## IN ATTENDANCE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Sasha van der Klein</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
<td>Brett Roughhead</td>
<td>Kinesiology, Sport, &amp; Rec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Academic</td>
<td>Masoud Aliramezani</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pharmacy</td>
<td>Michael Armstrong</td>
<td>Lab Medicine &amp; Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP External</td>
<td>Zhihong Pan</td>
<td>Library &amp; Info Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Medicine &amp; Pathology</td>
<td>Julia Guy</td>
<td>Pharmacology &amp; Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Labour</td>
<td>Beth Richardson</td>
<td>Linguistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Alexander Rice</td>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Student Services</td>
<td>Fahed Elian</td>
<td>Computing Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing Science</td>
<td>Dylan Ashley</td>
<td>Math &amp; Statistical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Pranidhi Baddam</td>
<td>Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>Julia Piche</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Speaker</td>
<td>Raji Chokkalingam</td>
<td>Medical Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Humanities</td>
<td>Ella Hitchcock</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Ahsan Ahmed</td>
<td>Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy &amp; Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
<td>Hamda Al Nebaihi</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Academic</td>
<td>Mahmud Amin</td>
<td>Earth and Atmospheric Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Casey Buchanan</td>
<td>Modern Languages and Cultural Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councillor at Large</td>
<td>Nuanyi Liang</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Policy Studies</td>
<td>Areej Alohammiry</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Psychology</td>
<td>Chantal Labonté</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</td>
<td>Mohammad Daryaei</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Food &amp; Nutritional Science</td>
<td>Hongbing Fan</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Kristin Kis</td>
<td>Resources Economics &amp; Environmental Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Krista Coté</td>
<td>Secondary Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>Brianna Greenwood</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internetworking</td>
<td>Ruhul Amin</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Kevin Solar</td>
<td>Women’s &amp; Gender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business PhD</td>
<td>Rongrong Zhang</td>
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Guests: Kristin Foster (Studentcare); Colten Yamagishi (Studentcare); Mohammad Shanawaz (Electrical & Computer Engineering); Srujana Mekala (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science); Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science; 2019-2020 Councillor at Large); Damandeep Singh (MBA; Nominee for GSA Nominating Committee).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

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

### Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 18 March 2019 Consolidated Agenda
Members had before them the 18 March 2019 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019.  L Moore MOVED; S Wesch SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
2. Minutes from the 25 February 2019 GSA Council meeting
Members had before them the 25 February 2019 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 8 March 2019. B Richardson MOVED; K Kis SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership
i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members:
M Daryaei (Electrical & Computer Engineering); C Buchanan (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences); H Kaur Dhaliwal (2019-2020 Councillor-at-Large).

ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members
This was the last meeting for S Shahtoosi (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies).

GSA Council Member Announcements
4. GSA Council Member Announcements

M Waddingham informed GSA Council that the Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) would be holding its annual transition meeting in mid-April and invited anyone with questions about ab-GPAC to approach him or F Elian.

Action Items:
5. GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2019-2020
F Elian (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item and introduced the guests, Kristin Foster (Director of Partnership & Development, Studentcare) and Colten Yamagishi (Program Manager, Studentcare).

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council APPROVE that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at $500.36/annum, effective 1 September 2019, with collection from graduate students to begin 1 September 2019.

F Elian noted that he was pleased to share with GSA Council that there would be no increase in the GSA Health and Dental Plan fee for next year. He added that the GSA Board had been discussing increasing dental coverage for 2019-2020 and was waiting on the February claims report from Studentcare to recommend this increase to dental coverage to GSA Council, hopefully either in April or May.

C Yamagishi explained that the report before GSA Council members outlined Studentcare’s projections for the 2019-2020 Plan cost based on claims made since September 2018 and that these projections were used to negotiate the Plan’s premium with insurance provider (Desjardins). He added that, based on the claims, there was no need for an increase in the Plan fee. He specified that the proposed 2019-2020 Plan fee was greater than the premium and that moderate increases in coverage could be made to achieve a better maximization of the Plan (the best coverage for cost).

