

## Consolidated Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 11 June 2012 Agenda

### Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes
  - i. Minutes from the 14 May 2012 GSA Council meeting **(attached)**

### Changes in Council Membership

3. Changes in Council Membership **(no material)**
  - i. Introduction of new Councillors *(If you are new to Council, please let us know it is your first meeting)*
  - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors *(If this is your last Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know)*

### Presentations and Councillor Announcements

4. Presentations
  - i. Campus Smoking Policy (Amit Persad and Janine Hancock) - up to 30 minutes **(no material)**
  - ii. Health and Dental Plan Update (Ashlyn Bernier, President) **(no material)**

5. Councillor Announcements

### Reports

6. President
  - i. President's Report **(attached)**
  - ii. GSA Board **(attached)**
  - iii. Budget and Finance Committee **(no need to meet until the audit is complete in late June)**
  - iv. Governance Committee **(has met by email on editorial bylaw matters)**
  - v. Nominating Committee **(previously distributed on 01 June 2012)**
7. Vice-President Academic
  - i. Vice-President Academic's Report **(attached)**
8. Vice-President Student Services
  - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **(attached)**
  - ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice President Student Life) **(the GSAB continues to seek SAAC's advice by email on the PAW Centre community kitchen and the 89 Ave housing project)**

9. Vice-President Student Life

- i. Vice-President Student Life's Report (**attached**)
- ii. Awards Selection Committee (**review of GSA Awards occurring under President's direction with Hillary Sparkes, CAL, as lead**)

10. Vice-President Labour

- i. Vice-President Labour's Report (**attached**)
- ii. Negotiation Committee (**no meetings needed this month as is being replenished**)
- iii. Labour Relations Committee (**no meetings needed this month as is being replenished**)

11. Senator

- i. Senator's Report (**no report this month**)

12. Speaker

- i. Speaker's Report (**no report this month**)

13. Chief Returning Officer

- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**attached**)
- ii. Elections and Referenda Committee (**will meet over the summer to review bylaws; is being replenished**)

14. GSA Management

- i. Executive Director's Report (**previously distributed on 01 June 2012**)

**Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business**

15. Action Items

- i. Council-elected Officers: Proposal for Bylaw Change (Second Reading) **Note: this is the second reading of an addition regarding voting privileges on Council (previously distributed on 01 June 2012)**
- ii. Negotiations Committee: Proposal for Bylaw Change (Second Reading) (**previously distributed on 01 June 2012**)
- iii. Spring/Summer 2012 U-Pass (**attached**)

16. Elections

- i. Slate for GSA Standing Committees (**previously distributed on 05 June 2012**)

17. Discussion Items (**none to date**)

**Question Period**

18. Written Questions (**none to date**)

19. Oral Questions

**Adjournment**

**Meeting Minutes  
14 May 2012  
GSA Council Meeting**

*[Note: All materials referred to in these Minutes are stored in hard copy in the Official File, as well as electronically]*

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Refer to the official GSA Attendance record for attendance of Council Members.

Guests of Council:

Doug Dawson, Executive Director of Ancillary Services

Jon O'Hara, Project Manager for the 89 Avenue Housing Project

Margaret Law, Director of the Copyright Office

**Approval of Agenda**

**1. Approval of the 14 May 2012 Agenda**

Members had before them the 14 May 2012 Consolidated Agenda, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. A Bernier (Pres) requested that a presentation by Margaret Law (Copyright Office) on Access Copyright issues be added to the Agenda, as item 4.ii.

**MOTION to approve the Agenda as amended**  
T McIntyre (ECE), seconded by N Sinkov (Chem)  
**The Agenda was approved.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**2. Minutes**

**i. Minutes from the 16 April 2012 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 16 April 2012 GSA Council Minutes, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012.

**MOTION to approve the Minutes**  
T McIntyre (ECE), seconded by N Sinkov (Chem)  
**The Minutes were approved.**

**Changes in Council Membership**

**3. Changes in Council Membership**

**i. Introduction of new Councillors**

This was Arefeh Baroomand's (ECE) first meeting.

**ii. Farewell to departing Councillors**

None.

## Presentations and Councillor Announcements

### 4. Presentations

The Speaker suggested switching the order of the two presentations because the first presenter was delayed. There was no objection from Council.

#### i. Margaret Law, Director of the Copyright Office

No material was distributed in advance. During the presentation, M Law noted the following:

- Access Copyright (formerly CanCopy) is a collective of authors and publishers and organizes copyright for large entities.
- Access Copyright's old contract with the UofA: \$3.40/student plus \$.10/page costs for course packs, totaling about \$700K/year.
- Access Copyright proposed new rates of \$45/student flat fee (no per page cost) upon the lapse of the old agreement, but this would represent a cost increase \$1.8 million.
- UofA also had concerns with monitoring procedures, so the new offer was rejected and a decision made to operate directly under the *Copyright Act*; problems associated with this were legal language clarity/interpretation, time associated with clearance of material, variable prices, authors refusing clearance, and earlier required deadlines for coursepacks which were hard to meet for TAs and sessional instructors.
- Access Copyright actively pursues lawsuits; UofA legal counsel advised that even a winning law suit is a cost of \$1 million to the UofA.
- Western and UofT then signed a new agreement with Access Copyright, making UofA a likely first target for any lawsuit.
- UofA decided to sign the new agreement for a number of reasons: copyright law is still unclear as the legal landscape is evolving rapidly; intrusive monitoring provisions were removed; price is better now at \$25/student flat fee without a per page charge, totaling \$1 million; indemnity clause was put back in; not a permanent agreement (three years remain); risk management to avoid a costly lawsuit.
- UofA is pushing for and encouraging use of open source material and creative commons licenses (but still limited by tenure review process)

After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- In response to a question from N Adnan (VPSS) on how the fees increase will impact graduate students, M Law responded that the University has not decided yet how it will deal with the \$300K discrepancy.

- A Bernier (Pres) asked if there were there any situations in which lawsuits are brought about on individuals, ie, students, academic staff; what is the length of the contract; and if M Law was willing to offer further information/training to individual students or groups. M Law responded that other lawsuits so far have sued a broad spectrum of individuals, focusing on where the money is; at the UofA there is a UAPPOL procedure stating that all students and staff must follow Copyright Office guidelines and that if you follow these guidelines then there should be no concerns; the Copyright Office is known for having good policies and there is recognition of its best practice, with other institutions borrowing its policies; so students are at minimal risk if they follow the rules; the contract with Access Copyright is a five-year agreement but with three remaining years; there is no assumption that the University will be signing an extension; the remaining three years are being used to track and gain information. Finally, if anyone wants more information, M Law encouraged them to contact the Copyright Office and that they can present to groups and will meet with individuals to go over thesis, moodle, coursepack, or other concerns.
- In response to N Sinkov's (Chem) query about whether graduate students can link to material, M Law replied that a recent court case determined that linking is not considered copying. N Sinkov then asked if the material being linked to is itself violating copyright to which M Law responded that this is where one's own judgment comes in and that in cases where it does not appear to have copyright clearance then steer clear.
- In response to M Zajko's (Soc) request for clarification, M Law noted that there was surprise that the UofT signed an agreement but less surprise about AUCC and that the whole experience has caused universities to look at their relationship with AUCC in general.

M Law stated that the Copyright Office serves the community and that it would rather spend time with people up front to deal with questions. She encouraged those with lengthy questions to make an appointment. Graduate students could also call or email. One of the copyright officers can meet with groups or individually. She concluded by stating she would be pleased to present again to Council when the copyright situation changes.

**ii. 89 Avenue Housing Project (Doug Dawson, Executive Director of Ancillary Services and Jon O'Hara, Project Manager)**

No material was distributed in advance. Doug Dawson, Executive Director of Ancillary Services, provided a presentation and noted the following:

- Background on the project: overview of development area; concept site plans.
- Building B (96 beds in two- and four-bedroom modules, designed with graduate students in mind); Building A (128 beds, four-bedroom units, designed with international students in mind and would be linked with International House).
- Nine houses on 89 Avenue to be removed.
- Showed some concept renderings of unit layouts/exterior designs/streetscape and landscaping but emphasized these are not designs (noting GSA representative is on design committee); all will be furnished.

