GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair and Vice-Chair
THREE (3) NOMINEES

As set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.4:

“GSA Council will elect one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Chair and one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Vice-Chair on the recommendation of the GSA NoC, for a term of office, also recommended by the GSA NoC, not to exceed two (2) years. Members may stand for re-election as Chair or Vice-Chair.”

In recommending these nominees, the GSA NoC considered their previously conducted interviews (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.9.4), their experience relevant to the position of Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB, and their knowledge of fair process.

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.6.1, the jurisdiction of the GSA ACB is as follows:

“The GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) is responsible for hearing and deciding appeals of GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) decisions and complaints about GSA Officers and Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as allowed by Section 94(3) of the Post-Secondary Learning Act.”

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the Monday, 28 January 2019 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday, 28 January 2019 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 28 January 2019 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

Nominee for Chair of the GSA ACB (One (1) nominee for one (1) position):

1. Samantha Wesch (Women’s and Gender Studies) for the duration of their term on the GSA ACB

Nominees for Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB (Two (2) nominees for one (1) position):

1. Benjamin Decardi-Nelson (Chemical and Materials Engineering) for the duration of their term on the GSA ACB
2. Marla Palakkamanil (School of Public Health) for the duration of their term on the GSA ACB

Please note that the results of this vote rely on the results of the previously held GSA ACB membership vote; that is, if one of the nominees for Vice-Chair is not voted to serve as a member of the GSA ACB, they will not be eligible to serve as Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB.

The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are ATTACHED on pages 8.18 - 8.23. Biographies and resumes have been attached as received (ie not edited).
Nomination for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair
(1 Vacancy for a GSA ACB Member)
One (1) Nominee

1. Samantha Wesch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
<th>GSA (department councillor) Appeals and Complaints Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Statement of Interest**

My previous education and work and volunteer experience have provided me the skills required of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Appeals and Complaints board.

I hold a BA (hons) in Philosophy with a focus on Ethics from the University of Alberta and an MA in Philosophy with a focus on Ethics from the University of Toronto. My education in Ethics has allowed me to develop skills in complex and sensitive decision making, understanding of the relationship between ethics and policy and value the importance of procedural fairness and neutrality in decision making. Ethics, as the study of action-guiding theories, is central to conducting fair judgements, and my extensive education in this field would be extremely valuable for the Chair of the Appeals and Complaints Board.

I am currently working on an MA in Gender and Social Justice. My knowledge of intersectionality and implicit bias will not only help ensure that I myself examine my own biases and prejudices when making neutral decisions and understand how bias (both positive bias and negative bias) can effect decision making, but support neutrality throughout the Board by modelling and encouraging being conscious of implicit bias.

My previous work with policy with the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters and with the Ministry of the Status of Women (Violence Against Women and Girls Unit) has taught me how to read, interpret and follow complex policy. As following policy is central to the work of the Appeals and Complaints Board, my previous experience with policy would make me an excellent leader in interpreting and following the policy which the Board works with. Together, my education in Ethics and Gender and Social Justice will allow to be a leader in modelling and teaching anti-bias tools and decision making strategies based in ethics.

My current work as the Chief Returning Officer of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) requires me to closely follow and make judgements based on the current APIRG and University of Alberta policy pertaining to elections. As the Appeals and Complaints Board deals primarily with concerns regarding UAlberta governance and
elections, my direct experience dealing with election policy would be an indispensable quality in a Chair.

Bio

I grew up all over Western Canada, living in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta throughout my childhood.

In 2012, I moved to Edmonton to study at the University of Alberta. During my undergraduate degree, I was a volunteer with the Campus Food Bank, received a Roger S. Smith research award for my paper “Resisting Ilsa: Foucaultian Ethics and the Sexualization of Nazism”, served as a Senior Reviewer for the undergraduate journal Constellations, and acted as an Arts Advisor to the undergraduate journal Spectrum - both of these required me to make difficult decision regarding the publication of papers. I was an active member of the undergraduate research committee, speaking at many conferences and publishing my work in two undergraduate journals, and completed an honours degree in Philosophy in 2016.

In 2016, I moved to Toronto to attend the University of Toronto. While at U of T, I served as a Graduate Associate with the Centre for Ethics and as a member of the Women’s Caucus. I also worked as a University-approved tutor for students with learning disabilities, primarily teaching Ethics and German Philosophy. I continued to be an active member of the research community, speaking at various conferences and continuing to publish original research in Ethics and Cultural Studies. I graduate with an MA in Philosophy in 2017.

In 2017, I returned to the University of Alberta to begin an MA in Gender and Social Justice. I have long been passionate about ending domestic violence and violence against women and girls. I led a four-month long research project of the needs of trans women using women’s shelters with the Women’s Emergency Accommodation Centre. After this project, I became the Anti-Domestic Violence Intern with Public Service Graduate Internship (PSGI) program through IPAC (each intern is specialized to their skills and interests and placed based on this). I was placed first with the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters and worked on their #LiftHerUp Campaign, which works to end violence against women in Alberta politics. Next, I was placed with the Government of Alberta in the Ministry of the Status of Women in the Violence against Women and Girls Unit. Here, I led the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign and was the primary organizer of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women and Girls Vigil.