GSA Council members then asked a series of questions including, but not limited to, the impact of this motion to the 2019-2020 Operating Budget, as when it was approved last month it included a projected 5% increase to the Plan fee (C Thomas clarified that that increase was a placeholder for the purpose of budget projection and the actual amount of the fee would now be shown) and the cause for increases in health claims per capita and for decreases in dental claims (C Yamagishi noted that this could be explained by a large increase in optical claims, an increase in the amount individual claims and in the number of claims, an increase in paramedical practitioners (psychology, chiropractic, and massage increased as more doctors now recommend these treatments), and medical equipment claims that were of a one-off nature and not captured as trends (wheelchairs, for example)).

MOTION: That GSA Council APPROVE that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at $500.36/annum, effective 1 September 2019, with collection from graduate students to begin 1 September 2019.
F Elian MOVED; M Waddingham SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Prepared by F Robertson and L Hareuther for the Council Meeting of 18 March 2019
6. 2019 GSA General Election Results: To Receive for Information For the Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority

Y Wu (GSA Elections and Referenda Committee member and Physiology Councillor) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the results of the 2019 GSA General Election wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

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<td>Dylan Ashley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President External</td>
<td>Marc Waddingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President Labour</td>
<td>Mohammad Shanawaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President Student Services</td>
<td>Chantal Labonté</td>
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</table>

Y Wu explained that this motion was for GSA Council to receive for information the results of the 2019 General Election. This is required from GSA’s bank in order to transfer signing authority on 1 May 2019.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the results of the 2019 GSA General Election wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

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<td>Vice-President Student Services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

S Wesch MOVED; M Aliramezani SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Membership

Sasha van der Klein (President) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council APPROVE, having been unanimously recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B: Members and associated changes throughout GSA Bylaw and Policy, as shown in the attached double column document and track changes 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 indicated that that the terms ‘graduate student’ and ‘GSA member’ were currently used interchangeably throughout GSA Bylaw and Policy, and that the recommended changes more clearly defined instances in which each term needed to be used. There were no questions.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council APPROVE, having been unanimously recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B: Members and associated changes throughout GSA Bylaw and Policy, as shown in the attached double column document and track changes 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. M Miazga-Rodriguez MOVED; M Armstrong SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Grants and Bursaries

S van der Klein (President) and F Elian (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council APPROVE, having been unanimously recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section P:
GSA Grants and Bursaries, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S van der Klein summarized that a number of these recommended changes were editorial, and that the more substantive changes included modifying the age limit associated with eligibility for the GSA Child Care Grant (GSA CCG) from the age of 12 up to the age of 18, increasing the maximum amount provided for a GSA Emergency Bursary (GSA EB) from $2000 to $4000, and outlining appeals processes adhered to the tenets of procedural fairness. She noted that, as per GSA Policy, the President could make exceptions to increase the amount of an individual GSA EB beyond $2000, and that since these exceptions were currently made for the majority of GSA EBs, it made sense to increase the limit in GSA Policy.

B Chow asked for the rationale as to why the GSA CCG currently had an age limit of 12 (historically, the application process for these grants required proof of daycare receipts, and daycare was only provided up to the age of 12, but this grant was no longer solely intended to cover daycare costs) and J Fath asked whether this funding was a more general grant to support the costs of raising children (it was confirmed that this was the case).

**MOTION:** That GSA Council APPROVE, having been unanimously recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section P: GSA Grants and Bursaries, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.  
B Todd MOVED; B Richardson SECONDED.  

Motion PASSED unanimously.

**Elections:**

9. **GSA Council Elections**

GSA Standing Committees

a. **GSA Nominating Committee (1 vacancy)**

Nominees for GSA Nominating Committee:  
Damandeep Singh (MBA)

P Baddam (Speaker) presented the item and introduced the nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. P Baddam asked the following question of the candidates for GSA Nominating Committee and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: “Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Nominating Committee.”

