GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 16 September 2019 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Department/Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fahed Elian (President)</td>
<td>Allan Yarhmady (Biochemistry)</td>
<td>Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dylan Ashley (VP Academic)</td>
<td>Jessica Grenke (Biological Science)</td>
<td>Deanna Starr (Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association)</td>
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<td>Marc Waddingham (VP External)</td>
<td>Ashmita De (Biomedical Engineering)</td>
<td>Islam Abdelsalam; Saurabh Jingade (Internetworking)</td>
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<td>Shanawaz Mohammad (VP Labour)</td>
<td>Damandeep Singh (Business MBA)</td>
<td>Abbie Schen; Elaine Yip (Kinesiology, Sport, &amp; Recreation)</td>
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<td>Chantal Labonté (VP Student Services)</td>
<td>Ke Feng (Business PhD)</td>
<td>Julia Guy (Library &amp; Information Studies)</td>
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<td>Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)</td>
<td>Calvin Chow (Cell Biology)</td>
<td>Alexander Rice; Lex Giesbrecht (Linguistics)</td>
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<td>Amritha Prasad (Chief Returning Officer)</td>
<td>Omnath Ekambaram (Chemical &amp; Materials Engineering)</td>
<td>Nishant Agrawal (Mathematical &amp; Statistical Sciences)</td>
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<td>Reza Azadi (Deputy Returning Officer)</td>
<td>Alvaro Omaña (Chemistry)</td>
<td>Wasel-Ur Rahman (Mechanical Engineering)</td>
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<td>Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Lindsay Moore (Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders)</td>
<td>Nicole Noel (Medical Genetics)</td>
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<td>Braulio Marfil Garza (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Calvin Eng (Computing Science)</td>
<td>Cole Delyea (Medical Microbiology &amp; Immunology)</td>
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<td>Claudia Holody (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Julie Piche (Dentistry)</td>
<td>Marcus Jackson (Medicine)</td>
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<td>Osama Mohsen (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Colette Slevinsky (Drama)</td>
<td>Amber Peters (Modern Languages &amp; Cultural Studies)</td>
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<td>Ronan Noble (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Alex Sheen (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)</td>
<td>Subash Giri (Music)</td>
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<td>Kanishk Patel (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Alexandra San Diego (East Asian Studies)</td>
<td>Brittany Fedor; Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)</td>
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<td>Konstantin Tebenev (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Areej Alshammiry (Ed Policy Studies)</td>
<td>Jennifer Stevenson (Nursing)</td>
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<td>Sasha van der Klein (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Jingyang Gao (Educational Psychology)</td>
<td>Valene Cheah (Occupational Therapy)</td>
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<td>Hongbing Fan (Ag, Food &amp; Nutritional Science)</td>
<td>Jayme Wong (English &amp; Film Studies)</td>
<td>Braden Chow; Joanne Smith (Oncology)</td>
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<td>Kyla Cangiano (Anthropology)</td>
<td>Jane Allred (History &amp; Classics)</td>
<td>Matthew Benson (Ophthalmology)</td>
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Guests: Wendy Rodgers (Deputy Provost), Tyree McCrackin (Career Centre Career Advisor), Andrea Spevak (Graduate Student Internship Advisor), Shweta Sridharan (Internetworking), Kristoffer Angelo Soliven (Internetworking), Priyanka Maripuri (Medical Genetics), Arshad Khan Khalafzai (Earth and Atmospheric Science), Leigh Spanner (Political Science)

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

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

Prepared by C Thomas, L Hareuther and M Toghrai for GSA Council 16 September 2019
Approval of Agenda
1. Approval of the 16 September 2019 Consolidated Agenda
Members had before them the 16 September 2019 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. F Elian MOVED; D Singh SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
2. Minutes from the 15 July 2019 GSA Council meeting
Members had before them the 15 July 2019 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 6 July 2019. J Lai 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: C Lambert (Psychology), J Allred (History & Classics), J Chow (Philosophy), I Abdelsalam (Internetworking), C Delyea (Medical Microbiology & Immunology), S Soni (Pediatrics), A Schenk (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation), M Jackson (Medicine), C Sleivinsky (Drama), P Amusan (Psychiatry), O Ekambaram (Chemical & Materials Engineering), V Cheah (Occupational Therapy), S Jingade (Internetworking), and E Yip (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation).

   ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members
   This was the last meeting for J Lai (Human Ecology), J Stevenson (Nursing), K Solven (Internetworking), K Dhaliwal (Pediatrics), A Sheen (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences), W Rahman (Mechanical Engineering).

GSA Council Member Announcements
4. GSA Council Member Announcements
J Lai, Human Ecology Councillor, noted that the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) had developed a new Standard on Psychological Health and Safety for Post-Secondary Students (PSS Standard) and a draft was available to review and provide feedback on until 6 November 2019. You can see the instructions to review the draft here.

F Elian, President, invited graduate students to the GSA Fall Social Event on 4 October 2019 from 4 PM to 6 PM in the Winspear Room at the University Club (previously known as the Faculty Club), noting there would be games, icebreakers, prizes, and refreshments.

A Omaña, Chemistry Councillor, noted that the Science Graduate Student Association Council was holding an event on 4 October at 7 PM at The Pint.

L Moore, Communication Science and Disorder Councillor, noted that the Organization of Alberta Students in Speech was hosting a conference titled “Communication Access: Building Bridges to Participation” on 28 September. More information can be found here.

Presentations
5. Free Expression Consultation
Marc Waddingham (Vice-President External) presented the item and introduced the guest, Wendy Rodgers (Deputy Provost). W Rodgers encouraged members to submit comments to her, to M Waddingham, or via free.expression@ualberta.ca. She noted that the committee was starting consultation and was under a tight timeline imposed by the government. She added that the committee was operating under a set of principles that were listed on their website. She highlighted the difference between Canadian and American legislation on free speech; in the United States, she noted it was a paramount freedom while in Canadian legislation there was a more balanced approach with relation to other rights protected by the Charter. She added that freedom of speech could not conflict with the right to human dignity, nor with the University’s discrimination and harassment policy and safe working and learning environment policy.

GSA Council members posed a series of questions and comments including, but not limited to, how the University intended to support and protect marginalized communities (it was noted that these were particularly important communities to protect and the Advisory Group would strive to navigate the language of the policy in ways that reflect this importance, balancing the freedom of speech with the necessity of having a safe learning environment, and respect and dignity); what would happen if there was a group that could be labeled a hate group who wanted to organize an event on campus (W Rogers noted that the University also had a Space Management Policy which would be applicable in this situation and emphasized that, in Canada, freedom of expression was limited by a prohibition against by hate speech); if there had been any incident where freedom of expression was previously obstructed on campus (she noted that there was, to her knowledge, only one incident where it was disputed whether freedom of speech had been obstructed by the University); how the University intended to reconcile the...
language used by Alberta Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides in his letter to Board of Governors Chair Michael Phair, stating that “debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forwards are thought by some, or even most, to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed” with University policies against discrimination (she noted that this was a point that had came up before and was part of why the University was not simply adopting the Chicago Principles on Free Speech: activities cannot interfere with the normal functioning of the University); how freedom of expression policies were an improvement on existing frameworks (it was noted that the University did not currently have an explicit policy on freedom of expression, but rather an assumption that it was an inherent element of how the University operated); how the policy would ensure that marginalized groups and individuals, including trans identities, were protected against discrimination (it was noted that it would be a balancing act but that the University also had a policy against harassment and discrimination and that this policy would still apply); whether this policy would allow certain groups to create unsafe spaces (groups would be ask to adhere to Space Management Policy); and whether the University would take an approach similar to that of the University of Calgary wherein, in instances where graphic images were shown as part of an event, groups were obliged to display a sign warning of graphic images (W Rodgers responded that the University of Calgary had taken a very specific approach and the University was not contemplating going that route and would be relying on its Space Management Policy).