After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- T McIntyre(ECE) asked if the design process would be more in the style of ECV and if there will be graduate student representation on the committees and at meetings. In response D Dawson indicated that the GSA President and VPSL have asked to be on the Committee and are welcome; that this is a truncated process; the designing and building will be done quickly making activities intense in terms of consultation and decision-making; that they wanted as much input as possible.
- H Sparkes (CAL) noted that in the presentation there were no images of garbage facilities and that this is an issue at current ECV grad residence, asking if this is being taken into consideration. D Dawson replied that while it is still early they were definitely aware of the issues associated with the current ECV grad residences and will take from the lessons learned; another lesson learned was that showers were too small and they will not be making that mistake again.

## **5. Councillor Announcements**

There was no material before members. T McIntyre (ECE) announced that on 21 June 2012 there will be an engineering symposium. All Council members were invited to attend.

## **Reports**

*At the request of Speaker F Wu, all newly-elected officials had prepared a brief presentation or short video about themselves, which was presented prior to their official reports. Materials are available for viewing upon request.*

## 6. President

### i. President's Report

#### a) Past President

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted.

#### b) Current President

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. In addition, A Bernier (Pres) noted that she was looking forward to working with the new team. She had attended her first Board of Governors meeting last Friday and GSA-submitted fees were approved.

### ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted.

### iii. Budget and Finance Committee

No meetings were needed for BFC that month.

### iv. Governance Committee

The Governance Committee had been conducting meetings by email. Members were also referred to item 15 ii.

### v. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee had been conducting meetings by email regarding CALs as requested by ERC; that it met on 9 May 2012 regarding replenishment of GSA Committees, CJSR Board, and a new Technology Committee; and that it had recently replenished GFC and its committees, and FGSR Council.

A Bernier (Pres) turned the floor over to V Kandalam (Vice-Chair of NoC) who reiterated two major recent activities of the NoC: 1) active discussion with ERC with respect to advertising for and recruitment of candidates for by-election; and 2) the meeting regarding GSA standing committees (directing Council to the GSA website), looking to replenish six GSA standing committees including both Councillors and GSA members-at-large, ads to go out shortly.

## 7. Vice-President Academic

### i. Vice-President Academic's Report

#### a) Past Vice-President Academic

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted.

#### b) Current Vice-President Academic

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted. N Andrews (VPA), sent his regrets, as he was attending the Trudeau Scholars Summer Institute.

## 8. Vice-President Student Services

- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report**
  - a) Past Vice-President Student Services**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted.
  - b) Current Vice-President Student Services**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. In addition, N Adnan (VPSS) noted there was a discussion item about the PAW community kitchen later on the agenda.
- ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice-President Student Life)**

This Committee was seeking SAAC's advice by email on the PAW community kitchen and the 89 Ave housing project.

#### **9. Vice-President Student Life**

- i. Vice President Student Life's Report**
  - a) Past Vice-President Student Life**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted.
  - b) Current Vice-President Student Life**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. In addition, H Zhong (VPSL) noted there have been some student concerns relating to Michener Park; Residence Services is aware of this and will be cleaning up the common area but it also encouraged students to take care of the space too. She encouraged Council members who had any other concerns to contact her.
- ii. Awards Selection Committee**

There was currently no need for meetings.

#### **10. Vice-President Labour**

- i. Vice-President Labour's Report**
  - a) Past Vice-President Labour**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted.
  - b) Current Vice-President Labour**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. The report stands as submitted. B Epperson (VPL) sent his regrets since he was out of the country due to family obligations.
- ii. Negotiation Committee**

There was currently no need for meetings.
- iii. Labour Relations Committee**

There was currently no need for meetings.

#### **11. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

Members should refer to item 10 i (Past VPL Report).

**12. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

None required. [*In Speaker F Wu's planned absence, R Kooistra was acting as Interim Speaker for the May meeting.*]

**13. Chief Returning Officer**

**i. Chief Returning Officer's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 May 2012. In addition, R Agrawal (CRO) highlighted that the CAL by-election started tomorrow at 10 am and ended on 17 May 2012 at 10 am.

**ii. Elections and Referenda Committee**

There had been no need for meetings of the ERC since last Council.

**14. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 4 May 2012 (updated version 10 May 2012). In addition, E Schoeck (ED) noted the following:

- The GSA has a celebration-worthy accomplishment in dealing with its agreements, emphasizing the Financial Agreement with the UofA which gives the GSA 90% of fees in advance, showing the confidence of UofA Financial Services in the new GSA and the TDIMM Agreement re-signing, noting the GSA was pleased with this, one of the reasons being that TDIMM is one of the only providers willing to insure international students.
- Any Councillors interested in reviewing these agreements are welcome, should anyone want to learn more about the agreements or the process of negotiating them.
- The next agreement to be negotiated is the Information Sharing Agreement with the UofA; hoping for some huge, modernizing changes including direct deposit of AEGS cheques.
- A new GSA website has been launched; comments about it are welcome and should be directed to H Hogg or E Schoeck.

**Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business**

**15. Action Items**

- i. Council-elected Officers: Proposal for Bylaw Change (Second Reading):** moved by A Bernier (Pres), seconded by T McIntyre (ECE)

Members had before them an Outline of Issue and a double-column document outlining the proposed changes, both of which had been distributed on 4 May 2012. Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION**:

*GSA Council approves, in second reading, changes to Bylaw, Part IV Officers, item 3 Council-elected officers, as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and as set out in the middle column of the attached triple-column document.*

Members were advised that GSA Bylaw, Part VII, item 2, provides that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws...”, and that this Motion had been approved in first reading at the 16 April 2012 GSA Council Meeting.

Members were also advised that the current timing of the election of Senator had resulted in up to four months where the GSA does not have a representative on Senate; this proposal would also provide for earlier election of the Speaker and CRO to allow for more time for training, as well as establish the positions of Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer.

Members were also informed that there had been an update since the first reading. The Board, upon reviewing this proposal just prior to the April 2012 Council meeting, raised the issue of whether the Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer should be voting or non-voting members of Council. The Board then considered this matter at its 18 April 2012 meeting. The Board unanimously recommended that these positions be non-voting and referred the matter to the Governance Committee, which also supported the suggestion that these positions be non-voting. The Governance Committee voted by email on this matter and its recommendation is set out in section 3.2.4 of the attached comparative table, where the following sentence is added: “The Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer are non-voting members of Council.” Members were advised that today’s motion would be considered first reading, with a second reading to occur on 11 June 2012.

In addition, Members were informed that there would be an editorial change to ensure proper continuity of the numbering system in the Bylaws.

A Bernier (Pres) introduced the Motion, noting the following:

- The two main effects of the Bylaw change are to separate out the position of Senator so it is continuously filled and to establish Bylaws around the election of a Deputy CRO and Deputy Speaker.
- The current Bylaw was written before the establishment of NoC, and the changes also create a role for the NoC in the process.
- There is one change, noting the deputy positions will be non-voting and that this will come back to Council in second reading in June 2012.

**The MOTION was APPROVED.**

ii. **Negotiation Committee: Proposal for Bylaw Change (First Reading):** moved by A Bernier (Pres), seconded by T McIntyre (ECE)

Members had before them an Outline of Issue and a double column document, both of which had been distributed on 4 May 2012. Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION**:

*That Council, in first reading, approve changes to GSA Bylaw concerning the Negotiation Committee, as set out in the right-hand column of the attached comparative table.*

Members were advised that GSA Bylaw, Part VII Standing Committees, 2.2.1, states that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws...” The Governance Committee had approved this proposal in an email vote on 3 May 2012. In addition, the GSA Board, acting as the GSA’s “highest administrative authority” had endorsed this proposal and recommended it favourably to the Governance Committee (GASB, 2 May 2012).

