IN ATTENDANCE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Fahed Elian</td>
<td>(Ag, Food &amp; Nutritional Science)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP Academic</td>
<td>Dylan Ashley</td>
<td>(Anthropology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP External</td>
<td>Marc Waddingham</td>
<td>(Biochemistry)</td>
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<td>(VP Student Services)</td>
<td>Shanawaz Mohammad</td>
<td>(Biological Science)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Speaker)</td>
<td>Chantal Labonté</td>
<td>(Biomedical Engineering)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Deputy Speaker)</td>
<td>Priyanka Maripuri</td>
<td>(Chemical &amp; Materials Engineering)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Chief Returning Officer)</td>
<td>Amritha Prasad</td>
<td>(Chemistry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Senator)</td>
<td>Alesha Reed</td>
<td>(Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal</td>
<td>(Computing Science)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Md Minhajul Islam</td>
<td>(Dentistry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Claudia Holody</td>
<td>(Digital Humanities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Osama Mohsen</td>
<td>(Drama)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Armin Norouzi Yengeje</td>
<td>(Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Kanish Patel</td>
<td>(East Asian Studies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Konstantin Tebenev</td>
<td>(Economics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Sasha van der Klein</td>
<td>(Ed Policy Studies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Speaker)</td>
<td>Speaker Pranidhi Baddam</td>
<td>(Business MBA)</td>
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Guests: Kevin Friese (Assistant Dean of Students, Health and Wellness); Janice Causgrove Dunn (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Associate Dean (Graduate Student Wellness, Policy & Governance)).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 18 November 2019 Consolidated Agenda
Members had before them the 18 November 2019 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. D Ashley MOVED; M Miazga-Rodriguez SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes from the 28 October 2019 GSA Council meeting

Members had before them the 28 October 2019 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 8 November 2019. M Miazga-Rodriguez MOVED; L Liddle SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members

New GSA Council members introduced themselves: M Monir (Electrical & Computer Engineering); P Ifeouu (Sociology); C Angel (Nursing); S Perry (Linguistics); D Gordon (Mechanical Engineering); Z Wang (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science).

ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members

This was the last meeting for M Miazga-Rodriguez (Public Health) and S van der Klein (Councillor-at-Large).

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

M Waddingham (Vice-President External) noted that the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) had developed a survey to help ab-GPAC review their communication strategies to ensure that graduate students stay informed about ab-GPAC’s work. He encouraged members to fill it out via the link included in the GSA newsletter.

Presentations

5. University of Alberta National College Health Assessment (NCHA) Data

Chantal Labonté (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item and introduced the guests, Kevin Friese (Assistant Dean of Students, Health and Wellness), and Janice Causgrove Dunn (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Associate Dean (Graduate Student Wellness, Policy & Governance)).

K Friese started by providing some background information on the NCHA survey including that the goal was to collect data on students’ health habits, behaviours, and perceptions. K Friese noted that the most recent survey had been completed in February 2019. He reported that, overall, graduate students described their general health as excellent and that a little over 50% reported their mental health as flourishing. J Causgrove Dunn noted that an important number of graduate students reported feeling overwhelmed and tired; it was also noted that these indicators had gone up from previous surveys (2013 and 2016). J Causgrove Dunn highlighted which mental health services were accessed by graduate students (most common responses were counselors, therapists, or psychologists; and university-provided health and counselling services). J Causgrove Dunn noted that she enquired about graduate students’ desire to learn more about health and wellness related topics and she noted that the data showed a significant interest of these topics from graduate students. J Causgrove Dunn also presented some results that came out of a series of focus groups hosted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) last winter. She noted that, from these, FGSR learned that graduate students experienced many stressors, the most common ones being poor student-supervisor relationships, finances, workload pressures, and isolation/loneliness. She also noted that there was a feeling that their experience was more complicated than that of undergraduate students. She also discussed FGSR’s role in graduate student mental health and their programming specifically addressing that issue, including the development of resources to improve student-supervisor relationships, PhDs onboarding events, and Fido Fridays. K Friese spoke to the role of the Dean of Students office in mental health and wellness, including developing policy, prevention efforts, and service provision.

Matters raised in discussion included, but were not limited to, statistics on physical health wellness, Indigenous graduate student participation rates in the survey (it was noted that the percentage of respondents from 2019 survey was not high enough to be representative), various pockets of funding received by the Dean of Students office to provide mental health services to students (K Friese noted that the Office of the Dean of Students was funded through the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs) and also through a $1 million grant from the Ministry of Advanced Education to provide additional mental health supports and he added that this grant has been renewed until March 2020 but beyond that funding was uncertain), how the University’s health data compared with other institutions in Alberta and in Canada (it was noted that, in...
general, the U of A was on par with other institutions in Alberta and Canada, systemic challenges with mental wellness and how to address them (it was noted that the sustainability of mental health resources was an important and ongoing conversation and that more value should be placed on prevention rather than response, including long-term change to the culture of pressure within academia), differences between international graduate students and domestic graduate students (it was noted that initial analysis showed no difference in the 2019 survey), lack of supervisory oversight (J Causgrove Dunn noted that the FGSR was aware that U of A did not have a supervisory college contrary to many other Universities in Canada and that FGSR was looking into this), ways that graduate students were engaged in developing and informing mental health and wellness programming (it was noted that graduate students were included in Community Social Work team and served on many committees related to mental health), and inclusivity of the services offered by the Office of the Dean of Students (it was noted that the services provided were tailored as much as possible and K Friese added that the University had a partnership with 211 AB to provide 24/7 resource for everyone with access to translation services in over 150 languages).

