GSA Council Handbook
For Departmental Councillors and Councillors-at-Large
Table of Contents

Introduction 1
Your Role as a Councillor or Alternate 1
Attendance at Meetings 1
How to Prepare for GSA Council Meetings 1
Identification at Meetings 2
During GSA Council Meetings 2
  The Standing Orders 2
  Motions 2
  Conduct 3
  Voting 3
  Guests at GSA Council 3
Your Responsibilities after GSA Council Meetings 3
Mission, Vision, and Strategic Work Plan of the GSA 4
Standing Orders of GSA Council 5
The GSA: An Overview 8
  Governance 8
  GSA ‘101s’ 8
  Who is on GSA Council? 8
  Who are the Directly-Elected Officers? 8
  Who are the Council-Elected Officers? 9
  Who are the GSA Directors? 9
  GSA Board (GSAB) 9
  GSA Standing Committees 9
Services, Benefits, and Supports 10
  GSA Funding 10
  GSA Recognition Awards 10
  GSA Events 11
Abbreviations Commonly Used at GSA Council Meetings 12

GSA Council Meeting Dates

GSA Council Meetings are held in Council Chambers, 2-100 University Hall on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 2018</td>
<td>August 20, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18, 2018</td>
<td>September 17, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16, 2018</td>
<td>October 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19, 2018</td>
<td>December 10, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25, 2019</td>
<td>January 28, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18, 2019</td>
<td>April 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meetings start promptly at 6:00 pm, beginning with Roll Call, and typically last 2 to 2.5 hours.

Meeting dates are subject to change; visit the GSA website for up-to-date information.
Introduction

The University of Alberta Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) is a not-for-profit body with the responsibility under the Post-Secondary Learning Act to represent graduate students, collectively, to the University and to government. **All graduate students are members of the GSA**, and pay fees for their membership.

The GSA administers a budget of over $1 million, as well as over $800,000 in negotiated funds in grants, awards, and bursaries. The GSA negotiates numerous services including a health and dental plan and the Graduate Student Assistance Program, and the U-Pass.

As a graduate student, you not only benefit from the advocacy, accountability, and accessibility of the GSA, but you can play an important role in its vision to enhance the graduate school experience by participating in GSA Council.

**Your Role as a Councillor or Alternate**

As Departmental Councillor or Alternate, you are the representative of the graduate students in your program. As Councillor-at-Large, you are an at-large representative for all graduate students on campus. In both positions, your role is to be informed about the matters GSA Council is discussing and/or deciding on, representing the views of your constituents, bringing their feedback to GSA Council, and taking information resulting from conversation and decisions at GSA Council back to your constituents.

**Attendance at Meetings**

Any GSA member may attend a meeting, but it is the duty of Departmental Councillors (or Alternates) and Councillors-at-Large to attend every meeting. The GSA has an attendance Policy for all Members of GSA Council. Please visit http://gsa.ualberta.ca/en/GoverningDocuments/Attendance.aspx to view the Policy.

As an added bonus, Departmental Councillors (or Alternates) who are present at a minimum of 50% of meetings are eligible for their departmental graduate student group to receive a modest operating grant from the GSA for academically-related activities. Please visit http://gsa.ualberta.ca/~media/gsa/GoverningDocuments/GSABoardPolicyManual.pdf to view the Policy.

The Speaker always begins the meetings by taking roll call. Should you need to leave GSA Council early, you are encouraged to note your departure time on a sheet made available where you pick up your placard. Be sure your attendance is noted and confirm this by checking the minutes of the previous meeting when you receive them.

**Dinner**

A light dinner is served beginning at 5:15 pm before the Speaker calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. This is an excellent time to talk with other GSA Council members! Please note any dietary allergies on the Councillor Information Form and we will try to accommodate your needs.

**How to Prepare for GSA Council Meetings**

The meeting Agenda, Minutes, and substantial items are circulated two Fridays in advance of GSA Council meetings. A second mailing, containing the reports of GSA Officers and GSA Standing Committees is circulated the Friday before meetings. As a Councillor you will be notified by email with a link to the material on the GSA website.

