## GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 19 November 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

### IN ATTENDANCE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Department/Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sasha van der Klein (President)</td>
<td>Ruhul Amin (Biological Sciences)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bethany McMillan (History &amp; Classics)</td>
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<td>Nicolas Ruel (Pharmacology)</td>
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<td>Masoud Aliramezani (VP Academic)</td>
<td>Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)</td>
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<td>Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)</td>
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<td>Zhihong Pan (VP External)</td>
<td>Teddy Carter (Business MBA)</td>
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<td>Kristoffer Angelo Soliveh (Internetworking)</td>
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<td>Mattia Sorgon (Philosophy)</td>
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<td>Beth Richardson (VP Labour)</td>
<td>Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Janita Frantsi (Kinesiology, Sport &amp; Recreation)</td>
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<td>Kimberly Dice (Physical Therapy)</td>
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<td>Fahed Elian (VP Student Services)</td>
<td>Brett Roughhead (Cell Biology)</td>
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<td>Tabatha Plesuk; Julia Guy (Library &amp; Info Studies)</td>
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<td>Scott Karbashewski (Physics)</td>
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<td>Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)</td>
<td>Hareen Shafi (Chemical &amp; Materials Engineering)</td>
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<td>Lex Giesbrecht (Linguistics)</td>
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<td>Yilun Wu (Physiology)</td>
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<td>Raji Chokkalingam (Deputy Speaker)</td>
<td>Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)</td>
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<td>Michelle Michelle (Math &amp; Statistical Sciences)</td>
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<td>Jason Zhang (Political Science)</td>
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<td>Vahid Ayan (Chief Returning Officer)</td>
<td>Pedro Mateo (Civil &amp; Environmental Engineering)</td>
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<td>Wasel-Ur Rahman (Mechanical Engineering)</td>
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<td>Daniela Gomez (Psychiatry)</td>
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<td>Ahsan Ahmed (Senator)</td>
<td>Lindsay Moore (Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders)</td>
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<td>Brendan Todd (Medical Microbiology &amp; Immunology)</td>
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<td>Emily Mapleton (Public Health)</td>
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<td>Mahmud Amin (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Dylan Ashley (Computing Science)</td>
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<td>Nariman Sepehrvand (Medicine)</td>
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<td>Alesha Reed (Rehab Science)</td>
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<td>Radhika Chakraberty (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Dene’Ch’o Thompson (Drama)</td>
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<td>Lea Lavy (Religious Studies)</td>
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<td>Nuanyi Liang (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Alex Sheen (Earth &amp; Atmospheric Sciences)</td>
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<td>Rebecca Long; Andrew Schmaus (Neuroscience)</td>
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<td>Yicong Luo (Resources Economics &amp; Environmental Sociology)</td>
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<td>Melissa Woghiren (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Zixuan Song (East Asian Studies)</td>
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<td>Jennifer Stevenson (Nursing)</td>
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<td>Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)</td>
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<td>Hongbing Fan (Agriculture, Food &amp; Nutritional Science)</td>
<td>Areej Alshammyr (Educational Policy Studies)</td>
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<td>Heather Capel (Occupational Therapy)</td>
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<td>Jon Mora (Surgery)</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Goldberg (Anthropology)</td>
<td>Chantal Labonté; Larissa Brosinksy (Educational Psychology)</td>
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<td>Braden Chow (Oncology)</td>
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<td>Samantha Wesch (Women’s &amp; Gender Studies)</td>
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<td>Brianna Greenwood; Vineet Rathod (Biochemistry)</td>
<td>Krista Coté (English &amp; Film Studies)</td>
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<td>Khushmol Dhaliwal (Paediatrics)</td>
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### Guests:
- Dr. Steven Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic); Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration);
- Prerit Budhiraja (Mechanical Engineering, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate);
- Felipe Canavera (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences);
- Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (AFNS, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate);
- Ashley Hynes (Renewable Resources);
- Peter Jun (Rehabilitation Science; GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate);
- Ronan Noble (Pediatrics, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate);
- Kanishk Patel (Mechanical Engineering, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate);
- Konstantin Tebenev (History & Classics);
- Britt Voaklander (School of Public Health);
- Kristine Wray (REES).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

