GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 18 July 2022 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Biological Sciences</th>
<th>Library &amp; Information Studies</th>
<th>Physical Therapy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anas Fassih</td>
<td>Sam Deakin</td>
<td>Maia Trotter</td>
<td>Bryanna Chan</td>
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<tr>
<th>VP Academic</th>
<th>Biomedical Engineering</th>
<th>Linguistics</th>
<th>Mathematics &amp; Statistical Sciences</th>
<th>Physiology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishoi Aziz</td>
<td>Kodi Cheng</td>
<td>Hannah Lam</td>
<td>Yuri Salmaniw</td>
<td>Isha Raihan</td>
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<tr>
<th>VP External</th>
<th>Business PhD</th>
<th>Media &amp; Technology Studies</th>
<th>Political Science</th>
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<tr>
<td>Janmejay Rao</td>
<td>Teddy Carter</td>
<td>Andy Zhang</td>
<td>Telisa Courtney</td>
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<tr>
<th>VP Labour</th>
<th>Cell Biology</th>
<th>Medical Genetics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hiren Kaklotar</td>
<td>Kazuki Ueda</td>
<td>Kara Goodkey</td>
<td>Emilie Desnoyers</td>
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<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Chemistry</th>
<th>Medical Microbiology</th>
<th>Renewable Resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dweej Shah</td>
<td>Helia Dehghan Harati</td>
<td>Calvin Gordon</td>
<td>Beckett Stark</td>
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<th>CRO</th>
<th>Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders</th>
<th>Medical Microbiology &amp; Immunology</th>
<th>Psychology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sophi Shi</td>
<td>Sana Homsi</td>
<td>Angela Ma</td>
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<tr>
<th>Councillor-at-Large</th>
<th>Computing Science</th>
<th>Neuroscience</th>
<th>Public Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Beaudry</td>
<td>Uduak Ituen</td>
<td>Charbel Baaklin</td>
<td>Nazif Mahbub</td>
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<tr>
<th>Councillor-at-Large</th>
<th>Dentistry</th>
<th>Nursing</th>
<th>Renewable Resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>Md Saiful Hoque</td>
<td>Nathalia Fernandes Fagundes</td>
<td>Farrell Bryenton</td>
<td>Beckett Stark</td>
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<tr>
<th>Councillor-at-Large</th>
<th>Drama</th>
<th>Occupational Therapy</th>
<th>Resource Economics &amp; Environmental Sociology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeremie Mahaux</td>
<td>Xavia Publius</td>
<td>Alicia Chichak</td>
<td>Julia Poissant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Manerus</td>
<td>Yan Sun</td>
<td>Benjamin Schultz</td>
<td>Robert Piazza</td>
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<th>Pediatrics</th>
<th>Sociology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Riya Midha</td>
<td>Rachel Hislop-Hook</td>
<td>Shubham Soni, Alyssa Wiedemeyer</td>
<td>Yan Xue</td>
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<th>Pharmacology</th>
<th>Surgery</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mandeep Rainu</td>
<td>Yina Liu</td>
<td>Christian Faig</td>
<td>Kasra Shayeganpour</td>
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<th>Anthropology</th>
<th>Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association</th>
<th>Pharmacy</th>
<th>Philosophy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Devyn Caldwell</td>
<td>Jillian Ames</td>
<td>Kunyan Yang</td>
<td>Avontay Williams</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Laboratory Medicine &amp; Pathology</th>
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<td>Madeleine Fleming</td>
<td>Kristin Carroll</td>
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Guests: Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (Member, GSA Nominating Committee and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) and Md Habibur Rahaman (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science; GSA Senator nominee).

Speaker Dweej Shah in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 18 July 2022 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 18 July 2022 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. B Stark MOVED; J Mahaux SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes from the 20 June 2022 GSA Council Meeting

Members had before them the 20 June 2022 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 8 July 2022. X Publius MOVED; B Stark SECONDED.
Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership
   i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members: K Carroll (Laboratory Medicine and Pathology); J Poissant (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology); A Weidemeyer (Pediatrics); C Faig (Pharmacology); U Ituen (Computing Science); R Hislop-Hook (Educational Psychology); Y Salmaniw (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences).
   ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members: S Soni (Pediatrics).

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements: None.

Action Item

5. Resolution Concerning GSA Council Composition
   Dweej Shah (Speaker) presented the item.
   
   SUGGESTED MOTION: That GSA Council APPROVE a resolution that, notwithstanding GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C.POL.3.1.c, effective July 2022 departmental seats from the Faculty of Education on GSA Council will be reflective of the faculty structure as of June 2022, with said resolution to remain in effect pending annual consultation with the GSA Speaker and the departmental representatives, and/or further amendments to GSA Policy concerning the composition of GSA Council (as approved by GSA Council).

   D Shah presented a resolution to freeze the number of GSA Council seats for representatives from the Faculty of Education at their June 2022 numbers. As the Faculty has moved to a non-departmentalized structure as of July 2022, the resolution prevents an immediate loss of representation at GSA Council (which is composed of representatives from each department on campus that offers a graduate program). The GSA will continue to wait to see the full impacts of the University’s restructuring initiative in terms of whether other faculties also move to non-departmentalized structures, which may prompt a re-examination of the composition of GSA Council. In the interim, the resolution would stay in effect indefinitely, pending regular review with the impacted representatives and the Speaker.
   