It was noted for Members that if this proposal passed in second reading, the following changes to the Policy Manual would be made: Officer Portfolios, items 3 (VP Academic) and 6 (VP Student Services) – the VP Academic would sit on the NC as Vice-chair (and not the VPSS), as the academic portfolio is more closely aligned with Collective Agreement issues than the services portfolio.

Members were advised that this Motion also entailed a number of editorial changes to the GSA Bylaws and Policy Manual, since all references to the “Negotiation Committee” must be changed to the “Negotiating Committee”. It was noted for Members that both the Governance Committee and the Board see the matter as urgent as we are entering a negotiating year, and that GSA Labour Professional Heather Hogg has checked this proposal against the

Collective Agreement. In the attached proposal there were notes headed “rationale” that refer to requirements in the CA.

A Bernier (Pres) introduced the Motion, noting that this Motion replaced the VPSS with the VPA as vice-chair and changed the composition (labour professional as non-voting, at least two but no more than three graduate students).

**The MOTION was APPROVED.**

## **16. Elections**

There were no elections.

## **17. Discussion Items**

### **i. Physical Activity and Wellness Centre Community Kitchen**

Members had before them a letter soliciting input from Vice-President Student Services N Adnan, which had been distributed on 4 May 2012.

N Adnan (VPSS) introduced the item noting that in all of the communications about PAW, there was no detailed plan for the community kitchen or its function. The SU President proposed to draft a plan for how it should operate, but the GSA wanted to make sure different needs of graduate students versus undergraduates are taken into account.

With no further discussion, R Kooistra (Interim Speaker) added that feedback may be submitted via email to the VPSS at [gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca)

## **Question Period**

### **18. Written Questions**

There were no written questions.

### **19. Oral Questions**

T McIntyre (ECE) asked the Elected Officials about their first day and there were informal responses regarding their first few days in office and their first Council meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

**GSA President  
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Ashlyn Bernier  
Date: June 4, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

One month down and your team of elected officials has been working hard and learning so much. We are starting to think about strategic planning now that our transition period is coming to an end.

I would like to again encourage you all to phone or email me with any questions or concerns. I would also like to encourage you all to take advantage of pre-Council dinner to get to know the GSA Executive as well as your fellow Councilors, and to initiate discussion on any items of concern or interest.

Some highlights from my first month in office:

**The Umbrella Committee**

We met once again to discuss feedback from the committees. The website soliciting submissions from the University community is back open and will be until the end of July. I urge you all to share your thoughts on how the University could be more efficient – the Umbrella Committee reads them **all** and several suggestions submitted from community members are under consideration for implementation. Past submissions will also be posted to you can all see what the rest of the University community is thinking.

Much discussion centered on pension and increment pay for faculty and it looks like this will be an ongoing investigation. Several IT initiatives are already underway – such as reducing the number of desktop printers, server room consolidation, creation of University Cloud Computing infrastructure, utilization of the new “Google Drive” service, consolidation of firewalls, etc. – all will result in long-term cost savings.

**Board of Governors**

The GSA’s proposed Health and Dental Fees and Association Fees were approved by the BoG at the May 11 meeting.

**Alberta Graduate Council**

This year’s AGC executive is fully aware of the many urgent issues facing the organization and has been working hard to make progress on them. Registering as a Non-for-profit organization, arranging for External Audits, drafting of Bylaws, creation of a new, more functional website, and drafting of policy statement in preparation for government lobbying are all underway. We have also been attempting to arrange a meeting with the new Minister for Enterprise and Advanced Education, Stephen Kahn. I will be sure to keep Council abreast of any developments on these fronts.

**Health and Dental Plan**

In an attempt to keep fees to graduate students as low as possible, we entered into a Request for Quotes (RFQ) with our provider, StudentCare. The purpose of this is to take our plan to market and solicit bids from Insurance providers. The coverage will remain the same, and the fees quoted are guaranteed for a minimum of one year. We received three quotes, one from our current provider SunLife Financial. The most cost effective quote came from the provider Desjardins Financial Security, and choosing this option would result in surplus funds being added to the GSA Health and Dental Reserve fund this year. Their quotation for the 2012-2013 policy year would be \$376.15 with a 2-year guarantee. Certain issues, such as additional administrative work and communication to students are associated with a change in provider and StudentCare is fully capable of addressing these and assisting the GSA in the transition should we decide to do so.

As I write this report, we are still waiting on word from the SU on what they have decided as they and other Student Association's across Canada joined us in this RFQ. It is beneficial to University of Alberta students that the SU and the GSA use the same provider – **I will update you all on this matter at Council.**

**U-Pass**

The current agreements with ETS end in April 2013 (Fall/Winter pass) and August 2013 (Spring Summer pass). **We will introduce a Motion at Council today** for extension of the U-Pass service into Spring/Summer 2013. This summer we will initiate renegotiations with ETS to extend this agreement.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this report and engage in discussion at GSA Council. Your involvement is critical to the functionality of this organization.

Sincerely,  
Ashlyn Bernier

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 9, 2012 and June 3, 2012:*

May 9	GSA Board GFC APC
May 10	BoG Recognition Dinner
May 11	BoG Provost Advisory Debrief
May 16	GSA Board
May 17	Killam Award Adjudication
May 22	Meeting with Mary Paul
May 23	GSA Board
May 30	GSA Board
May 31	TUC Lunch meeting with Mazi Shirvani: Vice-Provost & Dean of FGSR

**GSA Board  
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board  
Date: 06 June 2012

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, Financial Manager and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the Council meeting.

**May 09, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

Main Agenda Items: AGC; Sector 8 housing and 89<sup>th</sup> Ave. development; special projects advisors; Policy on Grading and Assessment; Michener Park complaints and student group; Residence Community Standards; CAL vacancy.

Motions and/or Agreements:

It was **MOVED** by BE and seconded by NsA that Board move into CLOSED SESSION. **CARRIED**. Board members discussed audit and reports from AGC. Board members **AGREED** to move out of closed session.

**May 16, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

Main Agenda Items: GFC Academic Planning Committee; BoG fee approval; Doug Dawson's 89<sup>th</sup> Ave. presentation to Council and construction; signing authority; direct deposit and financial services cheque; semi-monthly pat cycle awareness; Festival of Ideas; Residence Community Standards Committee; Certificate Working Group; Terry Fox event; PAW Kitchen; election; Studentcare.net

Motions and/or Agreements:

There were no motions or agreements.

**May 23, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

Main Agenda Items: Policy on Grading and Assessment; CLRC and changes to Code of Student Behaviour; GFC Academic Standards Committee; Residence Community Standards Committee; Terry Fox event; FGSR Council; UPass Admin and renegotiations; Health and Dental Return for Quote presentation from Studentcare.net.

Motions and/or Agreements:

There were no motions or agreements.

**May 30, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

Main Agenda Items: fundraising through the U of A; Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry graduate student group; Council chamber replacement space; Orientation funding from Dean of Students;

Residence Hall Association; Spring/Summer UPass and possible referendum; Acting GSA President Policy; Health and Dental Plan provider decision; BoG and Board, Safety, Health and Environment Committee and Board Finance and Property Committee; Festival of Ideas planning; Alumni AGM and BBQ; Residence Community Standards Review Committee; Friends of the U of A; Graduate Program Administrators Committee; PAW Kitchen; PAW Steering; Health and Dental complaint; notary services; co-op housing presentation to Council; AGC financial statements; GSAP statistical report 2011.

Motions and/or Agreements:

Board members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**.

Board members discussed the referendum issue.

