GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 November 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council  
From: Radim Barta  
Date: 16 November 2018

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

Early Call for Talent and Training

GSA Bylaw and Policy states that “GSA NoC will be proactive in seeking out potential candidates for all Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) and Council-Elected Officer positions” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.1.5). It also states that:

“The GSA NoC leads an annual initiative each October called the Early Call for Talent and Training. During Early Call, graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to a get-to-know event and are encouraged to participate in a series of training sessions on such topics as University governance, GSA 101, budget and audit basics, collective bargaining, major GSA services, and more. Information is provided about the DEO portfolios and the time commitments involved. These sessions provide a basic set of information that the GSA sees as essential for the effective leadership of the GSA as a corporate entity and for the carrying out of fiduciary duties.” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.7.7)

The 2018 GSA Early Call for Talent and Training is now in progress, after the initial advertisement went out through the GSA newsletter on 12 October 2018. The Get-to-Know Dinner, which was scheduled for 25 October 2018, gave graduate students the chance to get acquainted and have informal discussions with current Directly-Elected Officers. Training sessions on a variety of topics were offered as of 29 October 2018 and, though they have concluded, graduate students who are still interested in attending those are encouraged to contact us at gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca and we would be happy to make alternate arrangements. In closing of the 2018 Early Call, we invite interested students to join us for the Early Call Coffee Wrap-Up on 5 December 2018, 4pm to 5:30pm in Triffo Hall. Details will be found in the GSA newsletter of 30 November 2018.

As GSA Council members are aware, engagement from graduate students is key to the success of the GSA, and so I encourage all members of GSA Council to share this information with their colleagues and constituents and to please contact gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca if you are interested in receiving more information.

GSA Councillor-at-Large GSA Council Election

1)  GSA Councillor-at-Large (1 Graduate Student Position)

There are currently two (2) GSA Councillor-at-Large vacancies for graduate students. As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Council fills any remaining positions from nominations forwarded by the GSA NoC (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3). This position was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 2 November and 8 November 2018 with a nomination deadline of 14 November 2018. Five (5) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 11 – Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election.
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 13 November October 2018. 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 2 November and 8 November 2018 with a nomination deadline of 13 November 2018. Three (3) nominations were received. The nominees were then interviewed by members of GSA NoC: GSA NoC Vice-Chair Kenzie Gordon conducted one (1) interview, and GSA NoC members Ahsan Ahmed and David Tandio 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 all three interviews. 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 11a – Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.

3) **GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (One (1) GSA Council Member Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Council member was circulated on two (2) instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 14 November 2018. Two (2) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 11c – Nominee for GSA Budget and Finance Committee.

4) **GSA Board (GAB) (One (1) GSA Council Member Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Council member was circulated on two (2) instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 14 November 2018. One (1) nomination was received. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 11b – Nominee for GSA Board.

External Committees

1) **Arts Faculty Council and Associated Committees (Seven (7) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the positions for seven (7) Faculty of Arts graduate students was circulated to graduate students in the Faculty of Arts via email on two (2) instances with a nomination deadline of 13 November 2018. One (1) nomination was received for the one (1) remaining position on the Arts Faculty Council. The name of the elected student will be reported to GSA Council in December 2018. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.

2) **Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (Four (4) Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the remaining vacant positions for four (4) graduate students to serve as Alternates was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 14 November 2018. One (1) nomination was received. Ronan Noble (Pediatrics) was elected to serve on the FGSR Council as Alternate. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.

3) **Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC) and Academic Appeals Committee (FGSR AAC) (One (1) and Four (4) FGSR Councillor or Alternate Positions Respectively)**

Information regarding these vacancies was circulated to FGSR Councillors and Alternates on two (2) instances with a nomination deadline of 9 October 2018. One (1) nomination was received for the position on the FGSR PRC, and two (2) nominations were received for the positions on the FGSR AAC. Mayank Sabharwal (Mechanical Engineering) was elected to serve on the FGSR PRC. Maryam Kebbe (Pediatrics) and Mayank Sabharwal (Mechanical Engineering) were elected to serve on the FGSR AAC.

Information regarding the two (2) remaining vacancies on the FGSR AAC was circulated to FGSR Councillors and Alternates on two (2) instances with a nomination deadline of 6 November 2018. Two (2) nominations were received. David Tandio (Pharmacology) and Tony Zheng (Civil and Environmental Engineering) were elected to serve on the FGSR AAC.
4) Festival of Teaching and Learning Steering 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 5 November 2018. One (1) nomination was received. Avneet Hayer (Public Health) was elected to serve on the Festival of Teaching and Learning Steering Committee.

Upcoming Vacancies

The Office of the Provost has struck a Dean Selection Committee for the Faculty of Science. The mechanism for electing one (1) graduate student from the Faculty of Science to the Faculty of Science 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).

Given the timing of this announcement and the associated meeting schedule set for the work of this committee, the GSA NoC will commence the process for electing one (1) graduate student from the Faculty of Science immediately and will forward nominees to the GSA Council for consideration, along with a request for an electronic vote, in December 2018.