GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
SPEAKER (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER) and DEPUTY SPEAKER (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): FOUR (4) NOMINEES FOR SPEAKER AND ONE (1) NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY SPEAKER

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA NoC will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO “on or about 1 May of every year” and nominations will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC “by 30 May or the next working day” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Section D.BYL.3.1.b and Section D.BYL.3.1.c). These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletters of 7, 14, 21, and 28 May, and 4 and 11 June 2021, with a deadline of 16 June 2021. Four (4) nominations were received for the position of Speaker. One (1) nomination was received for the position of Deputy Speaker.

There will be an electronic vote held at the 21 June 2021 GSA Council meeting to elect the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for 2021-2022.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 21 June 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 21 June 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.

**Speaker**

1. Lauren Hill (Political Science)
2. Tiffany Kung (Psychology)
3. Sanhita Pal (Mechanical Engineering)*
4. Janmejay Rao (Mechanical Engineering)*

*Please note that Sanhita Pal and Janmejay Rao currently serve on GSA Council as Councillors-at-Large and are aware that they would need to resign those positions should they be elected as Speaker.

**Deputy Speaker**

1. Sana Amjad (Obstetrics and Gynaecology)

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Election of Senator, Section D.BYL.3.1.e

“The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council.”

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.3.2.a

“The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees for all GSA Council-Elected Officer positions. These positions will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement.”

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.3.2.b

“Prior to forwarding the names of nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officer positions, the GSA NoC will review the resumes and bios received with reference to eligibility criteria as set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy and will forward the names of nominees who meet the eligibility criteria to GSA Council.”

Biographies and brief resumes of the nominees for Speaker and Deputy Speaker are BELOW on pages 9.2-9.7. Biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).
**Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**Qualifications as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, D.POL.12**

- **D.POL.12.4.a** “The Speaker must have a good working knowledge of the GSA, its structure, and its governing documents.”

**Duties as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, D.BYL.3**

- **D.BYL.3.3.c** “The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council.”
- **D.BYL.3.3.d** “Duties of the Deputy Speaker and DRO are to assist the Speaker and CRO as needed.”

**Duties as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, D.POL.12**

- **D.POL.12.1** Duties of the Speaker
  - **D.POL.12.1.a** The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council and for acting in a neutral capacity and maintaining order and decorum in GSA Council so that GSA Council can conduct its business in a fully-informed, fair fashion.
  - **D.POL.12.1.b** The Speaker is responsible for dealing with any breaches of confidentiality arising in GSA Council.
  - **D.POL.12.1.c** The Speaker will see that an agenda package is prepared for all meetings of GSA Council.
  - **D.POL.12.1.d** The Speaker is ultimately responsible for review of the Minutes of meetings of GSA Council prior to their being distributed to GSA Council for approval.
  - **D.POL.12.1.e** The Speaker is responsible for tracking attendance at meetings of GSA Council.
  - **D.POL.12.1.f** The Speaker oversees the archiving of the official copies of the GSA’s governing documents and is responsible for ensuring that up-to-date copies thereof are available to members on the GSA website.
  - **D.POL.12.1.g** The position of Speaker totals approximately two (2) hours per week on average, except for weeks where there is a GSA Council meeting, in which case there is an average of approximately five (5) hours.

- **D.POL.12.2** Duties of the Deputy Speaker
  - **D.POL.12.2.a** As per Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, D.BYL.3.3.d, the “duties of the Deputy Speaker […] are to assist the Speaker […] as needed.”

- **D.POL.12.3** Restrictions
  - **D.POL.12.3.a** The Speaker and Deputy Speaker may not act in any other representative position for the GSA except as provided for in GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy.
  - **D.POL.12.3.b** “The CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the GSA Nominating Committee, members of the GSA ACB [GSA Appeals and Complaints Board], and members of the GSA ERC will remain neutral and not serve as a Campaign Volunteer for any candidate whatsoever” in an election (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I..POL.10.9) and “not serve as a Campaign Representative or Campaign Volunteer for any ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ campaign whatsoever” in a referendum (Section J: Referenda, GSA Policy, Referenda, Section J.POL.11.4).
Nominations for SPEAKER
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)
Four (4) Nominees

1. Lauren Hill

| Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta) | N/A |

Statement of Interest

Firstly, serving as Chair and Speaker for various organizations during my time at McGill, I have become adept at presiding over meetings of various nature and various governing bodies. I maintain impartiality in all aspects of my positions in which such was required, including during meetings, as to ensure fruitful debate and discussion. With my knowledge of Robert’s Rules of Order (newest edition), Code Veronneau, as well as creating and abiding by various Standing Rules, I am a strong and capable chair, maintaining order and decorum during all meetings I oversee, and ensuring that such meetings remain safe and productive spaces for all matters. My skillset and experience in impartiality and leading meetings makes me an ideal candidate for the GSA Speaker position.

