GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE (GSA CAL) (SEVEN (7) POSITION FOR GSA COUNCILLOR): SIX (6) NOMINEES

Information regarding the position for seven (7) Councillor-at-Large positions was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 3 April 2020 and 9 April 2020 with a nomination deadline of 15 April 2020. Six (6) nominations were received.

GSA Council is the highest governing body of the GSA and is composed of the GSA President and Vice-Presidents, other elected officials of the GSA, one representative for each unit with a graduate program, and ten (10) GSA Councillors-at-Large. As noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, “the mandate of the GSA Council is to fulfill all responsibilities listed in Section 95 of the Post-Secondary Learning Act” (Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.1.1).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 20 April 2020 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 20 April 2020 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 20 April 2020 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.

1. Paramita Chaudhuri Basu (Business - MBA)
2. Nadia Daniel (Medicine)
3. Rakshith Reddy Gopu (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
4. Tejasai Kommanapalli (Mechanical Engineering)
5. Yashita Singh (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
6. Muhammad Zubair (Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science)

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.15.3
“In the event that any CAL positions are not filled by the end of the GSA General Election, or a CAL position is vacated, GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs prior to 1 December (or the next working day). When electing any remaining CALs, GSA Council will aim to elect GSA members from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one (1) or more names to GSA Council for consideration, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement.”

The name and biography received for the six (6) nominees is BELOW on pages 9.1-9.6.

The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited). Please note that nominee Nadia Daniel currently serves on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB); as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, CALs are not ineligible to serve on the GSA ACB and, accordingly, N Daniel has indicated that she will resign from the GSA ACB if elected as a CAL.
1. **Paramita Chaudhuri Basu**

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<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
<th>Dean of Student’s Advisory Committee (October 2019-March 2020)</th>
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**Statement of Interest:**
I have past experience of serving as a strategic planner on governance committees as an Assistant Professor in Presidency University, India. As an academic staff, I was also the Departmental Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Life Sciences, and in that role, assisted the Departmental Chair with student affairs. I have also served as faculty member for coordinating general student elections in the university. This past year, I was also a student member of the Dean of Student’s Advisory Committee. With my diverse leadership experience, I can assist the GSA Council to manage the student affairs of the university. Through these experiences, I have also developed vital transferable skills like critical thinking, problem solving, strategizing and building action plans. Besides, I’m extremely collaborative and curious, and raise important questions during committee meetings. These skills will be an asset which I can employ as a member of the GSA Council. Furthermore, I am passionate about improving students’ experiences on campus, which aligns with the mandate of the GSA Board’s Strategic Work Plan.

**Bio:**
I was born in India and completed my Ph.D. in biochemistry from Jadavpur University (2008). I am fluent in three languages- English, Bengali, and Hindi. I moved to Edmonton for my postdoctoral studies at the U of A in 2008. I worked at the Department of Biological Sciences and subsequently at the Department of Biochemistry till 2013. While at the U of A, I was the Cultural Secretary for the Edmonton Bengali Association, a registered organization aimed at Indo-Canadian cultural exchange. I completed my postdoc and moved back to India with a faculty position in the Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University (2013). I visited the U of A for a short sabbatical in 2015, when I also taught as a guest lecturer at the Department of Biochemistry. Around the same time, I completed the Graduate Teaching and Learning program from the FGSR, U of A. I worked as an academic staff for six years and moved back to Canada in 2019. I am currently enrolled in the Full-time MBA program at the School of Business, U of A and expect to graduate in spring 2021.

**Summary Resume:**
Throughout my student and professional life, I have served in different leadership roles. As a Full-time MBA student in the last year, I volunteered with the Net Impact Edmonton Chapter as a pro-bono consultant and assisted a student-led not-for-profit organization develop their strategic plan (November 2019- April 2020). I helped them with a mental health awareness campaign. I also volunteered with the Dean of Student’s Advisory Committee, where I assisted to enhance the overall student experience at the U of A by discussing on topics related to tuition and budget cuts, student’s mental health, affordable
and nutritious food sources, and many other issues (October 2019- March 2020). As a faculty, I was the departmental student coordinator and was the first point of contact for managing student outreach programs (2017- 2019). As a Ph.D. student, I was a founding member of the Graduate Student’s Association of the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and advocated for different student issues related to funding, institute housing and safety (2004- 2005). I do not have any registered classes for Monday when the GSA Council meets and so, should be free to attend meetings.

2. **Nadia Daniel**

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<th><strong>GSA - ACB</strong></th>
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**Statement of Interest:**
The skills I have gained from my volunteer work at the Trent's student unions during my undergrad and the national Food Bank, will benefit the advocacy work the FGSR Council does. I'm exceptionally experienced at conflict resolution, which would serve as an asset as member of this committee. Furthermore, I'm passionate about the quality of graduate student supervision something that aligns with the mandate of this committee.

