Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 21 June 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council  
From: Kathy Haddadkar  
Date: 18 June 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are well and doing your best to safely enjoy the summer sunshine while it is here! I have thoroughly appreciated my first month as Vice-President Academic and all the business it has brought.

Here are some highlights from meetings I have attended this month:

12 May - Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)  
- During this meeting with Dr. Milne, President Anas Fassih and I clarified the process in which the Student Supervisory Initiatives took shape into its present form and acknowledged how the FGSR and the Student Ombuds Office play a role as a source of support and equity in the graduate student experience, especially when recognizing diverse experiences pertaining to such working relationships.

13 May - Celebrating the Scholarship of Indigenous Graduate Students Event  
- It was a privilege to attend and experience a bit of Indigenous tradition; listening to Indigenous graduate students across disciplines presenting their research and papers was very eye-opening to the way in which our culture continues to view Indigenous Peoples and how we have the power to appreciate and welcome all into the field of academics.

18 May - Remote Learning Task Force Working Group  
- The discussion focused on in-person coursework, especially regarding the importance of sharing an instructor’s decision to record lectures so that students are aware of the formats for each class;  
- They also placed emphasis on how department chairs will do their best to resolve unique situations as it pertains to the method of lecture viewing and that faculty will do likewise when planning for the prospect of a hybrid scenario for the upcoming year;  
- The conversation also centred around participation grades, the question of ‘what is considered reasonable participation’ and how different forms of communication, such as messaging, and the Student Ombuds Office can be a pathway to reach students regarding participation and potential challenges they may face.

26 May - Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council  
- The following proposals were approved during the May 2021 FGSR Council meeting: Secondary Education Application Deadlines, Course-based MACE Proposals, as well as the Student-Supervisor Guidelines & Progress Report alongside the FGSR Adjunct Academic Appointment and Graduate Student Supervision Development Procedure;  
- The latter three items have been shared at General Faculties Council (GFC) (7 June) for discussion and will be brought forward for voting at GFC in September 2021;  
- This impactful initiative will take effect (pending approval) during Winter 2022.

May 27 - Faculty of Graduate Student and Research Grad Program Support Team (FGSR GPST)  
- Discussion took place around the proposal of extending the current practice of remote English Proficiency testing via Duolingo Extension to two more terms and course audits (how they impact the structure of graduate courses, the way they appear on student records in the future), as well as Courses Extra-to-Degree (focusing on what it truly means to have a course be ‘extra’ to degree).
7 June - General Faculties Council (GFC)
- The following proposals were approved during the June 2021 GFC meeting: Proposal for Establishment of the GFC Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI), Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee, Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole as well as the Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring.

14 June - General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
- Co-chairs from the Remote Learning Task Force Dr. John Nychka and Dr. Helen Vallinanatos spoke on a variety of topics including remote proctoring, recording of lectures, as well as participation grades and how using AI as a form of remote proctoring will continue (video is posted under UAlberta Instagram account discussing ‘what happens when things go wrong’);
- This group stressed the goal that students should feel empowered and comfortable speaking with their instructors about such matters upon their return to campus.

During this month, it was also a delight to chair my first GSA FGSR and GFC Caucuses. I look forward to future discussions at these pre-council meetings in the new term.

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

Respectfully,
Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 10 May 2021 and 21 June 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting/Event</th>
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<td>Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)</td>
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<td>13 May</td>
<td>GSA 101</td>
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<td>13 May</td>
<td>Celebrating the Scholarship of Indigenous Graduate Students Event</td>
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<td>13 May</td>
<td>Joint Second Meeting of the Board Governance Committee (BGC)/GFC Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)</td>
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<td>14 May</td>
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<td>18 May</td>
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<td>18 May</td>
<td>Working Group on the EDI Review of Teaching Awards</td>
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<td>19 May</td>
<td>Consultation Town Hall: Student Feedback on Teaching Initiative</td>
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<td>25 May</td>
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<td>2 June</td>
<td>Meeting with B Milne, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean</td>
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<td>2 June</td>
<td>Students’ Union (SU)/GSA Get Together</td>
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<td>3 June</td>
<td>GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus</td>
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<td>3 June</td>
<td>Meeting with Graduate Students to Discuss Exceptional Tuition Increases</td>
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<td>3 June</td>
<td>General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) ad hoc Governance &amp; Procedural Review Committee</td>
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<td>7 June</td>
<td>Meeting with A Monteiro, Students’ Union (SU) Vice-President Academic</td>
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<td>11 June</td>
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<td>Team Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)</td>
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