**Reports**

10. **President**

i. **President’s Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S van der Klein congratulated the newly elected President and Vice-Presidents.

ii. **GSA Board Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. 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 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted.

iv. **GSA Governance Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. 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 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Aliramezani reported that the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) was in the process of
developing a policy to make it possible for domestic students to modify their registration from full-time to part-time (international students had to remain full-time for their study permits). He wanted to share this with GSA Council members to see if they had any specific comments, and noted he would be monitoring the development of this proposed policy for any potential side-effects for graduate students, who would need to be made of aware of funding opportunities they could lose if they switched from full-time to part-time. Members posed a few questions, including but not limited to why this option wasn’t currently available (the rationale provided by the Interim Dean of the FGSR was that it was to encourage students to finish their programs earlier, but that it had not seem to reach the intended result); and whether this policy would apply to all faculties and departments, and whether it would affect minimum funding packages currently in place (if the policy was approved, it would apply to all departments, and it would impact access to any minimum funding packages that required graduate students to maintain full-time registration, which was why it would be important to inform graduate students about the potential funding they may lose when deciding whether to switch from full-time to part-time).

12. Vice-President External
   i. Vice-President External’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted.

   ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. 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 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Richardson reported that the GSA had successfully negotiated with the University a substantial increase to the Graduate Student Support Fund, which was used to support graduate students through the GSA Academic Travel Grants, and the GSA Child Care Grants, the GSA Emergency Bursaries, and the GSA Recognition Awards. She reported that an email had been sent to all graduate students announcing this increase, and that negotiations for the increase had been done in parallel to the collective agreement negotiations (as this fund was for all graduate students, and not just academically-employed graduate students). Additionally, she encouraged all GSA Council members who were members of the bargaining unit to continue reading her email updates about the ongoing collective agreement negotiations.

   ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report
   No written report at this time.

14. Vice-President Student Services
   i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted.

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

16. Speaker
   i. Speaker’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, P Baddam noted that based on the feedback provided in the GSA Council survey in February, her report included two suggested modifications to GSA Council meetings: providing estimated start and end times for each agenda item, and moving GSA Council elections to the start of each GSA Council agenda. Following a discussion of these two suggestions, GSA Council members voted in a straw poll to provide their feedback (the results of this were a desire to try timed agenda items for the next two meetings and to leave elections in its current place on the GSA Council agenda).

17. Chief Returning Officer
   i. Chief Returning Officer’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. The report stood as submitted.
18. GSA Nominating Committee
   i. GSA Nominating Committee Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 March 2019. The report stood as
submitted. In addition, R Barta stated that at the last in-person GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) meeting in January, the
GSA NoC agreed that nominees for the GSA Council-Elected Officer positions of Senator, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief
Returning Officer (or CRO), and Deputy Returning Officer (or DRO) merited a more rigorous vetting process than what was
already in place (nominees for a given position were invited to attend the GSA Council meeting when the election for the given
position took place, and if all nominees were present, they were invited to speak to GSA Council before ballots were cast). R
Barta proposed three different options that the GSA NoC had suggested to modify the current process. These options were:
that GSA Council members have the opportunity to ask questions of all the nominees for a given GSA Council-Elected Officer
position, similar to the style of a forum, or that GSA Council members have the opportunity to ask questions of each nominee
for a given GSA Council-Elected Officer position, individually, while the rest of the nominees for that same position are asked to
step outside the room, or that the GSA NoC, on behalf of GSA Council, conduct an individual interview with each nominee for a
given GSA Council-Elected Officer position prior to the meeting of GSA Council, similar to the procedure undertaken by the GSA
NoC in approving nominees for vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complains Board. GSA Council members discussed the
various options at-length, and then voted in a straw poll to provide their preferences for the three options and indicated a
preference for the second option. R Barta thanked GSA Council members for their feedback, which he would take back to the
GSA NoC for further discussion and informed GSA Council of these discussions at a later meeting.

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 15 March 2019. 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 15 March 2019. The report stood as
submitted.

Question Period

21. Written Questions
There were no written questions received.

22. Oral Questions

M Woghiren asked about the ability of individual graduate student groups to enforce rules upon their members, such as
through the creation of a code of conduct, and whether there were any University policies prohibiting these activities (S van der
Klein responded that if a code of conduct violated the University’s Code of Student Behavior, it would not be permitted, B
Richardson spoke about the challenges associated with decentralization and situations in which Faculties or Departments tried
to create their own specific policies, and F Robertson clarified that graduate student group policies and procedures fell under
the Dean of Students Office, and recommended contacting this office with further questions about the authority of a graduate
student group to develop or implement a code of conduct that would impact students within a graduate student group).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.