GSA Council members also shared a series of comments, including that the University needed productive and civil discourse, that the primary concern with the display of graphic images was not that they are offensive, but that they created unsafe spaces for individuals who had suffered traumas, and that the University needed to create a framework that did not disadvantage individuals with limited social capital to stand against harassment, for example.

In closing, W Rodgers noted that there would be a number of townhalls in mid-October, in addition to the previously-mentioned methods of consultation.

6. Career Centre Presentation

Chantal Labonté (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item and introduced the guests, Tyree McCrackin (Career Centre Career Advisor) and Andrea Spevak (Graduate Student Internship Advisor), noting that they had been invited to attend GSA Council to discuss career services for graduate students, and the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP).

T McCrackin thanked the GSA for its continued financial support of the Career Centre, and reported that a very large percentage of users were graduate students. He provided some statistics, including that they had two full-time staff members who were graduate students, they had seen a combined attendance of over 600 people at their events in the past year, and that the awareness of the Career Centre’s resources on campus was growing. He further reported that in January 2019, the Career Centre had launched the Accessibility Work Experience Program, which was funded by the Government of Canada’s Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities, that they were hosting a Career Days breakfast on 25 September for graduate students and postdocs, and that through the GSIP program, over 550 graduate students had received internships.

A Spevak provided more information about the GSIP, outlining that in 2015, the FGSR received a three-year grant from the provincial government to strengthen professional development opportunities for graduate students to develop transferrable skills to complement their academic experiences. She mentioned that employers found value in the GSIP through getting a connection to graduate students, and receiving administrative support. She noted that GSIP launched in 2016 with a goal of having 450 internships over the three-year funding period, and, following approval to use an additional year for the funding, they had over 550 U of A graduate students participate in GSIP within the four years of the program. She also noted that one quarter of participants were PhD students, and about half were international students, and that they had over 200 employers from over 170 distinct organizations. She emphasized that the funding for the program was ending March 2020, and that they were looking for ways to keep the program sustainable. It was noted that through the provincial government’s funding, the program currently provided wage subsidies for employers to hire graduate student interns, and that they were currently applying to different agencies for other sources of funding. She noted that there were employers participating in the program that didn’t rely on the wage subsidy, whereas other employers couldn’t even afford the wages at the subsidized rates, so they were looking at how to best serve these two types of employers. She reported that their aim was to continue posting flexible part-time and full-time internships as regular jobs, as well as increasing support for graduate students through one-on-one meetings, workshops, and resources for drafting cover letters and improving interview skills. A Spevak reported that they were currently collecting letters of support for the program from students, employers, or any other group that had benefitted from the GSIP, and requested that any statements of support could be sent to gsip@ualberta.ca.

GSA Council members posed a series of questions and comments including, but not limited to, whether the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) had conversations with the government about having more funding for professional development opportunities, or if there were any plans in-house to continue the initiative (in response, A Spevak indicated that there had been several conversations about the funding for this program); whether there had been any discussion with the government about the potential impact that GSIP ending would have on the province, or the Albertan economy (in response, A Spevak encouraged...
graduate students to have these conversations, given that their annual report expressed how successful the program had been for both employers and students; whether there were any sub-quotas for providing internship positions for each department (in response, A Spevak indicated that they worked to make sure there were a good variety of opportunities, and that the opportunities available in each department roughly matched the distribution of the actual population); given that the funding ended in March 2020, whether it would be a gradual process of letting graduate students go from their internship positions, or whether the opportunities would just end at this deadline (in response, A Spevak indicated they were slowing down on the number of internships they approved, in advance of March 2020, and if any internships were awarded in January, they would communicate with the graduate students hired for internships about the upcoming end to the funding); whether the FGSR had looked into being sponsored by alumni or other big companies to continue the GSIP (in response, A Spevak indicated FGSR had been working on this extensively); and where graduate students could access the annual reports on the GSIP (in response, A Spevak noted that the reports were located on the FGSR website, but if those interested could not find the reports, it was best to email gsip@ualberta.ca to request a copy).