**Read the circulated material in advance!** Remember, if you are attending as a Departmental Councillor you are representing your department in decisions that can have an important impact on your fellow students’ graduate experience. Read the material in advance and discuss relevant issues with graduate students in your department in advance of meetings. This will help you be prepared with questions you may want to have addressed at the meeting. If there are elections to standing committees or other positions, reading the biographies of candidates will help increase your confidence in your voting decisions and your work representing your department.
Identification at Meetings

The GSA uses coloured placards to distinguish between Councillors (white), Alternates (green), and Guests (yellow). When you arrive to GSA Council, please locate the white placard with your department name on it or the Councillor-at-Large placard with your name on it. If both the Departmental Councillor and Alternate are attending, the Councillor uses a white placard and the Alternate uses a green placard. If the Alternate is attending in place of the Departmental Councillor, the Alternate should use the white placard to indicate that they are the representative voting at the meeting.

If you arrive late or need to leave early, please record your time of arrival/departure on the attendance sheets near the placards, as we keep an accurate record of who attended the meeting. Guests are asked to fill out a yellow placard upon arrival and they must sign the attendance sheet.

During GSA Council Meetings

The Standing Orders

Standing Orders of GSA Council are the rules by which GSA Council operates and as a Councillor you should review and understand these rules. The Standing Orders are outlined below and are available on the GSA website. They are also included on pages 6-9 of this handbook.

Meetings are led by the Speaker, and follow specific procedures with respect to the agenda, minutes, discussion, Motions (notices of Motion, referring and deferring, tabling, adjournment), and voting.

The Speaker is responsible for presiding over GSA Council meetings and regulating the flow of discussion using the following ground rules based on the Standing Orders of GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, and GSA Council practice:

- Quorum (30 voting members) must be present to do business (this prevents an unreasonably small subset of GSA Council from making decisions),
- Majority rules when voting (in most instances),
- Keeping a speaker’s list,
- Moderating the time for which Councillors may have the floor,
- Only one topic at a time is addressed (brief, on-point follow-up questions are often permitted when time allows),
- Only one person at a time may speak,
- Once a question is decided, raising the same or similar question at the same meeting is out of order, and
- Personal remarks are out of order.

Motions

Before items reach GSA Council they have been carefully developed, reviewed, and recommended by the GSA Board and/or GSA Standing Committees.

Motions brought before GSA Council are considered in the following manner:

- The suggested Motion appears on the Outline of Issue,
- The Speaker will ask for the Motion to be “moved” in order to bring the issue to the floor,
- The Speaker will then ask for someone to “second” the Motion,
- Items are presented to GSA Council along with background information,
- Any discussion or debate of the issue takes place next. Councillors are encouraged to actively participate,
- Following discussion/debate, the Motion goes to a vote, and
- A majority vote is needed for a Motion to pass; in the event of a tie a Motion is considered to have failed.
Conduct

As a general rule, if you do not know what is going on, you cannot adequately hear the discussion, there is another issue with the room (eg, temperature), or you feel your rights as a Councillor have been violated, you may raise your placard to make a Point of Information, a Point of Order, or a Point of Personal Privilege (please see page 8 for definitions of these terms). The Speaker will immediately advise on next steps.

Unless otherwise indicated (as above), to speak in GSA Council first raise your placard to seek the attention of the Speaker, who will acknowledge you and add you to the Speaker’s list. The Speaker will let you know - “give you the floor” - when it is your turn to speak.

In debate, address the Speaker and refer to other people using the title of their position; eg, “the Councillor for (department name)” or “the Vice-President Labour.” Nothing that happens in GSA Council is personal, and your remarks must reflect this.

Voting

Directly-Elected Officers, Councillors-at-Large, and Departmental Councillors are voting members of GSA Council. Council-Elected Officers, GSA Directors, and Departmental Alternates are non-voting members of GSA Council. Voting members have one vote; Departmental Alternates may only vote when they are attending in place of the Departmental Councillor.