Board members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

BE **MOVED** that the motion to Council read as follows:

GSA Council approves, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, that the Spring/Summer U-Pass be extended to Spring/Summer 2013, with the following conditions:

1. The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of regular service of Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit within the participating municipalities service area during the May to August 2013 period to thesis-based graduate students who were registered in at least three credits in the preceding Winter term *OR* graduate students who are registered in Spring and/or Summer 2013, and who have not yet completed their degree.
2. The cost of the Spring/Summer 2013 U-Pass would be mandatory and would be no higher than the cost of the previous Fall or Winter term UPass.
3. The following graduate students may opt out of the Spring/Summer 2013 UPass:
  - a. Graduate students enrolled in the Executive MBA program, or enrolled only in Off-Campus Thesis during the preceding Winter Term;
  - b. Graduate students not enrolled in at least three credits within the participating municipalities service area during the preceding Winter Term;
  - c. Graduate students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability;
  - d. Graduate students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
4. The GSA shall be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with participating municipalities and the University of Alberta, contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions.
5. The Spring/Summer 2013 U-Pass Agreement would expire when superceded by another Agreement or should conditions (1) through (4) no longer apply.

Seconded by NsA. **CARRIED**.

HZ **MOVED** that the policy on Acting GSA President be moved into the Board Policy Manual.

Seconded by NsA. **CARRIED**.

AB **MOVED** that the Health and Dental Insurance Provider decision be postponed until after consultation with SU. Seconded by BE. **CARRIED**.

Board Members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**.

Board Members discussed Board of Governors procedures.

Board Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

Members **AGREED** that GSA should make a safety moment presentation to BSHEC regarding risk management.

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)  
REPORT TO COUNCIL for June 11, 2012 Council Meeting**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Vijay Kandalam (Vice-Chair)  
Date: May 30, 2012

Dear Council Members,

The Report from the GSA Nominating Committee is a summary of any discussion/decisions the NoC has made since its last report together with a list of any vacancies filled. A slate of nominees for GSA Standing Committees as an Elections Item will be distributed shortly.

The NoC By-law is in Part VII, #11. Policy governing NoC begins on page 26 of the GSA Policy Manual.

As provided for in its terms of reference, the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC) has been conducting business via e-mail. NoC held a meeting on May 30, 2012 to discuss filling a number of positions on external and GSA standing committees.

**GSA SPEAKER, CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER (AND THEIR DEPUTIES) AND SENATOR**

An early call for nominations was sent out through the GSA newsletter on May 4, 2012. The official call for nominations was sent on May 15, 2012. The deadline for nominations closes **June 8 at 3:30 pm**. According to Bylaw Part IV 3.1.4: "The Nominating Committee will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to Council except that the Nominating Committee may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated Nominating Committee process allows for Councillors to make additional nominations." The NoC decided a slate of nominations for these positions will be distributed to Council on **Friday June 8**. An electronic vote will occur about 10 days after **the June 8 deadline for submissions. Please note Councillors are invited to submit additional nominations prior to June 8**. Videos of the nominees for the positions of GSA Speaker, CRO (and their Deputies) and Senator will be posted on the GSA website.

At their May 30 meeting, NoC discussed a situation where the nominee to date for Deputy Speaker is also a Councillor at Large. Noc agreed that if this individual were elected, when the Deputy Speaker acts in the role of Speaker, they would have to give up their vote as a Councillor at Large. It was noted that to be approved in Second Reading at June 11 Council, the Council-elected Officer Bylaw Change will emphasize that "The Deputy Speaker and DRO are non-voting members of Council."

### **GSA COMMITTEES**

An advertisement for a number of GSA Standing Committees was sent through the newsletter May 15, 2012. The deadline was May 29 at noon. The NoC presents to Council a slate of nominees to populate GSA Board, GSA NoC, Governance Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Labour Relations Committee, Student Affairs Advisory Committee, and Elections and Referenda Committee. **SEE SLATE OF NOMINEES UNDER ELECTION ITEM (to be distributed).**

**GSA Judicial Committee:** According to the GSA Bylaws Part III 2.2.3 “The duties of all Councillors shall be: 2.2.3.3 To Serve on the Judicial Committee if selected to do so,” and the composition of the Judicial Committee is as follows: Part VI 1.1 “The Judicial Committee shall be composed of eight (8) Councillors who are selected at random as members of the Committee at the outset of each semester.” The NoC selected at random the 8 following Councillors to serve on the Judicial Committee, which currently has no pending business or cases:

1. Hillary Sparkes
2. Nicole Wilson
3. Leanne Labossiere
4. Briana Ehrens
5. Jeff Arsenault
6. Richard Kanyo
7. Shuoyi Xie/Carolyn Chenard
8. Liane Nickel

A letter was sent to the selected Councillors on May 14, 2012, informing them of their appointment.

### **BODIES EXTERNAL TO THE GSA**

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.”

**General Faculties Council:** The *GFC Nominating Committee* approved the slate of nominees that the GSA NoC selected. The following individuals were selected for GFC:

9. Roy Coulthard
10. Marianne Clark (**has since resigned**)
11. Carla Craveiro Salvado
12. Erika Goble
13. Todd Kristensen
14. Chandan Kumar
15. Jennifer Ann McGetrick
16. John Meston
17. Babak Nikbakhtan
18. Anna Nilson

19. Isaac Odoom
20. Andy Rathbone
21. Karen Vera Lyn Turpin
22. Michal Zielinski

On May 28, Marianne Clark submitted her resignation for GFC. There were originally 18 applicants for 14 positions, and the NoC has selected Waleem Alausa for this position on GFC.

**General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (APC):** On May 15, 2012 the recently appointed GFC APC graduate student representative informed the NoC they are no longer able to serve in this position. The NoC established a rank order of previous applicants for this committee to be approached, and the committee is working to fill this position as soon as possible. Due to urgency, advertisement was waived.

**FGSR Council:** The minimum period of appointment of members of this committee is two years. 5-6 current FGSR Councillors expressed interest in continuing on committee. The NoC is drafting an ad to call for nominations for the remaining 13 Council positions and 20 Alternate positions. The ad has been sent to all graduate students.

**Information Technology Advisory Committee:** On May 17, 2012 the two vacancies for this committee were advertized. The deadline for applications was May 28 at noon. Five outstanding nominations were received. The NoC has selected Peggy Jubien and Mohit Nayar to fill these positions.

**Athletics and Recreation Fee Advisory Committee:** On May 17, 2012 one vacancy for this committee was advertized. The deadline for applications was May 28 at noon. Hillary Sparkes was selected by the GSA NoC to serve on this Committee as its graduate student representative, and Jennifer McGetrick was selected by the GSA NoC to serve on this Committee as its graduate student GFC representative.

**University Animal Care and Use Committee – Health Sciences:** On May 17, 2012 three vacancies for this committee were advertized. The deadline for applications was May 28 at noon. No nominations were received. **Representatives for this committee must be a current animal user on an approved protocol associated with the respective ACUC (ACUC: Health Sciences).** The NoC is working to fill these vacancies.

**University Animal Welfare Committee:** Ellen contacted the coordinator of this committee, Susan Babcock, on May 15, 2012 to clarify the contradictory documents the NoC received outlining its committee composition. The GSA VP Academic will name one representative, as this committee falls under the VPA portfolio and the NoC has drafted an ad for the second position that has been sent to all graduate students.

**CJSR:** On May 14, 2012 the NoC received notice that the GSA has been granted an *ex officio* seat on their Board. This *ex officio* seat will be filled by the GSA VP Student Life Huimin Zhong or a named delegate.

**University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee:** The Coordinator of the NoC was contacted on May 25 with a request that one graduate student representative vacancy be filled on this committee. The term of the graduate student representative begins July 1 and extends until June 30 of the following year. The NoC has drafted an ad for this position, which has been sent to all graduate students.