Action Items:

7. **Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections and Referenda**
   Leigh Spanner (Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.

   **MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections and Section J: Referenda, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

   L Spanner noted that it was standard practice for the GSA ERC to update GSA Bylaw and Policy following the GSA General Election; this year, these changes reflected changes in campaigning methods in the face of evolving technology. There were no questions.

   **MOTION:** That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections and Section J: Referenda, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. S Mohammad **MOVED**; L Moore **SECONDED**.

   Motion **PASSED.** F Elian, D Ashley, M Waddingham, S Mohammad, and O Mohsen abstained.

8. **Changes to GSA Health and Dental Plan Coverage: Repatriation of Bodies**
   F Elian (President) presented the item.

   **MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the addition of coverage for the repatriation of bodies to the GSA Health and Dental Plan to a maximum of $10,000 within 365 days after an incident resulting in death, to begin retroactively on 1 September 2019, with the cost of the Plan to remain at $500.36/annum for 2019-2020, as approved by GSA Council on 18 March 2019.

   F Elian indicated that the proposed addition for coverage arose from an incident last spring which prompted a desire to provide additional support to the family’s of graduate students who, unfortunately, passed away while at the U of A. He noted that, following a request from the GSA, Studentcare indicated this coverage could be added to the GSA Health and Dental Plan without any increase to the Plan fee. There were no questions.

   **MOTION:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the addition of coverage for the repatriation of bodies to the GSA Health and Dental Plan to a maximum of $10,000 within 365 days after an incident resulting in death, to begin retroactively on 1 September 2019, with the cost of the Plan to remain at $500.36/annum for 2019-2020, as approved by GSA Council on 18 March 2019. F Elian **MOVED**; D Ashley **SECONDED**.

   Motion **PASSED unanimously.**

9. **Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on the GSA Health and Dental Plan**
   F (President) presented the item.

   **MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

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Prepared by C Thomas, L Hareuther and M Toghrai for GSA Council 16 September 2019
F Elian outlined that the recommended changes were to add wording to GSA Bylaw and Policy to reflect current practice, given that GSA Council approved the GSA Health and Dental Plan fee and any modifications to coverage, and that the role of the GSA Board was to provide recommendations to GSA Council on the Plan. There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. F Elian MOVED; D Singh SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

10. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Recognition Awards

F (President) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

F Elian outlined that, similar to the previous motion, the recommended changes were to place current practice into GSA Policy, such as the fact that adjudicator files were to remain confidential and that adjudication decisions were final. There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. M Waddingham MOVED; R Piazza SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Elections

11. GSA Council Elections

Nominees for Dean of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Selection Committee (1 vacancy):
Shannon Pynn (KSR)

D Damandeep Singh (GSA Nominating Committee Member) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council RATIFY Shannon Pynn (PhD Program, Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation) as the graduate student representative on the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Dean Selection Committee.

D Singh noted that the GSA was informed by the Office of the Provost that a Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Dean Selection Committee had been struck and that this committee was expected to being its work in early October 2019. In accordance with University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online, or UAPPOL, the GSA contacted the Faculty and the KSR GSS to inform them that a graduate student representative would be needed. On September 12, 2019, the KSR GSS forwarded the name of its selected graduate student representative to GSA Council for ratification. He added that the representative, Shannon Pynn, had agreed that their bio and resume be circulated to GSA Council as submitted, and it could be found on page 11.1 of the meeting materials tonight.