### Roll Call

1. **Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance**

Prepared by F Robertson and L Hareuther for the Council Meeting of 19 November 2018

GSA Council Meeting.docx
Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of the 19 November 2018 Consolidated Agenda
Members had before them the 19 November 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. B Richardson MOVED; D Ashley SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

3. Minutes from the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting
Members had before them the 15 October 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 November 2018. F Elian MOVED; S van der Klein SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
   i. Introduction of GSA New Councillors: N Sepehrvand (Medicine); L Moore (Communication Sciences & Disorders); L Lavy (Religious Studies); J Stevenson (Nursing); L Giesbrecht (Linguistics); H Shafi (Chemical & Materials Engineering).
   ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members: None at this time.

Councillor Announcements

5. GSA Council Member Announcements
None at this time.

GSA Speaker asked GSA Council members if they were comfortable with moving forward with the action items on the agenda first, as Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration) were not able to arrive until 6:30 PM. GSA Council members agreed.

Action Items:

6. GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report
S van der Klein (GSA President) presented the item. Shirley Ball (Accountant) and Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager) were present to answer questions.

   MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

S van der Klein reported that everything was on track and that the GSA was projecting a positive balance at the end of the fiscal year. She added that this positive balance was a smaller than in previous years, which indicated that the GSA had budgeted more effectively. She also noted that the majority of GSA revenue came from student fees, and so enrollment levels were closely monitored.

GSA Council members asked a few questions including, but not limited to: how significant the reductions and positive balance would be (S van der Klein responded that, last year, the balance was significantly higher than what was projected and that, this year, we expected the positive balance to be closer to what had been budgeted), and why the GSA was underspent in telephone expenses (D Sheikh responded that they had increased that line by CPI in anticipation that the University at any point could increase their telephone bill, but that these costs had not increased, which resulted in savings).

   MOTION: That the GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report. F Elian MOVED; P Mateo SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

As the guests has not yet arrived, the GSA Speaker suggested that GSA Council members move on with Item 9 and delay Item 8 until after the presentation, as it might require a full discussion that should not be interrupted. GSA Council members agreed.

7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Graduate Student Groups
S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) and Fahed Elian (GSA VP Student Services) presented the item.
MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S van der Klein noted that these recommended changes included the addition to GSA Bylaw and Policy of former GSA Board Policy, the renaming of “Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups” to “GSA Graduate Student Groups,” and a few editorial changes. There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. S Wesch MOVED; B Todd SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S van der Klein noted that the recommended changes were administrative and editorial in nature and incorporated former sections of GSA Board Policy into GSA Bylaw and Policy and that the changes also put into GSA Policy the current practice related to the appointment of the GSA’s third member to the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council. There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. Z Pan MOVED; M Aliramezani SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

GSA Council then moved on to Elections, Reports, and Question Period.

Elections

9. GSA Council Elections

D Ashley (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item and introduced the nominees, who were given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. D Ashley asked the following question of the candidates for GSA Councillor-at-Large and the candidates were given 45 seconds to respond: “Please tell GSA Council what motivated you to run for this position.”

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:
Prerit Budhiraja (Mechanical Engineering)
Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (Agriculture, Food, and Nutritional Sciences)
Peter Jun (Rehabilitation Science)
Ronan Noble (Pediatrics)
Kanishk Patel (Mechanical Engineering)

GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (4 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board:
Ludwig Paul Cabling (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
Ryan D’Orazio (Computing Science)
Marla Palakkamanil (Public Health)

b. GSA Board (1 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Board:
Milad Rezvani Rad (Mechanical Engineering)

c. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (1 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Budget and Finance Committee:
Tabatha Plesuk (Library and Information Studies)
David Tandio (Pharmacology)

Reports

10. President
   i. President’s Report:
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

   ii. GSA Board Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

   iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

   iv. GSA Governance Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

11. Vice-President Academic
   i. Vice-President Academic’s Report:
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Aliramezani stated that the supervisory committee meeting survey had closed and that the GSA office had worked on a summary report, which would be shared with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). He added that the participation rate was not high but it might be sufficient to start discussions with the FGSR.