Action Items

6. GSA 2019-2020 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report
Fahed Elian (President) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the GSA 2019-2020 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

F Elian noted that the GSA 2019-2020 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report had been previously received for information by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) and the GSA Board. It was also noted that the GSA was on track overall and projecting a positive balance at the end of the fiscal year. Matters raised in discussion included (among others) the decrease in the GSA membership fee revenue (owing to a decrease in the amount of the fee approved last February) and the possible effect of decreases in revenues aside from the GSA membership fee (it was noted these would not be overly detrimental).

MOTION: That GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the GSA 2019-2020 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report. F Elian MOVED; J Fath SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously

7. Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Section K: Budget Principles and Procedures
Fahed Elian (President) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section K: Budget Principles and Procedures, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

F Elian noted that the recommended changes were to align GSA Policy with current practice with regards to unspent funds, reallocations, and variances between budget lines. There were no questions.

MOTION: That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section K: Budget Principles and Procedures, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. M Waddingham MOVED; S Mohammad SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously, I Kovalchuk abstained.

Elections

8. GSA Council Elections
Damandeep Singh (GSA Nominating Committee Member) presented the item.

Standing Committees

a. Nominees for GSA Awards Selection Committee (2 vacancies):
   Kristen Hawson (Drama)
   Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike (English and Film Studies)

b. Nominees for GSA Nominating Committee (1 vacancy):
   Shahed Taghian Dehaghani (Mechanical Engineering)
Reports

9. President
   i. President’s Report:
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, F Elian highlighted a number of topics outlined in his report, including his upcoming presentation at the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee (BRHCC) on supervisory relationships and his attendance at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference. In closing, he also noted that he, as well as representatives from the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) and Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA) attended the Students’ Union (SU) “Students Not Silent” protest against the cuts in the provincial funding for post-secondary institutions earlier that day.

   ii. GSA Board Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted.

   iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted.

   iv. GSA Governance Committee Report
   No written report at this time

10. Vice-President Academic
   i. Vice-President Academic’s Report:
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, D Ashley highlighted a number of topics outlined in his report, including his attendance at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference. He noted that he participated in a panel on mental health and that other institutions faced similar situations as the U of A.

11. Vice-President External
   i. Vice-President External’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Waddingham noted that he attended a graduate residence town hall.

   ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report
   No written report at this time.

   iii. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Report
   No written report at this time.

12. Vice-President Labour
   i. Vice-President Labour’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted.

   ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report
   No written report at this time.

13. Vice-President Student Services
   i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Labonté noted that the process of identifying a provider for the GSA Health and Dental Plan was ongoing and that GSA Council would be updated when a provider had been selected by the GSA Board.

14. Senator
   i. Senator’s Report
   No written report at this time

Prepared by F Robertson and M Toghrai for GSA Council 18 November 2019
15. **Speaker**  
   i. **Speaker’s Report**  
   No written report at this time.

16. **Chief Returning Officer**  
   i. **Chief Returning Officer’s Report**  
   No written report at this time.

17. **GSA Nominating Committee**  
   i. **GSA Nominating Committee Report**  
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition, D Singh highlighted that there are still a number of vacancies on key GSA Standing Committees, and strongly encouraged members to consider putting their names forward.

18. **GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**  
   ii. **GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report**  
   No written report at this time.

19. **GSA Management**  
   i. **Executive Director’s Report**  
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 November 2019. The report stood as submitted.

**Question Period**

20. **Written Questions**  
One written question was submitted by Collette Slevinsky, Drama Councillor:  
“*It has come to the attention of the Drama Graduate Students Society that many of our members have not yet received their funding through various scholarships and GRAs. We have entered discussions with the department around this issue and - in the interests of inter-departmental solidarity - are wondering if graduate students in other departments are experiencing similar delays and lack of clarity around graduate funding.*”

F Elian noted that the Drama department had shared their concerns with the GSA and that he had followed up on this issue with FGSR. Members raised a number of points including, among others, that students in the department of History and Classics were experiencing similar issues, as well as that the new award portal did not send out email notifications about receiving awards and that some graduate students were missing deadlines due to this. F Elian and D Ashley indicated that they would communicate these concerns to FGSR.

21. **Oral Questions**  
There were no questions.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.