IN ATTENDANCE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position/Name</th>
<th>Department/Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sasha van der Klein (President)</td>
<td>Brianna Greenwood (Biochemistry)</td>
<td>Chantal Labonté (Educational Psychology)</td>
<td>Albina Karpman (Nursing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masoud Aliramezani (VP Academic)</td>
<td>Ruhul Amin (Biological Sciences)</td>
<td>Nicole Jamison (Elementary Education)</td>
<td>Heather Capel (Occupational Therapy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zhikhong Pan (VP External)</td>
<td>Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)</td>
<td>Miriam Mabrouk (English &amp; Film Studies)</td>
<td>Braden Chow (Oncology)</td>
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<td>Beth Richardson (VP Labour)</td>
<td>Teddy Carter (Business MBA)</td>
<td>Bethany McMillan (History &amp; Classics)</td>
<td>Khushmol Dhaliwal (Paediatrics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fahed Elian (VP Student Services)</td>
<td>Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)</td>
<td>Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)</td>
<td>Filip Reformat (Pharmacology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)</td>
<td>Karl Roesner (Cell Biology)</td>
<td>Shweta Sridharan; Kristoffer Soliven (Internetworking)</td>
<td>Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vahid Ayan (Chief Returning Officer)</td>
<td>Nagesh Pai (Chemical &amp; Materials Engineering)</td>
<td>Janita Frantsi (Kinesiology, Sport &amp; Recreation)</td>
<td>Mattia Sorgon (Philosophy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ahsan Ahmed (Senator)</td>
<td>Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)</td>
<td>Jiaao Yu (Lab Med &amp; Pathology)</td>
<td>Yilun Wu (Physiology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahmud Amin (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Sylvester Agbo (Civil &amp; Environmental Engineering)</td>
<td>Tabatha Plesuk (Library &amp; Info Studies)</td>
<td>Daniela Gomez (Psychiatry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radhika Chakraborty (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Craig St. Jean (Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders)</td>
<td>Alexander Rice (Linguistics)</td>
<td>William Service (Psychology)</td>
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<td>Amran Howlader (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Dylan Ashley (Computing Science)</td>
<td>Michelle Michelle (Math &amp; Statistical Sciences)</td>
<td>Alexandra Loverock (Public Health)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Julie Piche (Dentistry)</td>
<td>Milad Nazarahari (Mechanical Engineering)</td>
<td>Melody Everest (Religious Studies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Woghiren (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Kenzie Gordon (Digital Humanities)</td>
<td>Nicole Noel (Medical Genetics)</td>
<td>Jared Fath (Renewable Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Woodman (Councillor-at-Large)</td>
<td>Deneh’Cho Thompson (Drama)</td>
<td>Quinten Kieser (Medical Microbiology &amp; Immunology)</td>
<td>Yicong Luo (Resources Economics &amp; Environmental Sociology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hongbing Fan (AFNS)</td>
<td>Alison Thomas (Earth &amp; Atmospheric Sciences)</td>
<td>Sabitha Rajaruban (Medicine)</td>
<td>Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Paranich (Anthropology)</td>
<td>Stefana Vukadinovich (East Asian Studies)</td>
<td>Shahnaz Shahtoosi (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies)</td>
<td>Jon Mora (Surgery)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicki Kwon (Art and Design)</td>
<td>Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)</td>
<td>Andrew Schmaus (Neuroscience)</td>
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Guests: Andrea Spevak (Graduate Student Internship Advisor, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research); Emily Marriott (Graduate Student Internship Career Advisor, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research); Colten Yamagishi (Studentcare); Kristine Wray (REES); Alaleh Boroomand (AFNS); Marc Waddingham (Biological Sciences, Councillor-at-Large nominee); Jaclyn Hutchinson (Occupational Therapy); Tara Kappo (Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association); Aziz Akbari (Accounting, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board nominee); Drhuvesh Patel (AFNS, GSA Awards Selection Committee nominee).
Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call
1. Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance

Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of the 17 September 2018 Consolidated Agenda
Members had before them the 17 September 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. K Gordon MOVED; D Ashley SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
3. Minutes from the 16 July 2018 GSA Council meeting
Members had before them the 16 July 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 7 September 2018. J Lai MOVED; A Thomas SECONDED. Motion PASSED. 1 Abstention.

Changes in GSA Council Membership
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
i. Introduction of New Councillors
This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors: S Sridharan (Internetworking); A Karpman (Nursing); T Carter (Business MBA); S Rajaruban (Medicine); A Schmaus (Neuroscience); F Reformat (Pharmacology); H Capel (Occupational Therapy); N Pai (Chemical & Materials Engineering); A Rice (Linguistics); V Ayan (Chief Returning Officer); K Dhaliwal (Paediatrics); D Thompson (Drama); B McMillan (History & Classics).

ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors
This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: A Thomas (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences); D Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large); Q Kieser (Medical Microbiology and Immunology); V Kwon (Art and Design).

Councillor Announcements
5. GSA Council Member Announcements
V Kwon invited GSA Council to attend Designing Connection in Friction, an event presented by the Art and Design Graduate Students’ Association highlighting research by graduate students. The Opening Reception will be held on 21 September from 7 PM to 10 PM at Harcourt House.

S van der Klein noted that there was a consultation on 18 September for residents of Michener Park to learn more about the closure and how they can move forward with family housing on campus and she invited graduate students living in Michener Park to attend.

Presentations
6. FGSR Graduate Student Internship Program
Masoud AliRamezani (GSA VP Academic) presented the item and introduced the guests, Andrea Spevak (Graduate Student Internship Advisor) and Emily Marriott (Graduate Student Internship Career Advisor).

The guests outlined that the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP) was a partnership between the U of A Career Centre and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). It was also noted that the Government of Alberta provided funding for professional development initiatives in 2015, and that the GSIP program started in 2016. They added that part of the program included a wage subsidy for employers to encourage them to hire graduate students, that the positions were as flexible as possible, and that employers were encouraged to post as many part-time opportunities as possible. She indicated that start and end dates for the positions were determined by the employers and the positions were posted on the Career Centre online job board. A Spevak noted that the majority of positions ran for a full 640 hours, for a duration of between 8 to 10 months, with the possibility of extension for some positions. She added that some graduate students were hired by the employers after the GSIP wage subsidy ended.

A Spevak emphasized that international students were eligible to apply for GSIP positions, but had to comply with the federal government’s 20-hour restriction for off-campus work. She indicated that the main goals for the program were to provide graduate students with professional development opportunities and the opportunity to develop transferable skills outside of
academia, while also showing employers the value of graduate degrees. She added that the program's original aim was to have 450 internships over three years, and that following a one-year extension to the government's grant, there were over 370 graduate students who had completed a GSIP internship. A Spev reported that the government's funding would end in March 2019, and that they had applied to the government to continue funding. She also noted that students had the opportunity to create their own internship through sharing information about the GSIP program with potential employers. A Spev indicated that graduate students could invite representatives from the GSIP program to present to students in their department, convey information about the GSIP to employers or their contacts, and ensure that their departments knew about the GSIP. She encouraged GSA Councillors to let them know if they could think of potential barriers that may exist for the GSIP.

GSA Council members posed a series of questions including, but not limited to, the success rate of graduate students convincing employers to establish a position through the GSIP (there was approximately a 70-80% success rate in these situations); the division of positions between Master's and Doctoral programs (about 30% of GSIP interns were PhD students and 70% were Master's students); why the government funding was only for a three-year period, given the importance of graduate student employment (the GSIP representatives were working to ensure sustainable funding for the program, but this was dependent on the government's decision regarding its professional development grant); the distribution of internships available for different programs, specifically within the arts (the GSIP was always searching for more positions in the fine arts and humanities, though business students did tend to be overrepresented as there were a larger number of employers looking for these students); and examples of the types of positions available for programs that were not research-based (within the sciences, there were positions for policy analysis and program development and, within the humanities, there were many positions focused on community engagement or program development).

Action Items

7. Approval of Changes to GSA Health and Dental Plan Coverage

Fahed Elian (GSA VP Student Services) presented the item and introduced the guest, Colten Yamagishi (Studentcare Program Manager).

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, APPROVE the addition of occupational therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan coverage for $30 per visit, up to $500 per policy year, to begin October 1, 2018, with the cost of the Plan to remain at $500.36/annum for 2018-2019, as approved by GSA Council on 19 March 2018.

F Elian reminded GSA Council that they had previously discussed adding occupational therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan coverage and noted that the GSA Board reviewed this proposal. He added that Studentcare was here to answer any questions from GSA Council members. C Yamagishi explained that including occupational therapy as a coverage element within the current GSA Health and Dental Plan could be easily done if it was something that GSA Council was interested in. He added that the inclusion of occupational therapy coverage would not change the cost of the plan for graduate students ($500.36/annum).