**Bio:**
I was born in the Netherlands and raised in Aruba. My mother is from Aruba and my dad from Curacao, so I am also fluent in Papiamento and Spanish besides Dutch and English. After a BSc degree in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Trent University (2009), I studied at the University of Leiden and attained a MSc (2015) in Biomedical Sciences. While I studied at Trent, I was part of multiple student unions and was part of the varsity team Trent Excalibur. While in Leiden I did not engage in any extra-curricular activities, but I worked part-time a several pharmaceutical companies to gain work experience. Here at the UofA, I am the event coordinator of the Science to Business Network and I organize all social events for the Alberta Respiratory Centre (ARC lab). I also volunteered with Santa Anonymous last year.

**Summary Resume:**
I am now a second-year PhD student in the Department of Medicine studying the effect of barrier function on airway epithelial cells. I work in Dr. Vliagoftis's lab as part of ARC lab, which is a multidisciplinary team. Between my MSc and my PhD, I worked as a research assistant at Queens University at the department of Biomedical Science. I started my PhD in the Fall of 2018. I am currently completing my last course to fulfill my PhD requirements and my schedule is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a busy committee and attend both the FGSR Council and Caucus Meetings.

3. **Gopu Rakshith Reddy**
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**Statement of Interest:**
By giving people the power to share, we're making the world more transparent" a quote by Mark Zukerberg inspires me and uplift my confidence to give my best. During my undergrad, I have served as the "President of the Center for Digital Innovation cell" and "Secretary of Skills Club". In these roles, I acted as a facilitator between the College administration and students and played a significant role in implementing various student benefit programs. This opportunity provided me valuable insights of Leadership especially in terms of mentoring students based on their area of interest .It provided me a real time experience and paved the way in developing my skills and abilities required for my career choice . In a nutshell, I have gained Leadership skills, Team-Building, Project Management, and communication skills. Furthermore, my will to build a better graduate community combined with my skills and experience would be an asset to the committee. I am aware of GSA motive to spread awareness, fill the gap between students and administration . I believe that GSA's values align perfectly with my career goals.

**Bio:**
I am Rakshith from Warangal, India. I have moved to hyderabad for my undergraduate studies . As an undergrad i have developed a sense of "work to make an impact on people's life". The ability of Technology to change people's life made me to develop a passion for Technology. During my undergraduate studies in Electronics and Communication Engineering i had a great exposure to technological and industrial advancements which inspired me to come up with new projects to solve real-time problems. As a result, combining my creative as well as technical skills I have developed projects like"VAEA"(Virtual Agri Environmental Analyzer) and "E-Vruksh" an intelligent device to tackle pollution in metropolitan cities. Later i started participating in inter-college and national level technical events and has been awarded the winner of national level hackathon conducted at IIT Hyderabad. Turning imagination to innovation was the best part in my college days. Remembering the day i was awarded as one of the innovative student in college brings in me, the zeal to learn endlessly creating a positive impact on society.

**Summary Resume:**
I am presently pursuing masters in Software Engineering and Intelligent systems at the University Of Alberta. I have completed my Undergraduate course specialized in Electronics and Communication Engineering(2015-2019). I have been the President of Center for Digital Innovation Cell for about 1 year during my undergraduate study. It was a platform for students to innovate new products and build startup's. My contribution improved the coding literacy by 42%, improved Innovation of Prototypes by 26%. I have also introduced Investor pitch theme which motivated students to build their own products and startup's. I won in a National Level Technical Hackathon conducted by IIT Hyderabad. Also been the champions in IDEATION FEST conducted by Wadhvani Foundation.I have worked as an event organizer for AAGAMA - a national level fest and as a volunteer for alumni meet. Accepting challenges and working towards the mission of
the student committee proved my skills as an organizer and volunteer. Platforms like GSA require commitment towards work and contribution, and I assure you this commitment. By being an active member of GSA council, I will strive to build a better community for graduate students.

4. Tejasai Kommanapalli

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**Statement of Interest**

The skills I’ve gained from my work/volunteer experience at National Service Scheme as a department coordinator for all the students in my department & I served as a Board member for the Institution of Engineers India on behalf of my Mechanical Engineering Department during my Bachelors in India will benefit the work this committee does. I’m exceptionally experienced at managing the tasks as well as work schedules assigned to me & communicate with all fellow committee/teammates for the growth and benefit of the organization which would serve as an asset as a member of this committee. Furthermore, I’m passionate about achieving goals, something that aligns with the mandate of this committee.

