To: GSA Council  
From: Sasha van der Klein  
Date: 25 January 2019  

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

On 23 January, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met to review and advise on the GSA’s three-year budget/business plan, to recommend the GSA’s 2019-2020 budget to GSA Council, to review the winter term budget and expenditures report, and to recommend to GSA Council changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Policy, Section K, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures and GSA Budget and Finance Committee. The committee had an engaging discussion concerning these matters and unanimously recommended that all of these items progress forward to GSA Council.

The main highlights from the 2019-2020 GSA Operating Budget are:

- recommended a 2% reduction in the GSA membership fee (followed by another 2% reduction in 2020-2021 and another 2% reduction in 2021-2022) as the GSA moves to a more balanced budget without compromising service provision,
- CPI factor of 2.2% (the same as that utilized by the University) applied selectively to certain lines
- a small increase is recommended in the GSA Council support budget line
- a small decrease in the training and development for Directly-Elected Officers line is recommended, to align with actual amounts spent in previous years
- a recommended decrease in the human resources budget line (due to the retirement of a part-time employee)
- a recommended increase to the funding offered to the Academic Success Centre, the Career Centre, and the Campus Food Bank, and
- a recommended increase to the GSA Council Remuneration budget line to reflect the actual number of GSA departmental councillors eligible to receive this funding.

These noted above items will be presented to GSA Council at the February meeting. In advance of this meeting, the GSA will hold a Budget 101 session on 19 February at 2 PM and encourage anyone interested in learning about the GSA’s budget to attend.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Sasha van der Klein, GSA President and Chair of the GSA BFC