GSA Council members then raised a series of questions, including but not limited to, whether or not the inclusion of medical marijuana in the GSA Health and Dental Plan would be considered (this has been provided as an additional service at some other schools, for about $5/year; it was a popular trend that would likely increase in demand); the kind of services that would be covered under the occupational therapy coverage (anything provided by a registered occupational therapist); the removal of the coverage for some alternative health practitioner services and the GSA Board's discussion around this question (S van der Klein stated that the GSA Board did not recommend removal of this coverage as there was no cost benefit to the removal and services were being used by graduate students); if other universities included occupational therapy services in their coverage and, if yes, what the usage had been like (no other student associations have occupational therapy services covered in their plan; Studentcare has conducted some research on how those services were used in general and it was not very large); and whether usage can be monitored to ensure value (usage would be monitored). S van der Klein clarified that coverage could be increased without increasing the cost of the GSA Health and Dental Plan because the cost of the GSA Health and Dental Plan was currently higher than the premium with excesses being directed to the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund. She added that there may be an increase next year but fluctuations should always be expected.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, APPROVE the addition of occupational therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan coverage for $30 per visit, up to $500 per policy year, to begin October 1, 2018, with the cost of the Plan to remain at $500.36/annum for 2018-2019, as approved by GSA Council on 19 March 2018. K Gordon MOVED; M Aliramezani SECONDED.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections

Prepared by F Robertson and L Hareuther for the Council Meeting of 17 September 2018
Yilun Wu (GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.

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

S van der Klein reported that this proposal was recommended by the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). She noted that while the GSA Board (GSAB) had received the recommended changes for information, and that while GSAB members had discussed the content of the proposal that was before GSA Council, the GSA Directly-Elected Officers would abstain from voting on this motion.

Y Wu reported that the recommended changes were developed over a series of GSA ERC meetings over the spring and summer, and that while some of the changes had been prompted following feedback from the most recent general election, the GSA ERC had also conducted a significant amount of research to inform the recommended changes and many of them had been under discussion for several years. He summarized that the substantive recommended changes included the removal of some of the qualifications from the position of GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO). He highlighted the recommended removal of slates from GSA Bylaw and Policy, given that currently candidates can run as a member of a slate but cannot be elected as a slate. He outlined that candidates would no longer be permitted to distribute campaign materials through moderated mailing lists, and that candidates would only be permitted to email their personal contacts. He added that the GSA ERC had proposed this change to reduce complaints from graduate students about receiving spam, as well as removing unfair advantages for any candidates who had access to departmental or student group email lists that were not accessible to all candidates. Y Wu reported that the GSA ERC recommended that all campaign printing be done through SUBPrint, in order to ensure candidates were paying the same rates for printing. Additionally, he noted that the current section of GSA Bylaw and Policy which prohibited candidates from campaigning in their own lab or office spaces if they required swipe card access was proposed to be removed, given that it was unfair that candidates could not campaign in spaces where their colleagues are located. Finally, Y Wu emphasized that the recommended changes include a new section that outlines the elements that candidates would be required to submit when bringing forward any alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy.

GSA Council members then posed a series of questions and made a few comments including, but not limited to whether graduate students not running in a general election, but supporting candidates who were running, would be able to send campaign materials to moderated mailing lists (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, any graduate student promoting a candidate was considered a campaign volunteer, and was required to act in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, and candidates were responsible for ensuring their volunteers complied with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections); the request that all current qualifications for the CRO position be included in the position description when it was advertised even if the qualifications were removed from GSA Bylaw and Policy to help candidates and facilitate voting for GSA Council members; whether the section on complaints that outlines that the GSA CRO, in consultation with the GSA ERC, could dismiss a complaint if it was unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious, meant that the decision was reached through consensus (the GSA CRO served as a non-voting member of the GSA ERC and brought these issues forward to the GSA ERC to gather their feedback, but ultimately, the GSA CRO made the final decision); whether the GSA CRO was required to provide their reasons if they choose to dismiss a complaint (it was emphasized that candidates had the ability to appeal the decision of a CRO through the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board); what would happen if SUBPrint printing services were not available during the campaign period (this issue would be brought forward to the GSA ERC and they would determine how to move forward during that general election); whether with the removal of moderated mailing lists, candidates would still have effective ways to communicate with graduate students in their faculty and whether they would still be able to facilitate communication with the general graduate student population (the GSA ERC had discussed this matter at-length during their meetings, and ultimately decided that the benefits of banning the use of moderated mailing lists outweighed the costs, given that the current regulations around mailing lists were difficult to enforce, and some candidates had unfair access to moderated mailing lists that were not available to all candidates; candidates would still be able to use social media platforms to campaign, and candidates would still be able to send emails to personal contacts, though not through moderated mailing lists).

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, APPROVE the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy. J Lai MOVED; Y Wu SECONDED.

