go into this year's negotiations.

Thanks,

Simarjit S. Bal (Monty), Vice-President Labour

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 8, 2013, and August 15, 2013*

July 8	Meeting with SU re Academic Governance Task Force
July 10	Integrated Planning and Budgeting Presentation
July 10	GSA Board
July 11	Lunch with VP Clark and Babiuk
July 15	Labour Case
July 15	GSA Council
July 16	Municipal Elections Meeting
July 16	Lunch with President Samarasekera
July 16	Students' Union Council
July 17	GSA Board
July 23	Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell and AVP Skidmore
July 23	Labour Meeting
July 23	GSAP Meeting
July 24	GSA Board
July 25	Public Interest Alberta PSE Task Froce

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July 31	GSA Board
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**GSA Vice President Student Life**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL for August 19, 2013 Council Meeting [CANCELLED]**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hasin Haroon  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Dear GSA Council Members,

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. I have had some very productive meetings to report on in the short time between our last council meeting and now.

**Megha Bajaj, VPSS and I had a meeting with Don Hickey in which we reiterated our concerns regarding graduate student housing, the renovation of Michener Park and flexible graduate student leases in particular.** Flexible graduate student leases are a matter that I will be working on this year through RBAC.

Megha and I also met with representatives from the International Office, a meeting that turned out to be very productive. **We look forward to working with UAI more closely this year on a range of priorities, including Professional Development opportunities, Permanent Residency assistance and Orientations.**

One of our campaign priorities was the **availability of accessible and sufficient prayer space on campus.** I am pleased to report that we are making headway in this regard, and I had a first meeting with Ben Louie, university architect to define the issue and try and figure out a work plan. I will be reporting to you regarding any progress we make throughout the year.

Alongside Monty Bal, VPL, I also **attended a meeting with representatives from GSAP**, which he has reported on you to you.

The GSA Executive team also had **a meeting with President Samarasekera** last month, which President Brent Epperson speaks to in his report.

I look forward to seeing you all in Council next month.

Sincerely,  
Hasin Haroon, Vice-President Student Life

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 8, 2013, and August 15, 2013*

July 10	GSA Board
July 15	GSA Council
July 16	Lunch with President Samarasekera
July 17	GSA Board
July 18	Meeting with Vice President Facilities and Operations
July 19	White Paper Review with SU
July 19	Strategic Work Plan Meeting with USI
July 19	Prayer Space Meeting
July 23	Meeting with Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell and Associate Vice President Skidmore
July 23	GSAP Meeting
July 23	GSA Board

**GSA Vice President Student Services  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Megha Bajaj, VPSS  
Date: August 15, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well and taking advantage of the summer before its gone! I attended a number of meetings since last council. Below is a summary of the highlights from those meetings.

**North Power Plant redevelopment visioning**

I worked closely with the GSA management and the SU to prepare the North Power Plant Visioning document, which will be sent to the **Associate Vice President, F&O**. Our main objective in doing this is to make sure that **student needs and opinions will be central** to developing the North Power Plant project. Through this document and further discussions we also want to ensure that the idea of **building a 'community center' for all stakeholders** on campus remains vital in redeveloping the North Power Plant. I will be updating you from time to time as we make progress on this project.

**Health Centre Advisory Group (HCAG)**

This was my first HCAG meeting as the GSA VP. Students raised the issue that the services provided by the **University wellness services were not particularly well advertised** and that many students were unaware of many of the services offered to them. This is something that needs to be addressed this year and the GSA and the SU will work together to help the University Wellness Services in enhancing communication and advertising of their services. Members of this committee were also surveyed to discuss issues/initiatives they would like to discuss this year- **some of the ideas included Health Centre wait times and enhanced addiction counseling services**. These issues will be discussed further in the upcoming HCAG meetings and I will keep you posted.

**Department Liaison Initiative (DLI)**

We have now **filled 21 councilor positions** since the **start of the DLI program** in May 2013! There are 6 departments awaiting elections to occur at the end of August and in early September. We will now begin working on some other projects associated with the DLI.

I would also like to remind you 2 things:

1. Please send us feedback on [gsa.grants@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.grants@ualberta.ca) by **August 25<sup>th</sup>** from your respective departments on any **concerns/issues** they face as a graduate student living in **University housing**. Also please let us know **if you ever had to move out of your current University residence to accommodate construction** of a new structure or the renovation of an existing structure. Additionally, **how much notice would you need** in order for it to have the least negative impact on your academic work?

2. The early **distribution of U-Pass sticker starts August 19<sup>th</sup> 2013**. So do pick up your U-Pass sticker from one of the InfoLink booths or from the HUB InfoLink ONEcard Service centre!

Sincerely,  
Megha Bajaj, Vice-President Student Services

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between June 8, 2013 and August 15, 2013*

July 9	U-Pass Meeting with SU VP SL
July 10	Integrate Planning and Budgeting Session
July 10	GSA Board
July 11	Lunch with VP Clark and Babiuk
July 11	Professional Development Meeting
July 15	GSA Council
July 17	GSA Board
July 18	Meeting with VP F and O
July 19	White Paper Meeting with SU
July 19	SWP Meeting with SU
July 23	PAW Steering
July 24	GSA Board
July 30	Student Connect Tour
July 31	Student Financial Aid Task Force
July 31	GSA Board
July 31	PAW Furniture Meeting