GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA NoC this month is a summary of discussions/decisions the committee has made since its last report, together with a list of all vacancies filled and those which will be filled shortly.

GSA Policy governing the GSA NoC is located in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating. As provided for in its Terms of Reference, the GSA NoC has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair of the GSA NoC

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (One (1) Departmental Councillor Position)
   Information regarding the position for one (1) Departmental Councillor was circulated on two (2) instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 22 January 2019. No nominations were received. This vacancy will be advertised again.

2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (Three (3) Graduate Student Positions)
   Information regarding the three (3) vacancies for graduate students was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 11 and 18 January 2019 with a nomination deadline of 22 January 2019. Five (5) nominations were received. The nominees were then interviewed by members of GSA NoC: GSA NoC Vice-Chair Kenzie Gordon conducted two (2) interviews, GSA NoC member David Tandio conducted one (1) interview, and GSA NoC Chair Radim Barta and GSA NoC member Dylan Ashley together conducted two (2) interviews. These members have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Assistant Director Lisa Hareuther was also present for four (4) of the interviews, and GSA Executive Director Courtney Thomas was present for one (1) interview. During each of the interviews, the nominees were asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness). There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 8a – Nominees for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.

3) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair and Vice-Chair (Two (2) GSA ACB Member Positions in Total)
   Members of the GSA ACB were informed of these vacancies via email on 11 and 18 January 2019 and were invited to submit nominations by 21 January 2019. One (1) nomination was received for the position of GSA ACB Chair; two (2) nominations were received for the position of GSA ACB Vice-Chair. The GSA NoC recommends that GSA Council consider these nominees during the paper ballot. See Item 8b – Nominees for GSA ACB Chair and GSA ACB Vice-Chair.

4) GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (One (1) Graduate Student Position)
   Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for graduate students was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 11 and 18 January 2019 with a nomination deadline of 23 January 2019. Four (4) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 8c – Nominees for GSA Budget and Finance Committee.
External Committees

1) Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD) Dean Selection Committee (One (1) FoMD Graduate Student Position)

The Office of the Provost has struck a Dean Selection Committee for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD). The mechanism for electing one (1) graduate student from FoMD to the FoMD Dean Selection Committee is as follows:

“Each Departmental Graduate Student Association shall forward a name to the Graduate Students’ Association and the representative will be elected by the Graduate Students’ Association Council. If no Departmental Graduate Student Association exists or if no names are forwarded by the existing associations, the Graduate Students’ Association shall be responsible for forwarding a name to the Graduate Students’ Association Council for ratification” (UAPPOL Faculty Deans Selection Procedure Appendix A: Dean Selection Committee for Individual Faculties).

On 8 January 2019, the GSA began the work of contacting all ten (10) departmental GSAs in the FoMD and requesting that they inform the GSA Nominating Committee by 11 January 2019 if they were unable to conduct a process to identify a nominee from their respective departments and whether the GSA would be responsible for forwarding a name to the GSA Council. No departmental GSAs indicated so. Departmental GSAs were asked to submit the name of their respective nominees to the GSA by the deadline of 22 January 2019. Five (5) nominations in total were submitted from each of the departments of Biochemistry, Medicine, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, and Physiology via their respective departmental GSAs.

On 14 January 2019, the GSA circulated a call to graduate students in each of the eight (8) departments in the FoMD without a departmental GSA, inviting nominations with a deadline of 22 January 2019. One (1) nomination was submitted from the department of Pediatrics and was circulated to graduate students in the department of Pediatrics with an electronic ballot to approve this student as their departmental nominee. One (1) nomination was received from the department of Ophthalmology, in which only one (1) graduate student was registered at the start of this election process.

There are seven (7) nominees in total. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 8 – Nominees for Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD) Dean Selection Committee.

2) Community Connections Awards Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 21 January 2019. Two (2) nominations were received. Jon Lai (Human Ecology) was elected to serve on the Community Connections Awards Committee.

3) Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF) Selection Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 21 January 2019. Three (3) nominations were received. Rozzlynn Zulla (Public Health) was elected to serve on the TLEF Selection Committee.

Addendum – Meeting of GSA NoC

On 14 January 2019 members of GSA NoC met to review proposed editorial changes to GSA Policy on the GSA Nominating Committee, as well as to discuss current election procedures pertaining to GSA Standing Committees and GSA Council-Elected Officers (Senator, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)).

The proposed editorial changes to GSA Policy on the GSA Nominating Committee sought to streamline language regarding the GSA Early for Talent and Training initiative—in particular the section regarding the Early Call training sessions—and align it with current practice. GSA NoC members agreed that these editorial changes should be implemented, and the proposal will therefore be presented to the GSA Governance Committee for consideration.

In the discussion regarding election procedures, members agreed that current election procedures regarding positions on the GSA Standing Committees should continue, but that procedures pertaining to the GSA Council-Elected Officer positions may benefit from reconsideration. The GSA NoC will bring this discussion to the GSA Council at the 18 March 2019 meeting for feedback.