Motion PASSED. Five Abstentions (S van der Klein, M Aliramezani, Z Pan, B Richardson, and F Elian).

**Elections**

Prepared by F Robertson and L Hareuther for the Council Meeting of 17 September 2018
9. GSA Council Elections

K Gordon (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item and introduced the nominees, who were given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate for GSA Councillor-at-Large and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: “Please tell us why you’d like to serve as GSA Councillor-at-Large.”

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:
Marc Waddingham (Biological Sciences)

K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate for the Dean of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences Review Committee and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: “This committee is tasked with reviewing the current Dean for the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences. Taking 45 seconds, please tell us, in your opinion, what the current issues in your department are that the Dean should continue to address, particularly with respect to graduate students?”

Nominees for the Dean of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences Review Committee:
Mousum Dhar (Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science)
Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)
Yicong Luo (REES)
Autumn Watkinson (Renewable Resources)

GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (2 vacancies)

K Gordon (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item and introduced the nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: “Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.”

Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board:
Aziz Akbari (Accounting)

b. GSA Awards Selection Committee (6 vacancies)

Nominee for GSA Awards Selection Committee:
Thomas Cam (Electrical & Computer Engineering)
Wenhui Li (Medicine)
Dhruvesh Patel (AFNS)
Mukt Patel (Surgery)
Wojciech Pietrasik (Biomedical Engineering)

c. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (2 vacancies)

K Gordon presented the item and introduced the nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: “Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.”

Nominee for GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:
Rehan Pradhan (AFNS)

10. Reports

i. President’s Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S van der Klein stated that the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA) was hosting a Research Day on 24 October, and that this was the first year that the GSA was contributing to this event. As a result, graduate students were able to submit an abstract for a short talk or a poster, and there would be prizes available. She encouraged GSA Council members to check the GSA Newsletter for more information, and noted that the registration deadline was 17 October.
ii. GSA Board
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee
No meetings this reporting period.

iv. GSA Governance Committee
No meetings this reporting period.

11. Vice-President Academic
i. Vice-President Academic’s Report:
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted.

12. Vice-President External
i. Vice-President External’s Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, Z Pan stated that on the evening of 20 September there would be a second consultation for students who parent to discuss their needs. He encouraged all student parents to attend this consultation session, and noted that more details about the session could be found in his report.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee
No meetings this reporting period.

13. Vice-President Labour
i. Vice-President Labour’s Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Richardson stated that the Community Social Work team was looking to get feedback from teaching assistants regarding supports for first year students. She also emphasized that academically-employed graduate students would be receiving a labour newsletter communication.

ii. GSA Negotiating Committee
No meetings this reporting period.

iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee
No meetings this reporting period.

14. Vice-President Student Services
i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, F Elian stated that his report included an overview of 211, which was an online crisis service, available in more than 150 languages. He also encouraged GSA Council members to attend the upcoming GSA Fall Social event on 4 October. A GSA Councillor asked for more details regarding the recent Board of Governor’s retreat, specifically whether F Elian and S van der Klein had experienced success in discussions around student/supervisor issues and power imbalances (it was noted that there was a general discussion about the fact that these types of issues were present within all post-secondary institutions, and that the current conversations were aimed at emphasizing that the U of A needed to be a leader in this area; FGSR was currently working on a Supervisory Guide that had the potential to become a policy document in the future). B Richardson added that the collective agreement outlines that academically-employed graduate students have the right to work in an environment free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination. She encouraged GSA Councillors to inform their colleagues that they could contact her to discuss any issues, and at any stage, and in response to comments regarding the culture of fear that was sometimes present within departments or student/supervisor relationships, she emphasized that all of her meetings with graduate students were kept confidential, and that she did not share any information unless a graduate student provides their permission for her to do so.

15. Senator
i. Senator’s Report
No written report.

16. Speaker
   i. Speaker’s Report
   No written report.

17. Chief Returning Officer
   i. Chief Returning Officer’s Report
   No written report.

18. GSA Nominating Committee
   i. GSA Nominating Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, K Gordon stated that there were some current vacancies, including the position of GSA Deputy Speaker, and positions on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. D Smirnow shared her positive experiencing serving on the GSA Budget and Finance Committee.

19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
   ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted.

20. GSA Management
   i. Executive Director’s Report
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas noted that the GSA Budget and Finance Committee would soon begin the budget building process for 2019-2020. She reported that the GSA had just completed over 45 departmental and unit orientations, and thanked the GSA Outreach Coordinator for her work to coordinate these orientations.

Question Period

21. Written Questions
   No questions were submitted.

22. Oral Questions
   No questions were raised.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.