Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the most recent updates on the SWP to GSA Council in October.

- Negotiations for the next Graduate Assistantship Collective Agreement (CA) have been ongoing for several months and updates on negotiations have been shared with all current academically-employed graduate students. As per the regulations outlined in the *Labour Relations Code*, a final ratification vote will be sent to all current academically-employed graduate students.

- Over the fall I have continued working to improve transparency around graduate student pay issues and I will continue this work for the duration of my term of office.

- As reported previously, a large portion of my portfolio involves meeting with individual graduate students in person or over email regarding the interpretation of and compliance with the Collective Agreement. I have continued this work by responding to approximately 3-6 email conversations with graduate students per week, and meeting with approximately 3-8 graduate students per month, to assist with more complex issues.

- In October, I hosted a well-attended Collective Agreement 101 information session for academically-employed graduate students to help spread awareness about the provisions of the Collective Agreement. We are planning to host another session in the current term.

- In late November, I attended the University’s new Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committee, which was established as part of the provincial government’s new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation. This committee will be examining third party oversight of health and safety violations on campus, and will work on establishing a process for graduate students to electronically report any perceived violations that they feel have not been addressed properly.

- Following the replenishment of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) in the fall, this committee had its first meeting in November. Part of the mandate of the GSA LRC, as set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy, is to advise the Vice-President Labour with respect to educating academically-employed graduate students on the Collective Agreement.

- I have continued my participation in the Campus and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Working Group, and we have been working on the final report that will be sent to the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) and Vice-President (Facilities and Operations). We have been utilizing the feedback received through GSA Council, and the personal safety survey, to develop the final recommendations that will be included in this report. Additionally, at their request, the co-chairs of the CFSS will be attending the January meeting of GSA Council to assist me in providing an update on these recommendations.

- Along with Sasha, I have continued consultations with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research regarding the supervisory training that is now required under the new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation, in order to ensure that this training benefits graduate students and facilitates collegial working relationships with their supervisors.

Sincerely,

Beth Richardson, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Labour