Overseeing various governing bodies of various organizations, my flexibility and transferability in this capacity would ensure a seamless transition if selected to serve in a similar position within the GSA. Serving as Recording Secretary for two years for SSMU, I have become adept at reviewing sets of minutes, ensuring that they are complete and accurate, prior to distribution for approval. My experience in this capacity would ensure accuracy and precision at GSA Council meetings.

Similarly, as Speaker for two different student organizations, I have been responsible for setting meeting agendas and preparing all documents for approval and consideration for meetings of various governing bodies. In this capacity, I am familiar with the agenda-drafting and setting processes, and would be able to fulfill a similar expectation with the GSA.

Also as part of my position as Speaker (SSMU), I served as co-chair of the Accountability Committee, which included overseeing the confidentiality ‘portfolio.’ With this, as well as my familiarity in overseeing matters and discussions of highly confidential nature, I am well-versed in my understanding of confidentiality and necessity. Serving as Accountability Committee co-chair, I maintained confidentiality at SSMU through collecting all confidentiality agreements, and responding to and investigating breaches of confidentiality, easily transferrable experience to the duties expected of the GSA Speaker.

As part of my work as the Governing Documents Researcher, I was responsible for researching all Canadian university student society governing documents and structure, including the Graduate Students’ Association of the University of Alberta. My pre-existing familiarity and knowledge in such documents and structure would provide for a seamless transition, if appointed to this position.

Lastly, I also have extensive knowledge and experience navigating, advising, and archiving of numerous governing documents. My proficiency in understanding and utilizing such documents would further my understanding of the GSA, my role within it, and better outfit me with the experience needed to ensure the regular and active archiving and updating of the GSA’s various governing documents. Although I may be new to the University of Alberta, my preliminary review and knowledge of the GSA, its structure and governing documents, as well as my extremely transferrable knowledge and experience in these areas makes me a suitable candidate to fulfill the position of Speaker.

Bio

My name is Lauren Hill, and I am an incoming MA candidate in Political Science. As part of my MA degree, I seek to complete a thesis on contemporary Saskatchewan political culture, and how it has shifted in the twenty-first century, with the arrival of mainstream right-wing movements, and the new role of Canadian federalism. Originally from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, I have spent the past three years at McGill University, completing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Political Science and History. Besides academics, at McGill, I was heavily involved in student life, being a part of numerous on-campus organizations and clubs. The highlight of my undergraduate degree was my involvement with the
Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU). I worked in three different positions during my time at SSMU, and discovered my love for governance, parliamentary procedure, governing documents, and student government. This was furthered in my participation with various other student societies/associations. Beyond this, I was also extremely involved in the areas of multimedia, communications, and marketing, taking on different roles within various organizations to reflect such an interest. In my spare time, I enjoy reading historical biographies, spending time with my two dogs, Shakespeare and Grace, and visiting restaurants and cafes! Governance-wise, I spend my time providing governance and parliamentary procedure to various organizations and groups, and am currently studying to write the Registered Parliamentarian examination.

Summary Resume

For the past two years, I have served as Speaker of Legislative Council and Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU). In this position, I preside over all meetings of the Legislative Council, Board of Directors, and General Assemblies in a fair and impartial manner in both English and French. In this position, also serve as the Chair of the Steering Committee, and am responsible for reviewing and advising on all Legislative Council resolutions and motions, as well as preparing all documents for meetings of SSMU’s various governing bodies. I also provide orientation and training on SSMU’s governing documents, Robert’s Rules and parliamentary procedure, and SSMU governance to all SSMU Executives, Councillors, Senators, and campus media. I also am extremely involved in the areas of multimedia, communications, and marketing, taking on different roles within various organizations to reflect such an interest. In my spare time, I enjoy reading historical biographies, spending time with my two dogs, Shakespeare and Grace, and visiting restaurants and cafes! Governance-wise, I spend my time providing governance and parliamentary procedure to various organizations and groups, and am currently studying to write the Registered Parliamentarian examination.

Outside of my formal work experience, I also have significant freelance experience. Indeed, I have worked with a number of McGill faculty associations, non-profit organizations, and private businesses on trainings for Robert’s Rules of Order and governing documents. Similarly, I have served as interim and substitute chairs for various faculty association and McGill administration meetings. Lastly, I have served as an advisor to numerous faculty associations and non-profit organizations on the drafting and implementation of various governing documents.