**Graduate Student Representatives on Faculty Council:** Roy Coulthard wrote to all Deans on February 16, 2012 indicating that the GSA is willing to assist Faculties with vacancies on Faculty Councils to ensure that there was graduate student representation on these councils. As of May 28, 2012 the following Faculties have expressed interest in having the NoC coordinate the selection of graduate student representatives on their Faculty Councils: **Medicine/Dentistry, Science, and Education.**

**GSA Vice-President Academic  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Nathan Andrews  
Date: June 5, 2012

Dear Councillors,

I hope everyone is taking advantage of this beautiful weather in Edmonton these days – it doesn't last forever so please do! Having been in office for a month now, I feel quite ready to pursue the goals and objectives of the GSA and to represent all graduate students on issues of academic interest.

Since my last report, not much has changed regarding the **CLE Sub-committee on Attributes and Competencies**. I have a meeting scheduled with Dustin (SU VPA) and Dr. Steve Dew (the other co-chair for the sub-committee) this week to discuss ways forward and potentially to restructure the sub-committee to work effectively and in a timely fashion.

With regard to graduate student funding, I am still yet to get more information. The graduate funding taskforce came up last week when the new and old GSA elected officials had lunch with Dr. Mazi Shirvani, Dean of FGSR, but nothing solid came out of it so I will continue to keep an eye out for that. Apart from the above, let me highlight what has happened to the grading and assessment policy proposal:

**Assessment and Grading Policy Suite (in UAPPOL)**

So, this proposal which I reported on last month came before GFC members for a vote on May 28. I personally could not attend this meeting because I was away presenting a paper at the 2012 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Waterloo-Kitchener. I therefore asked Roy Coulthard (ex-President and current graduate student-at-large on GFC) to represent me. The report I received indicates that this was by far the most animated GFC meeting in years as several people spoke to the contents of the policy proposal, citing various practical examples. It is also worth noting that our GFC Caucus meeting on May 25 was equally engaging!

A win for the GSA is that our 'friendly' amendment (which makes it a requirement for Faculty- and department-specific grading guidelines to be brought to the Academic Standards Committee for information and also communicated to students through the University Calendar) passed after it was subject to a vote. It's great that we finally crossed this hurdle. We still have several outstanding questions regarding the policy's implementation so we'll be following up on this.

I did attend several other meetings but please take this report as a highlight of the issues I deem important to the GSA’s strategic interests. Nonetheless, do feel free to ask about any of the meetings listed below; I will be glad to give you such updates.

Cheers,  
 Nathan Andrews  
 GSA VP Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 9, 2012 and June 3, 2012:*

May 9	GSA Board EAS Panel Discussion on Assessment Policy and Practices
May 10	BoG Recognition Dinner
May 22	Meeting with Bill and Dustin (assessment and grading) Meeting with Tamara re: CLRC Teaching Awards Reception
May 23	GSA Board GFC APC
May 24	GFC CLRC Alumni AGM
May 25	Meeting with Dustin (attributes and competencies) GFC Caucus Meeting with Andy Meeting with Bill
May 31	Lunch meeting with Mazi Shirvani: Vice-Provost & Dean of FGSR
June 1	2012 University Cup Selection Committee Board University Relations

**Vice-President Student Services**

**Report to Council**

To: Council colleagues  
From: Naseeb Adnan, VP Student Services  
Date: June 4, 2012

Dear colleagues,

In the last month I attended a number of meetings and some of the important things are rolling quickly. Here is a short summary:

I attended the *FGSR Council* meeting last month. Two new programs, MA in Community Engagement and MA in Women's and Gender Studies, were passed in the council. A good number of grad students will get funded positions in these two new programs every year. A revision on current FGSR policy manual was also approved. In the new policy manual, with few other changes, the provision for a candidacy exam by teleconferencing under special circumstances was removed. Teleconferencing is still allowed for the final defence. In response to my questions on this issue, I was informed that there is no example of such special circumstances to their knowledge for candidacy exams in the past. Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost & Dean of FGSR, later informed me that FGSR still has authority to approve if any such cases appear in future.

VPSL Huimin and I attended another meeting with Andy Rathbone on *coop housing*. The main motivation of the coop housing he presented in the meeting is to provide affordable housing. Later it was discussed in GSAB meeting. Based on the details he provided, we decided to invite him for a presentation to GSA council.

The current U Pass agreement expires April 30, 2013. In the *U Pass Admin meeting* there were some preliminary discussions on a new agreement. Negotiation for the new agreement is likely to start sometime in the summer and should end before Christmas to allow a referendum early next year.

For the *PAW community kitchen* I had a meeting with Saadiq Sumar, VPSL SU. The proposed kitchen requires a business and governance model first. We will visit the NAIT and UAI kitchens to get some feedback from them on this issue soon. The GSA office staff are also trying to get some documents from University of California at Irvine, where they have a similar kitchen.

In the *PAW Steering Committee meeting* there was a discussion on ground breaking ceremony; the date is yet to be decided. SU is interested to have a bike library in the PAW center, whereas, GSA had been more interested in more parking spaces. The bike library requires \$250k budget and depends on fund raising. There will be more meetings in future on fund raising involving all concerned parties.

Sincerely,

Naseeb Adnan

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 9, 2012 and June 3, 2012:*

May 9	GSA Board
May 16	GSA Board Meeting with Andy (University Coop Housing) FGSR Council
May 17	U Pass Admin
May 19	U Pass Admin
May 23	GSA Board PAW Kitchen
May 24	Alumni AGM
May 28	Alarm Group
May 29	PAW Steering Committee
May 30	GSA Board Meeting with Joan (Green and Gold)
May 31	Lunch meeting with Mazi Shirvani: Vice-Provost & Dean of FGSR

To: GSA Council Colleagues  
From: Huimin Zhong, VPSL  
Date: June 4, 2012

Dear Council Members,

How time flies! It has been an exciting and challenging month for me. As I attended the various committee meetings regularly, I become more and more familiar with the scope of my job and enjoy it very much. During this month, I got much help from the GSA staff, the outgoing executives, and also my current colleagues. It is their great work that helps things go on so well for me.

I do have a few items to bring to your attention that I had been working on since my last council report.

The **Residence Community Standards Review Committee** has started to review the investigation and implementation process of Restorative Justice, the training system for residence service staff, and the details in informal resolutions. The discussion is still in progress and the final review report is supposed to come out at late June or early July. In the previous meetings, the committee agreed to add more details about Restorative Justice in the information package for residents. A more formal process for investigation and implementation of Restorative Justice are confirmed. The review will last for about another month or so, and if there is any other important change in the implementation of Restorative Justice I will keep you informed.

The **Festival of Ideas** in this coming November will be a big event in Edmonton this year. The organization committee has been working on the list of guests, the programs offered, the marketing strategies, the sponsorship and etc. There would be many great activities, fantastic presentations, and speakers coming to Edmonton in this year's Festival of Ideas. A number of volunteer positions may also be provided, which could be great experience for students. We will provide more information to you later. If you would like to get detailed message about any of these, please let me know.

Moreover, I have also worked with Hillary Sparkes in May for transition. She has offered me much help in my job and also demonstrated how great she has done during her term. I really appreciated this chance and I've learned a lot from her. I want to express my sincere thanks to her.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are very welcome to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Huimin Zhong

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 9, 2012 and June 3, 2012:*

May 9	GSA Board FOI Planning
May 14	Residence Community Standards Review Committee Meeting with Hillary Certificate Working Group #2
May 16	GSA Board Meeting with Andy (University Coop Housing)
May 17	GFC ASC
May 21	Residence Community Standards Review Committee Meeting with Hillary
May 22	Residence Community Standards Review Committee
May 23	GSA Board FOI Planning Meeting
May 24	Alumni AGM
May 28	Residence Community Standards Review Committee Meeting with Hillary Friends of the UofA
May 30	GPAC GSA Board
May 31	Lunch meeting with Mazi Shirvani: Vice-Provost & Dean of FGSR

GSA Vice-President Labour  
Report to Council

To: GSA Council Colleagues  
From: Brent Epperson, VP Labour  
Date: June 4, 2012

Dear Councillors,

I attended several committee meetings in May.