Guests at GSA Council

Any member of the public is welcome to attend GSA Council meetings. They may neither vote nor ask questions, unless questions are raised via their Departmental Councillor or GSA Council agrees to extend them privilege to speak. Also, at times, GSA Council must go into closed session to discuss sensitive or confidential matters. During such times, any guests will be asked to leave the room until the session is re-opened.

Your Responsibilities After GSA Council Meetings

A summary of the meeting is distributed to Councillors shortly after each meeting. This is a convenient way for Departmental Councillors to share information with your constituents. After you add a few words of introduction (where necessary) you may either send the summary as written or with additions specific to your department. Either way, it is important to know that this is a summary, and full details will be available in the Minutes for the meeting which are circulated with the next meeting’s first mailing. As a Departmental Councillor, please let the GSA staff know if you do not have access to an email circulation list for graduate students in your department and we will work with you to gain access.
### Mission, Vision, and Strategic Work Plan of the GSA

*The GSA respectfully acknowledges that it is located on Treaty 6 territory and Métis homelands.*

#### What is the Graduate Students' Association?

The Graduate Students’ Association (GSA), as mandated by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, represents graduate students at the University of Alberta. The GSA, as a separate corporation, is both a part of the University of Alberta and apart from the institution. The GSA Board believes that a healthy organization is nurtured through effective relationships with all stakeholders. To sustain the organization’s long-term health and excellent reputation, the GSA fosters a culture of respect and professionalism among staff and graduate student leaders, engages in regular review of governance processes, and ensures an annual transition process that facilitates the on-going education of elected graduate student leaders.

#### What is a graduate student?

A graduate student is a junior colleague who contributes to their field of study in pursuit of an advanced degree through collaborative work with the professoriate in research, teaching, and the development of University learning environments. These contributions may be accomplished through: extensive coursework, for which graduate students pay tuition; academic employment, for which graduate students are paid; the co-creation and writing of scholarly work; the securing of academic funding; presentations, conferences, and community engagement; and capstone projects, theses, or dissertations. This multi-faceted position takes place in an environment of mutual respect and fairness aimed at developing skills and knowledge for future careers and is one that provides appropriate remuneration for labour in service of the enhancement of the institution.

#### What is the GSA Board’s Strategic Work Plan?

The GSA Board’s Strategic Work Plan is the document that steers and prioritizes the work and initiatives of the GSA. The GSA sees this as a living document, shifting directions as needed as the provincial, federal, and University landscapes change. It is developed annually with reference to the Strategic Work Plans of previous GSA Boards, and provides a planning document for this and future years.

#### Our Vision and Mission:

To advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and the Alberta Government for a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.

The GSA Board’s Strategic Work Plan is available at: [http://gsa.ualberta.ca/SWP.aspx](http://gsa.ualberta.ca/SWP.aspx)
### Authority of GSA Council:

*Post-Secondary Learning Act:*

95(2)d: “The council of a student organization may make bylaws governing ... the calling of meetings of the council and the quorum and conduct of business at those meetings.”