2. Tiffany Kung

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)  
Graduate Psychology Association (GPA)

Statement of Interest
In the past year (2020-2021) I was able to serve on the FGSR council, which allowed me to glean deeper insight to student governance on the UAlberta campus. Through this experience, I was able to realize the depth of involvement that is possible with student governance, and this sparked my interest for further involvement! Through my experience with executive committees, I am familiar with the co-operation and communication needed for a facilitatory role like the Speaker, making me a great fit for the position. Although I’ve never facilitated a committee as large as the GSA Council, my position as President on multiple committees has involved me chairing and overseeing meetings to ensure proper flow. Lastly, I have familiarity with Robert’s Rules of Order, which will also aid me in the position.

Bio

I am a thesis-based MSc. Student entering my second year in the Psychology department. I have been researching with the University since 2016, and early exposure to wet lab research led me to pursue my current Master’s degree, with an interest in pursuing a PhD. This year, I was able to volunteer as an FGSR Councilor, as well as Co-Chair for the Graduate Psychology Association. Through a colleague, I was notified of this opportunity and I believe it perfectly fits my interest in student governance. Specifically, I am most interested in campus involvement in an informatory capacity, and I believe the position of Speaker is perfect for what I hope to gain from student governance on campus.

Summary Resume

Throughout my university career, I have constantly been involved in smaller scale student governance. Throughout my undergraduate degree, I was privileged to serve on a number of executive committees, including as VP academic for the Neuroscience Students Association (2019-2020), VP External for the Friends of MSF club (2017-2020), and President for the Fundraising for Animals club (2018-2020). Many of these have been in facilitatory roles overseeing smaller committees. Since entering graduate studies, I have served as co-President for the Graduate Psychology Association as well on the FGSR council (2020-2021). I have also served on the fundraising committee for Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (2017-2021), which has provided me an example of a more professional environment of collaboration, similar to what I expect from GSA council. These experiences have given me experience in moderating discussions, which is directly relevant to this position. Lastly, in my capacity with the FGSR council, although limited, I have been able to experience student governance at the University, which will aid be in adjusting to this position.

3. Sanhita Pal

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)  Councilor-At-Large, GSA  Student Member General Faculties Council (GFC)  International Students Association (ISA)

Statement of Interest

I am running for the position of speaker at GSA because I am passionate about it. I love the role and duties of the speaker. I have loved doing similar things before and love the idea of continuing to do so. I have had extensive experience of hosting live events on stage (in front of 500 to 1000 people) beginning from my schooling and undergraduate years until now where, as the Vice-President of Graduate Affairs at ISA, I chair regular department meetings and look after the entire proceedings. I believe my previous experience has greatly improved my communication, speaking, leadership skills and make me a perfect fit for this position.

Bio

I am Sanhita Pal, a first-year Master of Sciences (MSc) Student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. I am working on the development of magnetic high entropy alloy (HEA) coatings using cold spray under the supervision of Dr. Andre McDonald. My research interests extend to Additive Manufacturing and Computational Materials Engineering in addition to Surface Technology and I am looking forward to working on an amalgamation of these fields in the future. When I am not working, I
I love to engage in profound conversations relating to nature, science, mythology and Pokemon. I am also an avid reader and I take a deep interest in human psychology.

### Summary Resume

I am originally from Kolkata, India and I have moved to Canada earlier in January 2021. I have completed my Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Durgapur, India in July 2020 and then decided to pursue a Master’s degree. I have had the opportunity to visit the University of Alberta previously as a MITACS Globalink Research Intern in 2019. I had an amazing experience here which further motivated me to pursue my graduate studies here at UofA. I am passionate about research and I have the experience of working on a variety of topics ranging from Molecular Dynamics to Water Purification. I have also had the privilege of working as an intern at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, India in 2018 and the Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung GmbH, Germany, in 2020.

I have extensive volunteering experience during my schooling and undergraduate years, and I am happy to have been able to continue the same during my graduate studies. In school, I had the privilege of getting elected to and serving in the Students Council for four consecutive years in middle and high school and the Middle School Captain in 2011. During my tenure as the school captain and class leader, I had been responsible for organizing and hosting events like debates, quizzes, extempore, drama, annual sports, annual exhibition, parent’s day. Thus, I have a great deal of experience with public speaking, hosting and organizing formal and informal events.