12. Vice-President External
   i. Vice-President External’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition Z Pan stated that the GSA Awards Selection Committee finalized the list of nominees for the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award and forwarded the list to the provincial government.

   ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

13. Vice-President Labour
   i. Vice-President Labour’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

   ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report
   No meetings this reporting period.

14. Vice-President Student Services
   i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

15. Senator
   i.  Senator’s Report
   No written report at this time.

16. Speaker
   i.  Speaker’s Report
   No written report at this time.

17. Chief Returning Officer
   i.  Chief Returning Officer’s Report
   No written report at this time.

18. GSA Nominating Committee
   i.  GSA Nominating Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition D Ashley stated that there was a vacancy for a graduate student in the Faculty of Science on the Dean Selection for the Faculty of Science. He added that due to the tight timeline and the cancellation of the December meeting of GSA Council, GSA Council would be asked to vote electronically in early December to fill this vacancy. D Ashley encouraged graduate students in the Faculty of Science that had not yet heard about this opportunity to contact the GSA Nominating Committee. M Woghiren asked if GSA Council would have an opportunity to hear candidates speak if voting occurred outside of a GSA Council meeting (D Ashley confirmed that GSA Council would only vote on the Bio and Resume form submitted by the candidate and would not have the opportunity to hear the candidates speak). S van der Klein further added that usually with Dean Selection Committees there was a way for graduate students to share comments and feedback with the graduate student representative for them to take to the Committee.

19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
   ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

20. GSA Management
   i.  Executive Director’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas stated that the Early Call process was mostly concluded and a coffee wrap-up would be held on 5 December for current officers and anyone interested in running. GSA Council members were reminded that, if they did not have a chance to participate and were still interested, individual sessions could be provided upon request.

Question Period

21. Written Questions
   None at this time.

22. Oral Questions
   None at this time.

At this time, guests, Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration), arrived and GSA Council moved to their presentation.

Presentations:

23. University Budget and Graduate Tuition Fees
   Svan der Klein (GSA President) presented the item and introduced the guests, Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration). S Dew noted that they would be providing a formal presentation on the University’s budget and discussing Bill 19, which was an important piece of legislation that would influence the U of A’s tuition proposals for the upcoming years.
G Kulczycki provided a presentation on the University’s budget. She noted that the operating budget was the area where the University could make decisions on how to allocate money, and that this was the area into which revenue from tuition and the Campus Alberta Grant went. She emphasized that the main revenue from the University came from student tuition and fees, and that the other major funding source was the provincial government. She highlighted that the operating budget was used to pay the vast majority of expenses related to staff, with the exception of those staff funded entirely through research grants. She then noted that the ancillary section of the budget related to food services, residences, parking, and the bookstore, and that the intention of these services was to break even, since no revenues from tuition, the Campus Alberta Grant, or research grants could be allocated to these areas of the budget. She emphasized that funding received through research grants was fully restricted and could only be used for the purpose the grant was intended for. She also noted that the University also received capital funding from the government for things such as infrastructure and maintenance. She also reviewed investment income, and the spending allocations related to endowments, noting that the money provided through an endowment could only be allocated towards the original purpose of the endowment, whether that was for research grants or scholarships for students.

G Kulczycki indicated that the University had started a three-year budget planning process, which had been introduced for the first time in fall 2017. She outlined that the University last year had set reduction targets of -4%, -2.5%, and -2.5% for the next three years. She then reviewed the University’s expenses, noting that a large portion of the budget went towards salaries, given the nature of the work at the University. She further highlighted that last year they had made a conservative assumption that they would not receive backfill funding for the freeze in domestic tuition fees, and that they wouldn’t receive an increase to the Campus Alberta Grant. G Kulczycki reported that the provincial government ended up increasing the base Campus Alberta Grant by 2% and giving backfill funding for domestic tuition, which had added $16.9 million to the 2018-2019 budget. She reported that the University still had a structural deficit, given that their ongoing expenses exceeded revenues, and that there had been a number of important allocations made from the $16.9 million received, following feedback from Deans and senior administration. She noted that these allocations had been made to various initiatives including campus safety and security, initiatives related to For the Public Good, signature programs, benefit increases, and one-time funding for mental health services.