| Composition of GSA Council | As set out in Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.2.1, GSA Council is comprised of the following:
|                           | • “All Directly-Elected Officers as voting members,
|                           | • All Council-Elected Officers and Deputies as non-voting members,
|                           | • One (1) graduate student elected from each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University that offers a graduate program (Departmental Councillors) as voting members,
|                           | • Ten (10) Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as voting member, and
|                           | • The GSA Directors as non-voting members.”
| Meetings of GSA Council   | The Speaker of GSA Council sets the meeting dates annually. GSA Council normally meets monthly on Mondays at 6:00 pm. If lacking sufficient agenda items, up to two (2) meetings may be cancelled at the discretion of the Speaker and President – but never two (2) sequential meetings.
| Dates and Times           | GSA Council meetings are attended by GSA Council members, GSA management, staff and invited guests. Members of the public are required to sign in with the Speaker and will be given a guest placard. They may not speak or vote. GSA Council may choose to close meetings by a simple majority vote, in which case only GSA Council members and GSA staff may attend; others require a GSA Council vote.
| Attendance                | Special meetings have specific and limited agendas and may be called when important matters arise for decision either between regular meetings or at a time when pressure of business would not allow them to be adequately disposed of at a scheduled meeting. Provisions governing scheduled meetings shall apply to special meetings. With reasonable notice (when possible five (5) working days (“Working Day” means a day the GSA office is open)), special meetings may be called by the Speaker following receipt of any of the following (as set out in Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.3.2):
| Closed Meetings           | • “A Motion of GSA Council at any GSA Council meeting,
|                           | • A Motion of the GSA Board,
|                           | • A petition signed by ten (10) or more members of GSA Council, to be received by the GSA Board, or
|                           | • A petition signed by at least one hundred (100) Members of the GSA.”
| Special Meetings          | Quorum for any GSA Council meeting shall consist of thirty (30) voting members of GSA Council.
| Quorum                    | The GSA Executive Director will assign a manager as the Coordinator of GSA Council and a staff member as Recording Secretary to GSA Council.
| GSA Council Coordinator   | The GSA Executive Director will assign a manager as the Coordinator of GSA Council and a staff member as Recording Secretary to GSA Council.
| and Recording Secretary   | Normal Agenda Template
|                           | I: Approval of Agenda
|                           | II: Approval of Minutes

Questions about GSA Council can be addressed to the GSA Speaker at gsa.speaker@ualberta.ca

Questions about the GSA can be addressed to the GSA at gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca
### Agenda

**Agenda Items**

III. Receiving Names of New Councillors and Introductions  
IV: Presentations and Councillor Announcements  
V: Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates  
VI: Reports from Directly-Elected Officers, GSA Committees and Management, and Questions  
VII: Question Period  
VIII: Adjournment

**Sending Agendas**

Agenda items normally come to GSA Council from the GSA Board or other GSA Standing Committees. Councillors who wish to place an item on the Agenda should contact the Speaker.

**Copies of the First Agenda Mailing**

Copies of the first Agenda mailing (ie the bulk of the agenda material) is sent to all GSA Council members at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting by the Recording Secretary to GSA Council on instruction by the Speaker. Substantive items received after this initial mailing date are added at the discretion of the Speaker. Reports for information are emailed the Friday before a Monday meeting.

**Changes to the Agenda Made at Meetings**

Changes to the Agenda made at meetings require a two-thirds majority vote of those present.

**Minutes**

GSA Council Minutes are taken by the GSA Council Recording Secretary and are circulated with the Agenda for the following meeting. Open session Minutes are posted on the GSA website. Closed session Minutes are confidential; brief notes will be taken by the Executive Director or delegate.

**Role of Speaker**

“The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.3.a). The Speaker strives to act in a neutral capacity and maintains order and decorum in GSA Council so that GSA Council can conduct its business in a fully-informed, fair fashion. If the Speaker is unable to perform any of his/her duties, the Deputy Speaker will act. If neither is available, the President will act.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance at GSA Council is governed by GSA Policy. See Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance.

**Discussion**

The Speaker regulates the flow of discussion.

**Motions**

A Motion is a formal proposal that the GSA Council take certain action. To move a Motion, the member of GSA Council is recognized by the Speaker (ie raise your hand). A Motion must be seconded; a second simply indicates that the seconder agrees that the Motion should be debated and not that the seconder necessarily favours the Motion.

**Notice of Motion**

A Notice of Motion is a written advance notice that a Motion will be presented and debated at a future meeting of GSA Council. It must be presented in time to be circulated with the first mailing of the Agenda. Contact the Speaker for details.

**Amendments to a Motion**

An amendment must be germane; that is, it must be closely related to the subject of the Motion. Friendly Amendments are those which are acceptable to the mover and seconder of the Motion being amended.

