Date: 8 November 2018  
To: GSA Council  
From: Sasha van der Klein  
Re: 2018-2019 GSA Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am pleased to report we remain on track overall after the end of the first six months of our fiscal year and we are projecting a positive balance at the end of that year (the surplus we are projecting is down from that last year, which reflects that our spending thus far this year is more closely aligned with our initial budget). While the numbers we are projecting may change a bit as the remainder of the year unfolds, I have highlighted a few areas to draw to your attention below.

**GSA Fees Revenue**
As a fee-based organization, graduate student enrolment levels are the key drivers of our budget and, as has been the case in previous years, the Financial Team closely monitors these and, so far, we are on track.

**Other Revenue**
Currently no funds have been received in this revenue line as the Unwind Your Mind initiative that we previously applied to for funding of events such as GSA Coffee Breaks no longer exists. Also, we have not yet received the annual funding provided to us in connection with Studentcare’s continuum funding (received in February of the 2017-2018 fiscal year).

**Advocacy**
As previously noted, expenses in this line are up over those from last year as, per the GSA Council approved operating budget, we are now paying all (rather than just a portion) of the Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council membership fee from our operating budget, rather than collecting a portion of it directly from graduate students via a dedicated fee unit. Likewise, the membership fee has increased since the previous fiscal year. This year the GSA has also participated in two meetings of the recently formed ThinkGrad group; as I have reported before, we continue to participate in this national group as observers to determine if there is a benefit to joining as full members.

**Human Resources**
As noted in the previous Term Financial Report, one of the GSA’s part-time administrative/professional members retired from the organization at the end of April and so we will ultimately be underspent in the human resources budget line as a result and will adjust accordingly as we build the 2019-2020 operating budget.

**Office Administration and Professional Costs**
We are underspent in this line as a result of some savings across many of the individual expenditure lines in this category, especially in our telephone expenses.
Professional
In the interests of fulfilling our responsibilities as a trade union we have started the process of examining the mechanics of establishing and administering a strike fund by employing a law firm with a specialization in labour matters to do some preliminary research for the GSA. We are reviewing the results of this and also initiating discussions with other Alberta GSAs concerning the possibility of pooling resources with respect to a strike fund. A strike fund is relatively complex to establish and administer so we are proceeding cautiously and with all due diligence. Currently our consultants and legal fees lines are projected to be underspent.

Services Expenses
Spending is up in this line over last year because, as per the GSA Council approved budget, we increased the subsidies we provide to the Campus Food Bank, the Career Centre, and the Student Success Centre, as well increased the amounts available for engagement initiatives and graduate student group funding. Nevertheless, we are still projecting a surplus in this line.

Operating/Contingency Fund
Following up on the recent refurbishment of the GSA’s public lounge space, we will be using a portion of this line to reconfigure space within the GSA office to ensure staff workspaces are reflective of their work task needs.

In closing, let me stress that, overall, we continue to be in excellent shape financially. My thanks to the Financial Team members, Courtney Thomas (Executive Director), Shirley Ball (Accountant), Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager), and Julie Tanguay (Associate Director).

Sasha van der Klein, GSA President and Chair of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee
cc: GSA BFC members