During my undergraduate years, I have been a part of the Entrepreneurship Cell, Centre for Cognitive Activities which organized events like Start-Up Fair, Ripple Effect, the annual B-Plan and a host of other events. I have acted as the Fest Coordinator for AAROHAN which holds the reputation of being the second-largest Techno-Management Fest in Eastern India. I have also been a part of the Debating Society and worked as a Radio and Video Jockey in ‘Radio Nitroz’ (a successful LAN/Internet-based radio) and coordinated various non-technical, events throughout the year. Besides this, I have served as the Class Representative for the last four years with the motto to create a better understanding between teachers and students. I have worked actively to put forward the expectations of the students and have been successful in getting most of our requisites met. I tried maintaining a congenial atmosphere in my department wherein people help and support one another. Of late I have been working as the Director of Advocacy and Outreach Co-Ordinator, Graduate Affairs, International Students Association (ISA) and I am presently, the Vice-President, Graduate Affairs at ISA. This position has further prepared me perfectly to serve as the Speaker at GSA and I am hoping to give my best if elected.

## 4. Janmejay Rao

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<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
<th>Councilor-At-Large GSA Councilor at ISA</th>
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### Statement of Interest

Organizational capacity and the ability to work with the group and lead them are essential in running any organization. My experiences as General Secretary of Academic Affairs at IIT Goa gave me an important insight into efficiently organizing and running institute-wide council meetings.

Another essential quality that I believe I can offer for this position is my passion for public speaking. I have extensive experience in public speaking and was part of a debate team representing my Bachelor’s Institute.

### Bio

I am Janmejay Rao, a master’s student in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alberta. I believe that somewhere in all of us is the power to change the world. Based on this belief, I live my life. I believe in and strive for progressive change with one community at a time.
Summary Resume

Being an avid team player and handling responsible positions at various international organizations, I am good at academics and extracurricular activities. I was a topper at Mechanical Department, IIT Goa (Awarded Institute Medal), and currently holding a GPA of 3.9 at UofA. In my professional experience (during my Bachelor’s), I have worked with several international organizations such as Canadian Light Source, Homi Bhabha National Institute, and Saskatchewan University. Recognizing my Academic and Leadership qualities, the Government of India selected me to be part of the Indian Youth Delegation to China (Official Summit).

My extensive experience as a volunteer is listed below:

- Councillor-At-Large, GSA, UofA
- Graduate Councillor, International Student Association, UAlberta
- Director of Graduate Affairs and Management, ISA, UAlberta
- Member of Students Senate Advisory Committee, IIT Goa
- Internship Cell Overall Co-ordinator, IIT Goa (Sept 2017-18)

Apart from this, I organized blood donation camps and organ donation awareness events at my Bachelor's Institute. I was also actively involved in teaching microcontrollers and coding to school students at Ponda Village in Goa (for tech awareness).

Nomination for DEPUTY SPEAKER
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)
One (1) Nominee

1. Sana Amjad

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<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
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Statement of Interest

I have more than 5 years’ experience of organizing, managing and moderating working group meetings. In my work experience as research assistant (2019-Present), project coordinator (2016-2018) and teaching assistant (2016-2017) at the University of Alberta I have gained excellent time management and communication skills. As research assistant, I am responsible for planning, leading and coordinating different research activities in collaboration with the project team. In my role as project coordinator, I have organized international and provincial working group meetings and facilitated collaborative relationship between project team, international associates, Statistics Canada and funding agencies. In addition, in my experience as teaching assistant (TA) I have moderated in-class sessions and activities by utilizing leadership and effective communication skills. The people management skills gained through my work experience will be valuable to serve as GSA deputy speaker and provide assistance to the speaker as required. As a MSc student and teaching assistant I got familiarized with the work GSA does on behalf of students and really appreciated GSA’s stance and opposition towards the tuition increase. I look forward to contribute towards GSA’s initiatives to support and advocate on behalf of the graduate student community.

Bio

I am a first generation immigrant fluent in both English and Urdu. After doing my MD from Pakistan I worked as a general physician for a year and decided to pursue a Master’s in public health to enhance my understanding of population health and hone my research skills. I consider myself a perinatal health researcher with expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. On a personal note, I enjoy reading ancient history books and political fiction.
## Summary Resume

I am an MD with a MSc degree in Public Health specializing in global health. I am a first year doctoral student in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Alberta. My research has focused on highlighting the role of social determinants of health such as residence, socioeconomic status, ethnicity as precursor to inequalities in maternal and perinatal health and using this knowledge to support evidence based practices. I have volunteered with Assist Community Services Centre and organized after-school activities and workshops for youth aged 11-15 years to promote problem solving skills, healthy values and self-confidence. I have also volunteered with Canadian Diabetes Association as community health promoter.