At the May 29 **Board Safety, Health, and Environment Committee (BSHEC)**, members discussed the following issues in open session:

- New concerns have been raised about university employees' cell phone use while driving. Board members agreed to address this issue in the future.
- A recent safety audit at U of A made several recommendations. The improper storage of chemicals—often due to space constraints—was identified as one of the most common problems. The audit encouraged labs to dispose of excess material more vigilantly. An instructional video is in development.
- Phyllis Clark asked if the GSA would be willing to be willing to do a “safety moment” presentation at BSHEC this year, regarding the GSA’s risk management strategy, for the purpose of information and coordination. I agreed.
- The university’s Risk Management Strategy (RMS) was discussed at length. I questioned the discursive link be RMS and revenue generation and will likely insist on leaving the appropriateness of that association open to discussion.
- The Field Research Office now has a hazard assessment tool for field locations available for graduate students.

At the May 29 **Board Finance and Property Committee** (attended solely as an observer, on behalf of Ashlyn Bernier), board members discussed the following issues in open session:

- In the Chair’s comments, Gordon Clanachan and Robert Campenot were thanked for their service. Both are stepping down from the committee.
- The rescission of facilities and operations policy was approved.
- The Balmoral-Supplemental Capital Authorization request was approved.
- Discussion of Ancillary services initially focused on “underused services,” specifically whether housing that remains vacant 3-4 months per year could be an additional revenue source. Committee members also expressed hope that more on-campus merchants would begin to accept One Card as a source of payment, creating additional revenue. Committee members further discussed the objective of 25% of full-time students living in university housing (now under 13%).
- There was limited discussion of the Project Management Office’s Quarterly Status Report. It is noteworthy that the Health Sciences LRT ped-way is on schedule to open in December.

At the May 30 **Academic Policy and Process Review committee** (attended as an observer on behalf of Nathan Andrews), board members discussed the following issues in open session:

- Provost Amrhein (Chair) announced that the proposal to end curved marking was approved. Dustin Chelen of the SU affirmed that he looked forward to debating the policy and recommending changes in the future.
- The committee members had a long discussion about one item from TUC. The auditing community has identified personal printing devices as a “runaway cost.”
- Dean Robinson summarized the information provided on the Success on Alternate Routes (SOAR) program, including the road map for undergraduate students. Dean Shirvani affirmed that the graduate version of this plan and document would look very different, but this would be an important issue moving forward for FGSR. Most of the discussion was congratulatory on this topic.
- There is a recommendation to move the withdrawal deadline back to the last week of November. Discussion continues.
- Adjunct and retired professors may now serve on all exam and dissertation committees.

Several students contacted Heather Hogg, Director of Operations, and me regarding what they believed to be labour concerns. After initial consultation, these students were redirected to the proper channels to address their academic and legal issues. I will continue to assist these students as appropriate vis-à-vis any supervisory disputes, contract, and collective bargaining questions that arise.

I look forward to working with all of you in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Best regards,

Brent Epperson

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 9, 2012 and June 3, 2012:*

May 29	Board Safety, Health, and Environment Committee Board Property and Finance Committee
May 30	Academic Policy and Process Review Task Force GSA Board
May 31	Lunch meeting with Mazi Shirvani: Vice-Provost & Dean of FGSR

**GSA Chief Returning Officer**

**Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Rahul Agrawal  
Date: June 4, 2012

Dear Council Colleagues,

Vijay Kandalam (DRO) and I ran the by-elections to elect the remaining seats of Councillors at Large (CAL). The elections opened at 10am on May 15 and closed at 10am on May 17. The unofficial results were announced on the same day. The following graduate students have been appointed as CALs for the remainder of 2012-13.

- Andres Antonio Torres-Scott
- Zhendong Li
- Andy Rathbone
- Md Shirajum Munir
- Asif Siddiqui
- Simarjit S. Bal (Monty)
- Qiang (Richard) Li

We welcome our new CALs and expect to see some good interaction with them in the coming year.

Best,

Rahul Agrawal

Chief Returning Officer

GSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR JUNE 11, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Heather and I **select one key topic** to report on to Council, and supplement our report with the detailed reports submitted weekly to the Board (attached). The key issue this month is **transition of the new elected officials**.

**It is new territory for the GSA to transition five new elected officials.** It has gone **seamlessly and superbly**. Your new team is highly motivated and learning rapidly. Three of the five answered the early call for expressions of interest in running -- as stick-handled by the GSA Nominating Committee under its terms of reference, and as led by former CAL **Vijay Kandalam**.

Three of your elected officials went through **four months of training before the formal call for elections**. Two of your officials were interested in elected office early on and had time to observe how the GSA runs. **The U of A Board Chair has remarked on the GSA's strong leadership**.

In addition, all new officials have had some prior experience, either on GSA or GFC committees, in their departmental associations, or in their home countries. Two individuals who ran for office but were not successful, are involved in GSA/GFC committees and have been excellent contributors.

**Your new team is already cross-training into other portfolios**, which allows for effective representation on committees when someone must be absent. **They are producing reports immediately after all their meetings so that we all have a shared, solid base of information on an as-it-happens basis**.

**The Board continues to meet weekly, which has allowed for excellent discussion about positions the GSA might take on key issues**.

Former Vice-Presidents Hillary Sparkes and Tamara Korassa have assisted in May with project work that needed to be completed and also assisted with transition. Former President Roy Coulthard has guided us on several complex issues. **Involvement of former elected officials on and off during May has given the GSA great bench strength**.

**Your new elected team is enthusiastically and ably supported by an amazing staff (Joanna, Katie, Casey, Catrin, Dyan and Lisa) and by your management crew (Heather, Shirley, Dorte and Ellen)**. Only five of us work full-time, but we have mastered the art of job-sharing.

Best,  
Ellen Schoeck

**Council-elected Officers (Senator, CRO and Speaker): Proposal for Bylaw Change**

Note: Deletions from current policy are shown in italics in the left-hand column. Additions are underlined in the right-hand column.

<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>RATIONALE/COMMENT</b>
<b>3 Council-Elected Officers</b>		
3.1 Election	Election of <u>Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)</u>	<p>The position of Senator has, in the past, not been filled for up to four months because of an incumbent's program completion date in conjunction with both the current Bylaw requirement for an election in August and the Senate end-of-term date (where we have a choice of May 30 or June 30, with May 30 as optimal).</p> <p>In this proposal, the position of Senator is dealt with separately in Bylaw order to ensure that the position of Senator is continuously filled.</p> <p>Currently there is no Deputy Speaker or Deputy Returning Officer. It is seen as prudent and wise to provide for these positions.</p> <p>Currently, there is very little transition time between the current Speaker/CRO and their successors. The timing of their election is pushed forward to allow for a three-month training/transition.</p> <p>Finally, current Bylaw was written before the GSA had a Nominating Committee. A role for the Nominating Committee is provided for in this proposal.</p>
3.1.1 Unless otherwise specified, Council-elected Officers shall be GSA members.	No change	
		NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS DEAL WITH SPEAKER/CRO AND NOT SENATOR

