Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

4 October 2018

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the presentation of the SWP to GSA Council in July.

- Over the summer months, I have been working to improve transparency around graduate student pay issues and I will continue this work into the fall (in-progress).

- I have continued advocating for individual graduate students regarding interpretation of and compliance with the Collective Agreement. In addition to responding to approximately 15 email conversations with graduate students per week, since the beginning of my term I have met with approximately 5-6 graduate students per month, to assist with more complex issues (in-progress).

- In October, I will be hosting Collective Agreement 101 information sessions for academically-employed graduate students to help spread awareness about the provisions of the Collective Agreement (in-progress).

- Through my participation in the Campus and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Working Group, we worked to solicit feedback from graduate students regarding campus safety issues and communicate these to University stakeholders through the circulation of a personal safety survey, and through arranging for the CFSS co-chairs to attend GSA Council in June. The final report from the CFSS Working Group was finalized in September and sent to the Vice-President (Finance and Administration), and Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) (completed).

- In conversations with the University concerning their work to develop a response to the new Tri-Council data research management proposals, I advocated for the protection of graduate students intellectual property rights in any new proposals (completed).

- I have continued consultations with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research regarding the supervisory training that is now required under the new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation, in order to ensure that it benefits graduate students and facilitates collegial working relationships with their supervisors (in-progress).

Additionally, in the upcoming months, I will be focused on collaborating with appropriate parties regarding hosting a spring safety event (which we may use to discuss the new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation, to parallel the work with the FGSR on supervisor training). I remain, with the support of the GSA Negotiating Team, actively involved in negotiations with the University for the new Collective Agreement; once negotiations have completed I will be following up with the University regarding their previous agreement to initiate paystub format education.

Sincerely,

Beth Richardson, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Labour