MOTION: That GSA Council RATIFY Shannon Pynn (PhD Program, Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation) as the graduate student representative on the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Dean Selection Committee. J Lai MOVED; D Singh SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Nominees for GSA Deputy Speaker (1 vacancy):
Arshan Khan Khalafzai (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)
Devi Priyanka Maripuri (Medical Genetics)

D Singh presented the item and introduced the nominees. He reminded GSA Council members that the nominees would each be invited to answer a series of questions from GSA Council, with himself asking the first question as a GSA NoC Chair, and then opening the floor to GSA Councillors for their questions. He asked that GSA Council members keep their questions relevant to the
position, and noted that the nominee would be given up to a maximum of five minutes to answer questions. D Singh introduced the first nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council and answer questions from GSA Council members. D Singh then introduced the second nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council and answer questions from GSA Council members.

Standing Committees

a. Nominees for GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (1 vacancy):
Maggie Cascadden (Business PhD)
Dhruvesh Patel (Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science)
Vinay Patel (Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science)

Damandeep Singh (GSA Nominating Committee Member) presented the item. Not all nominees were present and, as such, none were invited to address GSA Council.

b. Nominees for GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (2 vacancies):
Ramin Fathian (Mechanical Engineering)

Damandeep Singh (GSA Nominating Committee Member) presented the item and asked the nominee to tell GSA Council why he would like to serve on GSA ERC.

c. Nominees for GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (2 vacancies):
Wojciech Pietrasik (Biomedical Engineering)

Pranidhi Baddam (GSA Speaker) presented the item. The nominee was not present and, as such, did not address GSA Council.

Reports

12. President
i. President’s Report:
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition F Elian highlighted that he had continued focusing on student supervisory relationships, which had been a priority for the GSA for the last decade and which had been raised at the July GSA Council meeting as a common problem for graduate students across departments. He noted that student-supervisory relationships would be a standing item on the agenda of a Board of Governors (BoG) standing committee. Additionally, he noted that he and D Ashley had met with the Dean of the FGSR to raise these concerns, had included student-supervisory relationships as one of the GSA’s top priorities during a recent meeting with the University President (in addition to discussing the upcoming Michener Park closure, and minimum funding packages and stipend/tuition fees), and had also discussed this issue at-length during a recent meeting with the Provost to share graduate students’ experiences. He further noted that the FGSR was in the process of developing their new strategic work plan, and that the new Dean of the FGSR would be invited to attend the October 2019 meeting of GSA Council, and he encouraged members to raise any concerns or questions.

F Elian reported that he had attended the recent City of Edmonton Executive Committee meeting to speak to the TEC Edmonton report, and would be meeting with the Chair of TEC Edmonton’s Board of Directors to discuss how to involve graduate students in future discussions about TEC Edmonton. He also reported that to address the upcoming Michener Park closure in August 2020, the GSA would be working to strike a Michener Park Transition Advisory Committee to bring stakeholders (Michener Park Residence Association, the FGSR, Ancillary Services, University International, and the GSA) together to discuss and plan for the upcoming closure. He noted that he had also met with A Sharman, U of A Vice-President (Facilities & Operations) to discuss the potential for future projects for low income housing, and current conversations with the City about such projects.

F Elian reported that as of early August, there were four new public members on the BoG who had replaced two of the BoG members who had attended the July meeting of GSA Council. He also noted that he and M Waddingham attended the BoG retreat, where the MacKinnon Report was discussed in detail. Finally, he indicated that, in response to a question from a GSA Councillor, he had followed up with the Minister of Advanced Education on the current status of the provincial funding for the Queen Elizabeth II scholarships and the future of these scholarships, and it was confirmed that they had not been reduced or frozen, and that more information would be provided to post-secondary institutions by the end of September.