Currently, I am finishing my thesis and working as the Chief Returning Officer of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group.
I live in downtown Edmonton with my boyfriend and our cat Winston. In my spare time I like to long-distance run, dance, write fiction and creative non-fiction and cook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary Resume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am currently a second-year MA student in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, working on a thesis comprised of a Cultural Studies analysis of the rapper Eminem. I am currently the Chief Returning Officer overseeing the 2019/2020 Board of Directors election for the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG). I am passionate about theoretical ethics and advocacy working to end violence against women and girls - together, my knowledge of ethics and its relationship to policy and procedure and my education in intersectionality and implicit bias would make me an excellent Chair of the Appeals and Complaints Board. My specialized knowledge of ethics, intersectionality and policy are exactly what is required for the Appeals and Complaints Board, and I believe this would make me an excellent leader to the Board. M schedule is flexible enough to accommodate the precarious schedule of the Appeals and Complaints Board.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nominations for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Vice-Chair
(1 Vacancy for a GSA ACB Member)
Two (2) Nominees

1. Benjamin Decardi-Nelson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
<th>GSA ACB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Statement of Interest**

My experiences serving as the Judicial Council/Committee Chairman for the Ghana Engineering Students' Association (GESA) during my undergraduate studies, a student member of the Faculty of Native Studies Appeals Committee, and a member of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) will be invaluable to the operation of the GSA ACB. Also, aside my area of studies, I have keen interest in legal matters (law) and fairness, which align well with the mandate of the GSA ACB. I also served as the Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB last year. These constitute the reasons for opting for a second term as the Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB.

**Bio**

I am an open-minded individual born in Ghana, a country located in West Africa. I moved to Saskatchewan, Canada in 2014 to study for my masters in Process Systems Engineering at the University of Regina after obtaining my bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering in my home country. I am fluent in English and two other local languages in my homeland. I was a first-choice player in my department's soccer team and my year group because of my outstanding soccer prowess. I currently play for Fulvaso soccer club in the Edmonton indoor soccer league. While at the University of Regina, I volunteered to be an International peer adviser helping undergraduate students smoothly transition to the University environment.

**Summary Resume**

I am a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering working on computer process control. I am a member of the Process Systems and Control Engineering research group headed by Dr. Jinfeng Liu. I worked on research that sought to address one of the most challenging issues facing humanity - Climate change and global warming mitigation - at the University of Regina for my master's degree. I also collaborated on research at the design lab at Rensselaer, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA during my summer break in 2011.

I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a working committee.
2. Marla Palakkamanil

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
<th>GSA ACB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Statement of Interest**

In my role as Clinical Consultant Pharmacist with Medical Pharmacies Group Limited, I have been able to proficiently deal with a wide set of challenges at each of my five continuing care facilities. For example, there have been several instances of differing opinions, objectives, and some cases, friction between the pharmacy staff, facility staff, and facility management. In such situations, I took the lead to build consensus and ensured all parties were correctly understood and a resolution achieved. I was able to curb potential conflicts by gaining trust, actively listening and dealing with issues head-on. In addition, my experience as a dance instructor has taught me to be mindful of holding a positive disposition and outlook on life. As a leader, I believe it is important to elicit feedback and input from my own dance teacher, students, and their parents. In doing so, I am able to understand and incorporate new perspectives within my role as an instructor.

**Bio**

I was born and raised in Edmonton, and am of East Indian heritage. I graduated from pharmacy school in 2014 from the University of Alberta, and have been practicing as a clinical pharmacist since then.

I have been trained in the classical Indian dance forms of Kathak and Bharathanatyam for the past 25 years. I have performed at various festivals in Canada and the United States. I have also toured across India, performing in seven major cities. Since 2006, I have been working as a dance instructor at the Usha Kala Niketan School of Dance.

In addition to dance, I enjoy playing sports and as well as cooking and reading. I also thoroughly enjoy travelling.

**Summary Resume**

I am in my final year as an MSc student at the School of Public Health. Having completed all coursework, I am in the process of writing my thesis on concurrent opioid and antidepressant use. I have a flexible schedule at this time, and would be able to accommodate sitting on a busy committee. Prior to returning to school this past September, I worked as a clinical consultant pharmacist with Medical Pharmacies Group Limited. In this role, I was responsible for
caring for over 464 patients across five continuing care facilities in Edmonton, Ponoka, Drayton Valley, and Wetaskiwin. I would regularly review patients' medications, and provide recommendations to physicians to optimize the service of care provided. In collaboration with the physician, I would lead a team of other healthcare professionals (nurses, occupational therapists, social workers) through patient care rounds each week to discuss patients' concerns, and review lab values, appropriate use of antipsychotics, behavioral changes, and recommend modifications to their medications, when appropriate.

I am currently serving as a dance instructor on the weekends. I also volunteer on campus as a USchool Classroom Mentor.