<p>3.1.2 <i>Nominations for Council-elected Officer positions will open starting from the date of the June regular meeting of Council in any given year.</i></p>	<p>3.1.2 <u>The GSA Nominating Committee will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO on or about May 1 of every year by email to every graduate student.</u></p>	
<p>3.1.3 <i>Nominations for Council-elected Officer positions shall be submitted in writing to the GSA office by the close of the office eleven working days before the August regular meeting of Council in any given year.</i></p>	<p>3.1.3 <u>Nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO shall be submitted in writing to the GSA Nominating Committee by May 30 or the next following working day.</u></p>	<p>In this proposal, the timing for election of Speaker and CRO (and their Deputies) is proposed as:</p> <p>Nominations open c. May 1 Nominations end c. May 30 Election in June Take office the same time as in current Bylaw – end of August. This timing allows for transition/training.</p>
<p>NEW</p>	<p>3.1.4 The Nominating Committee will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to Council except that the Nominating Committee may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated Nominating Committee process allows for Councilors to make additional nominations.</p> <p>[Note: Renumbered from here on].</p>	
<p>3.1.5 <i>In the case of a permanent vacancy in an Officer position, a by-election for the position will be held in accordance with the Policy Manual.</i></p>	<p>3.1.6 <u>In the case of a resignation or other vacancy in the Speaker or CRO position as determined by the GSA Nominating Committee, the Nominating Committee will advertize the position and arrange for election by Council in the most expedient way possible.</u></p>	<p>The Policy Manual actually says nothing about by-election in the case of a permanent vacancy; nor is the term “permanent vacancy” defined. This proposal deals with the matter through the GSA Nominating Committee.</p>
		<p><b>NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS DEAL WITH ELECTION OF SENATOR</b></p>

NEW	3.1.7 Election of Senator	
NEW	3.1.8 <u>Nominations for Senator will open on April 1 of every year or on another date set by the GSA Nominating Committee in order to ensure that the position of Senator is continuously filled. The nomination period will normally be one month.</u>	The timing for election of Senator is:  Nominations open c. April 1 Nominations close c. April 30 Election in May
NEW		
NEW	3.1.9 The Nominating Committee will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to Council except that the Nominating Committee may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated Nominating Committee process allows for Councilors to make additional nominations.	
NEW	3.1.10 The Senator shall be elected by a simple majority vote of Council, normally for a one-year term, at the May meeting of Council. If the matter is urgent, a mail or email ballot may be held before the May meeting.	
NEW	3.1.11 In the case of a resignation or other vacancy in the Senator position as determined by the GSA Nominating Committee, the Nominating Committee will advertize the position and arrange for election by Council in the most expedient way possible.	
3.2 Duties 3.2.1 The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of		One addition to 3.2.4: <u>Duties of the Deputy Speaker and DRO are to assist the Speaker and CRO as</u>

<p>GSA Council and General Meetings.</p> <p>3.2.2 The Chief Returning Officer is responsible for running all GSA elections and referenda.</p> <p>3.2.3 The Senator is the GSA’s representative to the University of Alberta Senate.</p> <p>3.2.4 Further duties of Council-elected Officers may be found in the Policy Manual.</p>		<p><u>needed. ONE FURTHER ADDITION ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AND SUPPORTED BY THE GSA BOARD: “The Deputy Speaker and DRO are non-voting members of Council.” First reading of these new sentences May 14 and second reading on June 11.</u></p>
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## OUTLINE OF ISSUE

### **Council-elected Officers (Senator, CRO and Speaker): Proposal for Bylaw Change- SECOND READING**

#### **Suggested Motion:**

Council is asked to consider the following proposed Motion:

*GSA Council approves, in second reading, changes to Bylaw, Part IV Officers, item 3 Council-elected officers, as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and as set out in the middle column of the attached triple-column document.*

#### **Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw, Part VII, item 2, provides that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws....”

#### **Background:**

Complete background information, including a rationale for proposed changes, is set out in the attached comparative document.

In short, the current timing of the election of Senator has resulted in up to four months where the GSA does not have a representative on Senate.

The proposal also provides for earlier election of the Speaker and CRO in order to allow for more time for training.

The proposal also provides for a deputy Speaker and deputy Returning Officer.

#### **Update since first reading:**

The Board, upon reviewing this proposal just prior to the April Council meeting, raised the issue of whether the Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer should be voting or non-voting members of Council. The Board then considered this matter at its April 18 meeting. The Board unanimously recommended that these positions be non-voting and referred the matter to the Governance Committee, which also has supported the suggestion that these positions be non-voting. The Governance Committee voted by email on this matter and their recommendation is set out in section 3.2.4 of the attached comparative table, where the following sentence is added: **“The Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer are non-voting members of Council.”** First reading of this sentence would occur May 14 and second reading June 11.

GSA OUTLINE OF ISSUE

**GSA Negotiation Committee (NC): Recommendation for the GSA Governance Committee for Change to Bylaw**

**Suggested Motion:** That Council, in first reading, approve changes to GSA Bylaw concerning the Negotiation Committee, as set out in the right-hand column of the attached comparative table.

**Jurisdiction:** GSA Bylaw, Part VII Standing Committees, 2.2.1, states that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws....” The Governance Committee approved this proposal in an email vote on May 3, 2012.

In addition, the GSA Board, acting as the GSA’s “highest administrative authority” endorsed this proposal and recommended it favourably to the Governance Committee (GASB, May 2, 2102).

**Related Policy Manual Changes:** Note that if this proposal passes in second reading, the following changes to the Policy Manual will be made: Officer Portfolios, items 3 (VP Academic) and 6 (VP Student Services) – the VP Academic would sit on the NC as Vice-chair (and not the VPSS), as the academic portfolio is more closely aligned with CA issues than the services portfolio.

*This motion also entails a number of editorial changes to the GSA Bylaws and Policy Manual, since all references to the “Negotiations Committee” must be changed to the “Negotiating Committee”.*

**Urgency:** Both the Governance Committee and the Board see the matter as urgent as we are entering a negotiating year.

**Background:** The background and reasoning behind the proposal are set out in the attached cover letter from former GSA President Roy Coulthard.

**Alignment with the Collective Agreement (CA):** GSA Labour Professional Heather Hogg has checked this proposal against the Collective Agreement. In the attached proposal you will see notes headed “rationale” that refer to requirements in the CA.

Prepared by Executive Director Ellen Schoeck,  
Coordinator, GSA Board and GSA Governance Committee  
May 4, 2012

**GSA Negotiations Committee Reform**

***Note: strikethrough= deletion; bold & underlined = change/addition***

<b>CURRENT</b>		<b>PROPOSED</b>	
<b>Related Policies &amp; Bylaws</b>	Bylaw Part VII §1 General Bylaw Part VII §4 Negotiations Committee		
<b>Related Forms</b>	N/A		
<p><b>4 Negotiation Committee<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>4.1 Composition</p> <p>4.1.1 The Negotiation Committee (NC) is under the jurisdiction of the Vice President Labour, who chairs the committee.</p> <p>4.1.2 The Vice President <del>Student Services</del> is a member of the NC and will assume the duties of the chair in the absence of the Vice President Labour.</p>		<p><b>4 Negotiating Committee (Rationale: “Negotiating” is the word used in the Collective Agreement).</b></p> <p>4.1 Composition</p> <p>4.1.1 The Negotiating Committee (NC) is under the jurisdiction of the Vice-President Labour, who chairs the committee.</p> <p>4.1.2 The Vice-President <b>Academic</b> is a member of the NC <b>as Vice-chair</b>, and will assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Vice-President Labour.</p> <p>4.1.3 <b><u>The GSAB will annually name at least two but no more than three additional graduate student members to the NC, and in doing so may consult with the Nominating</u></b></p>	

<sup>1</sup> Passed by the Extraordinary General Meeting on January 11, 2010 (20100111.5).