GSA Council members posed a number of questions, including but not limited to: the fact that F Elian had mentioned that he had discussed the importance of robust reporting and centralized reporting systems to address student-supervisory issues, that there was an interest in hearing more details about these conversations, and whether there was a specific committee or group of...
individuals addressing this issue within the GSA (F Elian responded that oversight of student-supervisor relationships was currently under the Provost’s Office, but that the GSA, the FGSR, the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (OSDHR), and the Dean of Students office also heard some of these issues and he added that the GSA was reaching out to these stakeholders to find out their statistics for the number of student-supervisory issues reported to them. He reported that each DEO was working to address this issue within their own portfolio, with C Labonté tackling it as an issue related to mental health and wellness, D Ashley dealing with it as the VP Academic, S Mohammad dealing with it from a safety perspective, and M Waddingham lobbying externally with government to have more clarification as to how bullying and harassment were defined in legislation); given the importance of the topic of student-supervisory relationships, whether the GSA could share the ideas that they were bringing forward to senior University administration and the BoG, and whether a committee could be established (F Elian responded that these problems were systemic and required a shift in culture at the University, and as a result it would take a long time to see change, and that he would continue to update GSA Council about conversations and progress related to this topic and he encouraged anyone with recommendations, suggestions, or awareness of effective policies and practices at other post-secondary institutions to share them with him); whether there was a cap on international tuition and whether there were any updates on proposed increases to tuition (F Elian responded that there was currently, legislatively, only a cap on domestic tuition and that the GSA would keep advocating against any potential increases to international tuition, and continue advocating that the University explore other sources of revenue, as it was anticipated that the government would decrease their funding to universities); whether F Elian could share in future any data related to student-supervisory complaints that were brought forward to the GSA (F Elian responded that he would take this into consideration); asked about the other recommendations in the MacKinnon report, such as inefficiency in spending, which would require a long-term University budget review (F Elian responded that he would be requesting that the University make their budget more transparent in meetings with the U of A Vice-President (Finance & Administration)); and whether the new BoG Chair had been invited to also attend GSA Council to answer questions, as the previous Chair had done in July (F Elian responded that the new BoG Chair had just started their term and was settling into the position, and was also dealing with acting as the Chair of the Presidential Selection Committee, and that they might be invited to attend a future meeting following the release of the provincial budget in October).

ii. GSA Board
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee
No written report at this time.

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

13. Vice-President Academic
i. Vice-President Academic’s Report:
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition D Ashley expressed his thanks to the graduate student representatives on FGSR Council for their key role in the GSA’s advocacy.

14. Vice-President External
i. Vice-President External’s Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Waddingham highlighted that the Michener Park Transition Advisory Committee was consolidating resources to benefit impacted residents and that the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) were onboarding their new Executive Director.

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

iii. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted.

15. Vice-President Labour
i. Vice-President Labour’s Report

Prepared by C Thomas, L Hareuther and M Toghrail for GSA Council 16 September 2019
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition S Mohammad noted that he was continuing to work closely with the Joint Workplace Health and Safety Committee (JWHSC), and that the GSA would be hosting a number two townhalls for Academically-Employed Graduate Students in advance of a ratification vote for the proposed Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted.

16. Vice-President Student Services
i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Labonté highlighted a current collaboration with M Waddingham to strengthen communications with departmental group executives, and noted that the current Studentcare agreement would expire in August 2020 and in response, the GSA had put out a request for proposals to student health insurance providers.

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

18. Speaker
i. Speaker’s Report
No written report at this time.

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

20. GSA Nominating Committee
i. GSA Nominating Committee Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition D Singh emphasized that there were a number of vacancies for GSA Councillors on the GSA NoC, GSA GC, and GSA ERC, and encouraged GSA Councillors to consider submitting nominations.

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

22. GSA Management
i. Executive Director’s Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 September 2019. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas reminded GSA Council members that the GSA was professionally managed and staffed and that a brief snapshot of the GSA staff could be found in her report.

Question Period

23. Written Questions
None.

24. Oral Questions
None.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.