G Kulczycki reported that they were now in their next budget planning cycle, which began in August 2018, and that they had issued planning guidelines, along with targets to faculties and support units outlining what assumptions to make in terms of revenue increases or decreases for the next three years. She added that, when developing their budget, all faculties and support units were asked to develop their budget in alignment with their mission and the University’s strategic plan. She indicated that, following budget planning meetings in November and December, they would be presenting the final budget starting in February. She added that, with the 2% increase to the Campus Alberta Grant and the backfill funding received for 2018-2019, the University could avoid the original -2.5% reduction they had projected last year for 2019-2020. She highlighted some of the uncertainties they were facing in developing the 2019-2020 budget including the upcoming provincial election and the influence of the oil prices on the provincial government’s budget. She stated that they were focused on conservative planning for 0% next year, and then -2.5% reduction each year for the following two years. She indicated that every percentage increase the University didn’t receive from the provincial government equaled to $6.4 million, that every percentage increase for domestic tuition equated to $2 million, and every percentage increase for international tuition equated to $1 million.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, but not limited to: what the specifics were related to allocating $3.5 million from the backfill funding to benefits, and who received those benefits (G Kulczycki responded that they were short by $7.4 million in this budget area, so the allocation of $3.5 million alleviated part of the deficit and $Dew noted that this referred to the benefits provided for all faculty and staff paid under the operating budget); what assumptions were made about projected increases to tuition revenue (G Kulczycki responded that it was a combination of a number of factors, including the mix of students, as there were different tuition rates in different programs, the increases to international tuition, and increases in enrolment numbers); whether they had made assumptions that there would be another freeze on domestic tuition (G Kulczycki responded that the government had already confirmed a freeze on domestic tuition for 2019-2020); the specific benefits that were included in the University budget (G Kulczycki responded that these benefits were not associated with those related to graduate students, but rather the benefit plans that University employees were provided including health coverage and pension plans); whether the additional funding for mental health services would be sustained (G Kulczycki responded that this funding was only meant to be one-time funding for the current year, but that they would be adding the allocated amount to their base budget during the planning process moving forward; it was also noted that this one-time injection supported additional programming through the Dean of Students Office); the assumptions made when projecting a decrease in earnings through investment income in the three-year budget projection (G Kulczycki responded that this was an intentional decision, as they were trying to move away from funding ongoing expenses in the operating budget through investment income and that moving forward investment income would be used to set-up a strategic investment fund to support strategic initiatives); and given that such a large amount of the operating budget went towards salaries, whether there had been discussions about salary freezes (G Kulczycki responded that, most University employees were paid according to their Collective Agreement either under...
the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AASUA) or the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), and that discussion of salary freezes occurred during collective bargaining, which was currently ongoing with both unions; S Dew confirmed that staff not within bargaining units (mostly senior administration) had had their salaries frozen for the past four years).