   MOTION: That GSA Council APPROVE a resolution that, notwithstanding GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C.POL.3.1.c, effective July 2022 departmental seats from the Faculty of Education on GSA Council will be reflective of the faculty structure as of June 2022, with said resolution to remain in effect pending annual consultation with the GSA Speaker and the departmental representatives, and/or further amendments to GSA Policy concerning the composition of GSA Council (as approved by GSA Council). R Hislop-Hook MOVED; C Faig SECONDED.

   Motion PASSED.

Information Item

6. 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
   Anas Fassih (President) presented the item.
   
   SUGGESTED MOTION: That GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

   A Fassih presented the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP), noting the feedback previously sought from Council members and GSA members through online surveys and via the opportunity to attend a town hall. A Fassih explained that some of the priorities in the Plan built upon previous work done by the GSA, while others were the result of feedback received and discussion by the executive team. A Fassih further noted that he welcomed feedback from members on the initiatives outlined in the SWP, as well as the three pillars on which it was structured, as this was a living document that could change and grow in response to new developments or priorities as they arose.
A Fassih noted that major areas of focus included continuing to advance improvements to graduate student-supervisor relationships, advocating for guaranteed minimum funding packages and an equitable and sustainable funding model, ongoing advocacy at General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors, the negotiation of additional money for the Graduate Student Support Fund to support GSA grants, awards, and bursaries, the creation of new bursary programs, continued support for the Campus Food Bank, ongoing engagement with GSA members in the form of events and orientations, etc, external advocacy to the Government of Alberta and at the federal level, and the creation of professional development and career opportunities for graduate students.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. B Stark **MOVED;** J Ames **SECONDED.**

**Motion PASSED.**

**Discussion Item**

7. **Campus Safety**

Anas Fassih (President) presented the item and noted that there was a rising number of safety incidents on campus and a need to balance student concerns regarding safety on campus with concerns about the militarization of campus through the presence of additional police officers (coupled with the unjust manner in which equity-seeking groups were often treated by law enforcement). Safety was a serious concern that must be balanced with the issue of over-policing.

Members discussed concerns about increased police presence on campus, the need to address issues through increased supports, ongoing work on sexual violence prevention on campus, transit safety issues and whether that fell under the jurisdiction of the University or the city, and potential expansions to the Safewalk program.

**Elections**

8. **GSA Council Elections**

Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented the items.

a. **GSA Senator** (one (1) GSA Member position)
   Md Habibur Rahaman (AFNS)

K Gordon asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve as GSA Senator” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

b. **GSA Appeals and Complaints Board** (two (2) GSA Member positions)
   Eric Beaudry (Mechanical Engineering)

K Gordon asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

**Reports**

9. **President**

i. **President’s Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, he emphasized current ongoing work to differentiate the role of the Vice-President Labour, as it stood currently, from the non-union operations of the GSA (by, for example, making the position an Associate Vice-President, elected by members of the bargaining unit (rather than all graduate students), with a stipend paid from union dues (rather than GSA membership fees), and with a non-voting seat on the GSA Board and GSA Council). He also noted the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) was expecting to fill a number of vacancies at the GSA Council meeting of September 2022.

ii. **GSA Board**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted.
iii. **GSA Budget and Finance Committee**  
No written report at this time.

iv. **GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee**  
No written report at this time.

v. **GSA Governance Committee**  
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted.

10. **Vice-President Academic**  
i. **Vice-President Academic’s Report:**  
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziz wished to bring attention to current advocacy on institution-wide minimum funding packages. He also emphasized the University’s interest in developing new interdisciplinary programs to suit commensurate market demand.

11. **Vice-President External**  
i. **Vice-President External’s Report**  
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Rao stated that there was a current focus on creating further part-time employment opportunities on campus. Another area for development was cultivating connections with employers through the Alumni Association, to better prepare graduate students, particularly International ones, for the labour market. Lastly, work was being done to pursue affordable and accessible child care for graduate students who were parents.

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.

12. **Vice-President Labour**  
i. **Vice-President Labour’s Report**  
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Kaklotar noted that a Labour 101 session was offered on July 23 and a number of graduate students were in attendance. There were also a number of vacancies for Faculty Stewards as part of the Collective Agreement stewardship network, and eligible members were encouraged to apply. Lastly, our colleagues at the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) were pursuing advocacy work with regards to the resent passing of the provincial Bill 17.

ii. **GSA Labour Relations Committee**  
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted.

13. **Vice-President Student Services**  
i. **Vice-President Student Services’ Report**  
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. AF spoke on her behalf and highlighted work to offer adequate supports to the Campus Food Bank.

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 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, K Gordon again emphasized the great need for nominees for a number of vacancies on GSA Standing Committees, many of which were reserved for GSA Council members exclusively. She encouraged members to consider serving in this capacity.

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 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas thanked members for their patience as the meeting of GSA Council, which was expected to be held in a hybrid format, was unexpectedly shifted to virtual-only at the last moment.

Question Period

20. Written Questions

21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.