	<p><b><u>Committee.</u></b> <i>Rationale: Under the Collective Agreement, the Vice-President Labour shall name no more than five representatives.</i></p> <p>4.1.4 <b><u>In addition, the GSA Labour Professional will serve as a non-voting member of the NC.</u></b></p>
<p>4.2 Mandate</p> <p>4.2.1 The NC will review the Collective Agreement between the GSA and the University of Alberta for clarity of language and meaning, and identify areas where interpretation or clarification is required.</p> <p>4.2.2 The NC will <del>advise Council on matters of Collective Agreement revision and provide a report on recommended changes at any scheduled Council meeting.</del> <i>Rationale for deletion: redundant given 4.2.4.</i></p> <p>4.2.3 The NC will prepare the initial position to be taken to the negotiations over the Collective Agreement between the GSA and the University of Alberta.</p> <p>4.2.4 The NC will report to Council and the GSA membership on the negotiation process and changes to the Collective Agreement.</p> <p>4.2.5 <del>On or before August 31 of each year, the NC will strike a subcommittee consisting of four members of the NC, chaired by the Vice President Labour, to act as the Negotiation Team (NT) for the GSA.</del></p> <p>4.2.5.1 The NT will present the initial position to the negotiations with the University</p>	<p>4.2 Mandate</p> <p>4.2.1 The NC will review the Collective Agreement between the GSA and the University of Alberta for clarity of language and meaning, and <b><u>will</u></b> identify areas where interpretation or clarification is required.</p> <p>4.2.2 The NC will <b><u>consult with the LRC and GSAB regularly.</u></b></p> <p>4.2.3 The NC will prepare the initial position to be taken to the <b><u>Collective Agreement</u></b> negotiations <del>over the Collective Agreement</del> between the GSA and the University of Alberta.</p> <p>4.2.4 The NC will report to <b><u>the GSAB,</u></b> Council, and the GSA membership on the negotiation process and changes to the Collective Agreement.</p> <p>4.2.5 The NC will present the initial position to the</p>

of Alberta. *Note: Items 4.2.5.1-4.2.6 have been renumbered.*

4.2.5.2 The NT will negotiate the Collective Agreement, including salary, benefits, policy, and regulations governing graduate student academic employment;

~~4.2.5.3 The NT will liaise with the NC on any changes to the initial position that have been negotiated.~~

4.2.5.4 The NT will finalise the agreement with the University.

4.2.6 The NC will submit the final agreement reached during negotiations ~~between the NT and the University~~ to the next meeting of Council for approval.

**University Administration Negotiating Team by the date set within the Collective Agreement.**

4.2.6 The **NC** will negotiate the Collective Agreement, including salary, benefits, policy, and regulations governing graduate student academic employment.

4.2.7 The **NC** will finalise the agreement with the University.

4.2.8 The NC will submit the final agreement reached during negotiations **to the next meeting of Council for approval.**

## **Outline of Issue**

### **Spring/Summer 2013 U-Pass**

#### **Suggested Motion:**

Council is asked to consider the following Motion:

*GSA Council approves, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, that the Spring/Summer U-Pass program be extended to Spring/Summer 2013.*

#### **Jurisdiction:**

Section 95(1) of the *Post-secondary Learning Act* provides that the business and affairs of the GSA are governed by the Council.

GSA Bylaws Part V 3.1: The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by Council.

#### **Background:**

There are currently two U-Pass Agreements in effect.

1. Fall/Winter U-Pass: This Agreement covers Fall/Winter 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13. In March 2010 a GSA referendum was held and the U-Pass approved. The referendum included the costs of the fee for each of the specified terms (for 2012-2013 the fee is \$116.67/term). This Agreement expires April 30, 2013.
2. Spring/Summer U-Pass: This Agreement covers Spring/Summer 2011, 2012, and 2013. The Spring/Summer Agreement includes the cost of the fee for each of the specified Spring/Summer terms and is equivalent to that in the preceding Winter term (for Spring/Summer 2013 the fee is \$116.67). This Agreement expires at the end of August 2013. As the Agreement details were not finalized at the time, the GSA referendum, held in March 2010, approved a Spring/Summer U-Pass pilot program for 2011 and 2012 only. A Spring/Summer 2013 U-Pass will follow the terms and conditions of the preceding years without change.

This summer the University, GSA, and SU will begin negotiations with Edmonton, Strathcona, and St Albert transit systems for a new U-Pass Agreement, since the current Fall/Winter Agreement expires April 30, 2013. There is potential that a new Agreement would cover a 12-month U-Pass.

At its May 30, 2012 meeting, the GSA Board approved a motion recommending that Council, at its June 11, 2012 meeting, consider a motion to extend the Spring/Summer U-Pass program to Spring/Summer 2013.

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)**  
**SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR GSA STANDING COMMITTEES JUNE 2012 COUNCIL**

GSA Policy concerning NoC requires that a slate of nominees be brought forward to Council and, further, that Council be advised that any Councillor may make an additional nomination(s). If you wish to do so, additional nominations must be RECEIVED by 12 noon on **Friday June 8, 2012** by emailing Lisa Hareuther and Dyan Semple, Coordinators of the NoC at [gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca). If there are no additional nominations the candidate(s) presented in this report will be declared elected as of 12:00 pm on June 8, 2012. If there are additional nominations, a written ballot will be available at Monday's Council meeting. Nominations are not accepted from the floor.

**GSA Board (GSAB): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL**

**For Composition of this Committee see Bylaws V.1.5.**

**Continuing Members on this Committee: \*Lacy Fleming (Anthropology) and Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences)**

**Slate of Nominees:**

1. Zhendong Li (Chemistry)
2. \*Vijay Kandalm (Physiology) to substitute for Lacy Fleming until the end of August while she works for the summer

**GSA Nominating Committee (NoC): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL; Council may appoint up to three members of Council to the NoC, normally the three members appointed by Council to the GSA Board**

**For Composition of this Committee see Bylaws V.9.2.**

**Continuing Members on this Committee: \*Lacy Fleming (Anthropology) and Michele Duval (Biological Sciences)**

**Slate of Nominees:**

1. Zhendong Li (Chemistry)
2. \*Vijay Kandalm (Physiology) to substitute for Lacy Fleming until the end of August while she works for the summer

**GSA Governance Committee (GC): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL**

**For Composition of this Committee see Bylaws V. 2.1.**

**Continuing Members on this Committee: Lacey Fleming (Anthropology) and Nikolai Sinkov (Chemistry)**

**Slate of Nominees:**

1. Briana Ehnes (Library and Information Studies)

**Budget and Finance Committee (BFC): Vacancy ONE MEMBER OF THE GSA (INCLUDES FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDENTS)**

For Composition of this Committee see Bylaws V.3.2

**Continuing Members on this Committee: Evan Berry (Biochemistry Councillor), Tim Riordan (Sociology)**

**Slate of Nominees:**

1. Karen Vera Lyn Turpin (School of Public Health)

**Labour Relations Committee (LRC): Vacancy SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GSA (INCLUDES FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME GRADUATE STUDENTS), INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL**

No set composition yet. At the request of the VP Labour, this committee will be comprised of eight members of the GSA with at least one being a member of Council.

**Continuing Member on this Committee: Michelle Borowitz (Anthropology)**

**Slate of Nominees:**

1. Daniel Prins (Biochemistry)
2. Alexa DeGagne (Political Science)
3. Andrés Torres Scott (Political Science)
4. Simarjit S. Bal (Political Science)

**Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC): Vacancy THREE MEMBERS OF THE GSA (INCLUDING FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDENTS)**

No set composition yet. At the request of the VP Student Life, this committee will be comprised of eight members.

**Continuing Members on this Committee: Farzan Tavakoli (Mechanical Engineering), Hamman Samuel (Computing Science), Iraj Rahimi Pordanjani (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Lacey Fleming (Anthropology), Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences)**

**Slate of Nominees:**

1. Tessa Hawkins (Art and Design)
2. Samuel David Cardozo D'Armas (Chemical Engineering)
3. Asif Siddiqui (Political Science)

**Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC): Vacancy FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GSA (INCLUDES FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME GRADUATE STUDENTS) AND AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL**

No set composition yet. In light of the fact that there is no set composition for this committee, the Nominating Committee is increasing membership from 3 members to 5 members in order to deal with review of GSA election procedures.

**Continuing Member on this Committee: Richard Kanyo (Physiology)**

**Slate of Nominees:**

1. Virginia Pimmet (Cell Biology)
2. Hillary Sparkes (Anthropology)
3. Hamman Samuel (Computing Science)
4. Asif Siddiqui (Political Science)