**Motion to Refer**

A Motion to Refer allows GSA Council to refer an issue to another body, usually a committee of GSA Council.

**Motion to Defer**

A Motion to Defer enables the discussion of a substantive issue to be put off to a later, specified time.
Motion to Table  A Motion to Table allows GSA Council to lay aside a Motion until some future time. This Motion is not debatable, except with respect to when the Motion will return to GSA Council.

Motion to Rescind  A Motion to Rescind allows GSA Council to cancel or stop an entire Motion that had already been adopted.

Motion to Reconsider  A Motion to Reconsider allows GSA Council to return to a Motion that has been voted on at the meeting, in an instance where new information emerges or the situation changes, allowing GSA Council to consider and vote anew, as if GSA Council had not previously voted on the Motion.

Motion to Adjourn  This Motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and requires a majority vote of those present.

GSA Council Members’ Prerogatives  Any member may ask a question for information or about the decorum of GSA Council.

Voting  Voting is by majority vote of those present unless otherwise stated. Abstentions are called for at the discretion of the Speaker.

Councillor Voting Ethics  All members of GSA Council are charged with promoting and protecting the well-being of the GSA and serving their constituents. Councillors are charged with acting ethically and rising above local interests.

Challenging the Speaker  If a member of GSA Council considers that a ruling made by the Speaker is not in order, a Councillor may appeal the Speaker’s ruling. If this happens, the Speaker will give a brief explanation of his/her ruling. After questions and debate, the Speaker then asks this question: “Is the ruling of the Speaker upheld?” A majority (or tied) vote is needed for approval of the Speaker’s ruling. If the ruling of the Speaker is overturned, the Speaker is bound to take the necessary remedial action to correct the situation.

Additional Information Based on GSA Council Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You may raise your placard to interrupt to do the following:</th>
<th>What you say:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request or provide information</td>
<td>“Point of Information”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforce the rules</td>
<td>“Point of Order”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protest a personal remark</td>
<td>“Point of Personal Privilege”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call the question (if you feel there has been a fulsome discussion and it is time to move on)</td>
<td>“Call the Question”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The GSA: An Overview

Governance

As a Member of GSA Council, you will have a good understanding of GSA governance, which will help you answer questions you may receive from your fellow graduate students or identify issues within your department with which the GSA may be able to assist.

GSA Bylaw and Policy outline the composition, activities, responsibilities, and authority of the GSA. These documents are available online, so no need to memorize them, but seeing what they include is helpful.

For more information, visit http://gsa.ualberta.ca/GoverningDocuments.aspx.

GSA ‘101s’

All graduate students are invited to participate in our GSA 101 workshops on governance and other matters, but GSA Councillors will find these particularly helpful in understanding and participating in discussions about negotiations for health and dental plans, the GSA budget, and other matters. We strongly recommend these sessions as a means to improve your confidence when you need to vote on items!

Who is on GSA Council?

GSA Council is made up of: Directly-Elected Officers, Council-Elected Officers as non-voting members, one Councillor (and their alternate(s)) from each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University that offers a graduate program; ten Councillors-at-Large; and the GSA Directors as non-voting members.

Who are the Directly-Elected Officers?

Directly-Elected Officers are elected by their fellow graduate students during the annual GSA General Elections. Their duties are outlined in GSA Bylaw and Policy, and profiles for each Officer are available on the GSA website at www.gsa.ualberta.ca.

The 2018-2019 Directly-Elected Officers are:

GSA President: Sasha van der Klein
   Email: gsa.president@ualberta.ca

GSA VP Academic: Masoud Aliramezani
   Email: gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca

GSA VP External: Zhihong Pan
   Email: gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca

GSA VP Labour: Beth Richardson
   Email: gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca

GSA VP Student Services: Fahed Elian
   Email: gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca
Who are the Council-Elected Officers?