S Dew then provided a brief overview on graduate tuition. He noted that normally they would come to GSA Council in the fall with a specific proposal, given that the government was expected to introduce a new bill providing clarity around tuition fee increases. He added that the Bill was titled Bill 19 and was awaiting the approval of the third reading. He noted that there were a number of elements within Bill 19 that affected post-secondary institutions, the biggest of which was tuition. S Dew outlined that Bill 19, starting in fall 2020, required that tuition increase for domestic students be no more than the rate of the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) and that, for international students, Bill 19 required predictability for their tuition rates for the duration of their program. He added that, while this legislation had been tabled and would likely be passed, there were still further details that the Ministry of Advanced Education would need to set in further regulations including the length of a program. S Dew noted that the process to determine the future increases for the duration of a graduate program would have to be done through a combination of accurate forecasting but also having to estimate what increases would need to be for those future years. He indicated that two international students within the same classroom may be paying different tuition rates if they were admitted in different years. He added that these changes came as a result of hearing how important predictability was for international students. S Dew reported that the government had emphasized that international students have to pay the full cost of their education, which could not be subsidized through the Campus Alberta Grant, or domestic tuition. He further noted that to increase financial supports for international students, increases to international tuition would be necessary. He also indicated that the government had indicated that executive graduate programs, such as the executive MBA, would not be subject to these regulations, with a number of caveats from the government. He reported that while they worked on developing international tuition for 2019-2020, they would be working through the regular consultation process with graduate and undergraduate students, along with various U of A committees, and the U of A Board of Governors.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, including but not limited to: whether the Minister of Advanced Education had provided information regarding the standard length of a program for international students, and whether the University would be considering the actual average length of programs, or just four years (S Dew responded that he does not yet know the answer to this question, and that it would depend on the details included in the government’s regulations, along with consultation from various stakeholders); what factors had been used to predict the potential increases to international tuition, and whether they were specific to the University, or whether these were province-wide factors (S Dew responded that there were a number of factors used, including a weighted estimate of increases in each area of the operating budget and that, while some elements increased by CPI, the most significant expense for the University was salaries and benefits, and these increased as a rate higher than CPI); whether the University had considered redirecting some funds to keep the University competitive, given that other universities, such as the University of Toronto, were decreasing international tuition (G Kulczycki indicated that the expectation from the provincial government was that international students would pay the full cost of their tuition, and so the increase to international tuition reflected the University’s estimated cost increases and was not an extraordinary cost increase to deal with the University’s budget pressures); the fact that last year the 3.14% increase to international tuition had been presented in the context that there would be a 4% budget reduction (G Kulczycki responded that last year the increase to international student tuition was to account for the increase in costs to deliver education (including increases salaries and benefits as well as inflationary costs) and the 4% budget reduction was to deal with the structural deficit; and the tuition backfill provided by the government was to cover the revenues not received due to the University not being able to increase tuition from domestic students); in terms of predictability, whether the University could tie international tuition to CPI increases (S Dew responded that international students would have to know what the cost of their tuition would be for the period of their program and that using CPI would be a challenge as CPI couldn’t be known that long in advance); whether provincial opposition parties had made comments about Bill 19 (S Dew indicated that, in reading some of the transcripts of the debate in the legislature, he would characterize most of the opposition’s conversations as supportive, and that the few concerns expressed were about the Bill’s impact on the University’s ability to manage its finances); given that the main source of revenue came from the provincial government, why was the University’s budget cycle three years and how was the budget related to the provincial election (G Kulczycki responded that they were trying to look ahead to provide better long-term planning and that elections could bring a new government with very different priorities, which could affect the University’s revenues); why the University didn’t put its budget on a four-year cycle, which was what the City of Edmonton did with its budget (G Kulczycki responded that there were a variety of different ways to budget, but the idea was to always look a few years out); and whether the consultation process for the 2019 tuition proposal would be limited to faculty, or whether it would be open to students and student representatives (S Dew responded that their consultation process around tuition was well-defined, and utilized a number of committee, including the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee, which had representatives from both the GSA and the Students’ Union; he added that the consultation started with students, and that students served on
committees at all levels of approval for these proposals, including the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, the General Faculties Council, the Board Finance and Property Committee, and the Board of Governors).

Following this item, GSA Council then moved on to the final action items.

**Action Items:**

24. **Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council and GSA Standing committees**

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy.

S van der Klein explained that the first part of the recommended proposal was to integrate the Standing Orders of GSA Council into GSA Policy and Bylaw. She noted that the second aspect of the proposal was to introduce a seat on GSA Council aimed at representing Indigenous graduate students. S van der Klein explained that this was the right thing to do, in advocating toward more indigenous representation across the University, it was key for the GSA to start with itself. She added that one part of this year’s Strategic Work Plan was to support indigenous students and she noted that she had worked on this proposal with the Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association (IGSA), who also provided some background for the cover letter, and solicited support from the Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies (included in the meeting material). S van der Klein noted that she was proud to be bringing forward this proposal.

GSA Councillors brought up a number of questions and comments, including but not limited to: their appreciation for the initiative and while increasing indigenous representation was positive, some GSA Council members expressed concern about creating ethnic quotas within the GSA (it was noted that the role of indigenous peoples in Canadian history was specific to the Canadian context, and that, not only was the proposal aimed at increasing the representation of a underrepresented demographic, but was also geared at giving a voice where before there was none, both of which were important).

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy. L Giesbrecht **MOVED; Z Pan SECONDED.**

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.