**Bio**

I was born in India, Visakhapatnam City. I had done my bachelor’s in mechanical engineering at GITAM (2018) & I am here at University of Alberta for my master’s in engineering management as it has most of the courses related to Industrial Engineering. I was passionate & crazy about aircrafts and their production which led me to Canada for my masters at UofA. During my bachelor’s & Higher secondary studies I was into various committees for the overall achievement of my department. I was into many extra-curricular activities like Badminton tournaments, arranging inter-departmental fests etc. I have travelled almost every part of India & I am a Wanderlust.

**Summary Resume**

I am now a first-year master’s student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering studying the in-depth knowledge on Industrial & Production Engineering. Between my undergraduate degree and my MEng, I worked as a Graduate engineer Trainee in India for the Hindustan Petroleum, returning to Alberta in 2019 to begin my Masters. I would be free apart from my class schedules for meetings.

5. Yashita Singh
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<td><strong>Statement of Interest:</strong></td>
<td>I’ve always wanted to be a part of a governing body that represents student and helps them during their academic journey. I want the student voice to be heard. The skills I learnt from my undergrad back in my country (India) has helped me establish and flourish so far. I’ve learnt to manage my time to be given to the tasks given to me, to organize events for student welfare, setup camps and have volunteering not just for myself but for the other people who wish to contribute to the society alongside the art of public speaking. I believe these skills that I got from my experience will help me be a progressive part of the GSA. Being a grad student myself, I can understand the challenges and situations that come across a grad student’s way and I’d like to work on that for the collective progress of everyone affiliated with this institution.</td>
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<td><strong>Bio:</strong></td>
<td>I was born and raised in Chandigarh, India. My mother is a home-maker while my father is a civil engineer. My sister lives in Toronto, who is an electrical engineer and is working with a bank. After my high school, I decided to pursue a healthcare related field and hence I started my Bachelor’s in Pharmacy from Panjab University in 2015. I’ve always had the dream of studying in Canada and likewise, after the completion of my Bachelor’s, I started my Master’s in Science with the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Fall 2019. My undergrad journey was fun as I was exposed to different kinds of situations and opportunities which not only helped me build my CV but also gave me a sense of responsibility. I got chance to volunteer for the students and the public as a whole.</td>
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<td><strong>Summary Resume:</strong></td>
<td>I am a grad student in the first year of the program with the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. I’m currently working on my thesis project that is to work on the therapeutic drug monitoring of a drug called Mycophenolic acid which is used by the renal transplant patients. I will be monitoring its level in plasma as well as clinical samples and then analyze them with various approaches and one of them includes the use of dried blood spots which can prove to be an asset for biological screening of transplant patients in the coming future. I have some volunteering experience as explained above, which will surely help me hold my responsibilities and carry out my duties as a representative of GSA. I assure that I will always be present in the meetings conducted by the GSA. I hope to be a part of GSA one day and be successful in performing my duties.</td>
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6. Muhammad Zubair
Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAAlberta) | N/A
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**Statement of Interest:**
The skills I have gained from my volunteer experience at ALES/GSA president 2015-2016 will make a good fit to work as a GSA Councilor at Large. I am exceptionally experienced as a Graduate Student Representative for Department Council for the year of 2015- 2016 which would serve as an asset for this position.

**Bio:**
I was born in small village of central Punjab and raised in a city of Vehari which is one of the districts of southern Punjab, Pakistan. I joined Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, for my Bachelor of Science (Chemistry) in 2002. After completing my undergraduate studies in 2007, I have started my Master of Philosophy in Organic Chemistry at Department of Chemistry, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan. I won Junior Research Fellowship at HEJ research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi in 2nd year of my Master. During my university life, I was student representative at various levels. I was also skipper of cricket team from my department side and participated in various quiz competitions. I have completed 18 years of education (Organic Chemistry) in 2009. In 2010, I selected as an Assistant Director (Research) through provincial competition in Environment Protection Department. I worked there for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of the environment for the prevention and control of the pollution and promotion of sustainable development. Furthermore, I promoted public education and awareness of environmental issues through seminars and workshops. I joined university of Alberta for my Master in Bio-resource Technology at AFNS in May 2014. I worked as an ALES- GSA President and Department Council Representative for the year of 2015-2016. I also worked as a volunteer in green team (joint venture of city of Edmonton and CARY Edmonton) to develop community awareness about environment and sustainability during 2014- 2015.

**Summary Resume:**
Currently, I am a 3rd year Ph.D. (Bio-resource Technology) student in AFNS. My research focus is to develop the keratin derived adsorbent for water purification. I am looking for the position of GSA Councillor at Large. I do not claim about my perfection, but I think my work experience will surely help me to understand and manage the responsibilities that will be assigned to me, if selected for this position.