Council-Elected Officers are elected by GSA Council to hold the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer, and Senator. Their duties are outlined in GSA Bylaw and Policy, and profiles for each Officer are available on the GSA website at www.gsa.ualberta.ca.

The 2018-2019 Council-Elected Officers are:

**Speaker:** Pranidhi Baddam  
Email: gsa.speaker@ualberta.ca

**Chief Returning Officer:** Vahid Ayan  
Email: gsa.elections@ualberta.ca

**Senator:** Ahsan Ahmed  
Email: gsa.senator@ualberta.ca

**Deputy Speaker:** Raji Chokkalingam  
Email: gsa.speaker@ualberta.ca (shared with the Speaker)

**Deputy Returning Officer:** Amritha Prasad  
Email: gsadro@ualberta.ca

Who are the GSA Directors?

The GSA Directors are members of management who work to support the Directly-Elected Officers and the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

**Executive Director:** Courtney Thomas  
Email: gsaed@ualberta.ca

**Associate Director:** Julie Tanguay  
Email: gsa.associatedirector@ualberta.ca

**Assistant Director:** Lisa Hareuther  
Email: gsaassist@ualberta.ca

**GSA Board (GSAB)**

The GSA Board is the senior administrative authority of the GSA, a power that has been delegated to it by GSA Council. The GSA Board membership consists of: the Directly-Elected Officers as the voting members; the Senator, Speaker, and Chief Returning Officer; three members of GSA Council elected by GSA Council; and the GSA Directors.

**GSA Standing Committees**

The work of the GSA is supported by the efforts of GSA Standing Committees. Each GSA Standing Committee has its own mandate, carried out by graduate student members elected by GSA Council.

You can get involved! Service on GSA Standing Committees or representing graduate students on University bodies offers great opportunities to meet other students, expand your knowledge of relevant issues, and play an active role in shaping the experience of graduate students. Current opportunities are circulated in the GSA Newsletter and posted on the GSA website.
Details about GSA Standing Committees, including mandates and compositions, are available in GSA Policy. Please visit http://gsa.ualberta.ca/GSASTandingCommittees.aspx to view a register of GSA Standing Committees and their current memberships.

**Services, Benefits, and Supports**

As a Member of GSA Council, you will have a good understanding of GSA services and supports, and can assist your fellow students with this information. Ensuring your fellow graduate students are aware of these services and events can help them make the most of their graduate school experience. Posters and other materials regarding services are distributed at GSA Council meetings for you to take back to your department.

The GSA Newsletter contains updates about resources, services, upcoming events, and other opportunities, and is circulated to all graduate students. We also encourage graduate students to follow us on our Twitter and Facebook accounts. Please visit http://gsa.ualberta.ca/Services/GSANewsletter.aspx to find out more about the GSA Newsletter.

**GSA Services and negotiated/subsidized programs include:**

- GSA Health and Dental Plan,
- Graduate Student Assistance Program,
- U-Pass,
- Mental health services (UofA),
- Graduate Ombudsperson (UofA),
- Dedicated lounge space and meeting rooms,
- Career Centre (UofA),
- Writing Resources (UofA), and
- Group-rate home and auto insurance through TDIMM.

Information on all of these services and programs is available at http://gsa.ualberta.ca/Services.aspx.

**GSA Funding**

Finances are often a concern for graduate students, and the GSA offers a number of possible funding sources, open to all GSA members who are eligible:

- **Child Care Grants** (income-based program to help offset financial demands of child care),
- **Academic Travel Grants** (funding to assist students in attending events that are directly related to their academic program),
- **Graduate Student Group Awards** (funding to assist graduate student groups with costs of seminars, guest lecturers, colloquia, and other academic events), and
- **Emergency Bursaries** (funding for students who need help due to an unforeseen emergency).

You can find the specific criteria, deadlines, and application procedures for each of these at http://gsa.ualberta.ca/Funding.aspx.

**GSA Recognition Awards**

Each year the GSA confers awards on graduate students who have distinguished themselves in the areas of research, teaching, academic achievement, leadership, and service to the University and to the wider community. The GSA also recognizes University faculty and staff members for their outstanding contribution to graduate education and acknowledges those alumni and benefactors who continue to support and champion graduate students at the University.

For a listing of the individual awards, many of which are self-nominated, as well as eligibility criteria and application information, visit http://gsa.ualberta.ca/GSAAwards.aspx.
GSA Events

The GSA hosts events for graduate students at various times of the year, and GSA Councillors are always welcome to attend and to volunteer to help at events such as:

• Social engagement events,
• Candidates’ forum near the time of the General Election,
• Orientations at the start of Fall and Winter term, and
• Awards Night (each Spring).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAS:UA</td>
<td>Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ab-GPAC</td>
<td>Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACB</td>
<td>Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEGS</td>
<td>Academically-Employed Graduate Student Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC</td>
<td>Awards Selection Committee (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGSA</td>
<td>Athabasca University Graduate Students’ Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFC</td>
<td>Budget and Finance Committee (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BoG</td>
<td>Board of Governors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Collective Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAGS</td>
<td>Canadian Association for Graduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>Canadian Alliance of Student Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAUS</td>
<td>Council of Alberta University Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGG</td>
<td>Child Care Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFB</td>
<td>Campus Food Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFLS</td>
<td>Canadian Federation of Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFUW</td>
<td>Canadian Federation of University Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSB</td>
<td>Code of Student Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>Consumer Price Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRO</td>
<td>Chief Returning Officer (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEO</td>
<td>Directly-Elected Officer (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO</td>
<td>Director of Operations (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRO</td>
<td>Deputy Returning Officer (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Executive Assistant (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB</td>
<td>Emergency Bursary (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Executive Director (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC</td>
<td>Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>Edmonton Transit Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGSR</td>
<td>Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDIAPP</td>
<td>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>General Manager (SU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFC</td>
<td>General Faculties Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td>Governance Committee (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPAC</td>
<td>Graduate Program Administrators Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSAB</td>
<td>Graduate Students’ Association Board (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAD</td>
<td>Document Retention and Destruction Policy (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSAP</td>
<td>Graduate Student Assistance Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSSF</td>
<td>Graduate Student Support Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GU15</td>
<td>Group of Graduate Student Associations from the ‘Group of Canadian Research Universities (U15)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDP</td>
<td>Health and Dental Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDPRF</td>
<td>Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>International Differential Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDF</td>
<td>Legal Defence Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRC</td>
<td>Labour Relations Committee (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRDP</td>
<td>Long Range Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIAE</td>
<td>Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNFs</td>
<td>Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM</td>
<td>Market Modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOA</td>
<td>Memorandum of Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA</td>
<td>Non-Academic Staff Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Negotiating Committee (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NoC</td>
<td>Nominating Committee (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAW</td>
<td>Physical Activity and Wellness Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDA</td>
<td>Professional Development Award (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGME</td>
<td>Post-Graduate Medical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>Principal Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIPA</td>
<td>Personal Information Protection Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSA</td>
<td>Post-Secondary Learning Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFS</td>
<td>Student Financial Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGS</td>
<td>Student Group Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SU</td>
<td>Students’ Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB</td>
<td>Students’ Union Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA</td>
<td>Teaching Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDIMM</td>
<td>TD Insurance Meloche Monnex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAPPOL</td>
<td>University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-Hall</td>
<td>University Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UHC</td>
<td>University Health Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UoC GSA</td>
<td>University of Calgary Graduate Students’ Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UoFL GSA</td>
<td>University of Lethbridge Graduate Students’ Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal bus/transit pass</td>
<td>U-PASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS</td>
<td>University Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPA</td>
<td>Vice-President Academic (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPE</td>
<td>Vice-President External (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPL</td>
<td>Vice-President Labour (GSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPSS</td>
<td>Vice-President Student Services (GSA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions about GSA Council can be addressed to the GSA Speaker at gsa.speaker@ualberta.ca
Questions about the GSA can be addressed to the GSA at gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca