GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC) (TWO (2) POSITIONS):
FOUR (4) NOMINEES

Information regarding the positions for two (2) graduate students was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 10 October 2018. Four (4) nominations were received.

The GSA ASC is “responsible for selecting the recipients of the GSA Council-approved GSA Recognition Awards and the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee, Section O.POL.5.1).

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 15 October 2018 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 October 2018, 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. Abubakar Sadiq Abdulkadir (History and Classics)
2. Brent Constantine (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)
3. Prashanth Karupothula (Mechanical Engineering)
4. Ambuj Punia (Mechanical Engineering)

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee, Section O.POL.3.3
“A minimum of eight (8) and up to twelve (12) graduate student members elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA ASC Chair, in consultation with the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of graduate student members on the GSA ASC.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.3.1.a
“The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees to fill vacancies on GSA Standing Committees, ad hoc committees, and subcommittees, unless otherwise noted. All vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement.”

The names and biographies received for the four (4) nominees are BELOW on pages 11.10 - 11.14. The biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).
Nomination for GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)  
(2 Vacancies for Graduate Students)  
Four (4) Nominees

1. Abubakar Sadiq Abulkadir

| Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta) | N/A |

**Statement of Interest**

I have won several awards and scholarships. These awards and scholarships include Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, State of Kuwait Scholarship for Islamic Studies (University of Alberta), Lisa Maskell PhD Fellowship (Gerda-Henkel Stiftung, Germany - declined), National Institute of Humanities and Social Science (NIHSS) and CODESRIA PhD Fellowship (South Africa - Declined), National Research Foundation Innovation Masters Scholarship (South Africa). I have also won the Dean of Humanities Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Chancellor's Medal for Most Meritorious Master's Study both at the University of Johannesburg. All of these awards and scholarships were as a result of my academic standing. Furthermore, the scholarships are proofs of sound and well-prepared applications. I believe that the processes of putting together successful scholarship and grant applications have given me ample knowledge and the requisite skills and experience needed to make me a suitable candidate to occupy a position that reviews and adjudicates awards.

**Bio**

Born and raised in Nigeria, Abubakar obtained an Advanced Diploma in Arabic in Damascus, BA (Hons) and MA degrees in Semitic Languages and Cultures from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He is presently a PhD student in the Department of History and Classics. His research project is on the use of poetry as a medium of intellectual expression. He worked as a researcher in the Department of Religious Studies and the Toumbouctu Manuscripts Project - Institute of Humanities for Africa, both at the University of Cape Town. While studying for his BA and MA, he volunteered in teaching Arabic and translating voluminous texts of Qur'an exegesis and Islamic jurisprudence for graduate students in his former department of Religion Studies at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He has also taught courses on History and Religion at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Presently, Abubakar teaches beginner and advanced levels texts of Arabic literature in a volunteer capacity. At the UofA, Abubakar is a member of the History and Classics Truth and Reconciliation Commission (HCTRC) Committee. Abubakar speaks, writes and understands several languages such as Igala, Arabic, Wolof, Hausa and Yoruba and has travelled extensively.
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<td>I obtained a diploma and degrees in the field of language. I have worked as a researcher on ancient manuscripts at different research institutes such as the Institute of Humanities for Africa (HUMA), Cape Town. I have also worked and collaborated with students and scholars in History, Religious Studies and African Studies in different parts of the world such as South Africa, Germany, and United States. My research collaboration, intellectual support and contributions have resulted in publication of articles and books. I have translated and still translate classical Arabic texts. I have taught in South Africa and still teach Arabic language to students in Canada in a volunteer capacity. I have supported scholars in analyzing and examining scholarly Arabic manuscripts from the great libraries of Timbuktu and other parts of West Africa. After successfully winning several scholarships and awards, I have become a go-to person in guiding students the rudiments of writing scholarship/grants proposals. Some of them have successfully won some important scholarships. I hope that the above are relevant and useful 'recipes' for membership of the GSA Awards Selection Committee.</td>
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2. Brent Constantin

| Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta) | N/A |

**Statement of Interest**

I have an interest and background in post-secondary governance as well as not-for-profits and I believe my experience may be useful to the GSA and allow me to connect with the wider school.

**Bio**

I was born in Edmonton and graduated from NAIT in 2009, spending two years as president of the Students’ Association, serving on a variety of boards (including the awards committee for three years and the election committee on my final year) as well as serving as the communications director of what was then ACTISEC (now ASEC). I finished my undergrad in communications at the University of Calgary in 2011, where I served on a number of funding boards (awards and special money allocation) as well as working with and for the student paper/radio/television and a variety of clubs positions.

**Summary Resume**

In addition to the above experience I’ve worked in post-secondary since my time at NAIT (in first-year-experience) and BCIT (Alumni and Development office). I’ve also worked in government, as a journalist and as a performer. For the past two years I’ve worked part time at UBC while opening and managing a not-for-profit theatre in Vancouver. I’m at UAlberta to complete my masters in urban planning and learn more about city development with a focus on arts development. I’d really like to help out with the GSA but, just a month into my program, I’m not sure of my complete schedule so I thought these positions might work better.
### Statement of Interest

I have been a vice president during my school days and closely associated with teachers who act as judges for cultural activities. It may not be a good requirement but I learned few skills from them. I worked as a Senior Financial Executive of the Films and media council (which constitutes four different clubs), IIT Kanpur. During this, I constantly kept in touch with different student representatives to increase student participation. I have played an active role in enhancing the interaction between different clubs and was also responsible for handling the financial assets of the council for the academic year 2013-2014. I am also a volunteer at International Student Services.

### Bio

I was born in rural part of Southern India. My mother tongue is Telugu. I have a good command in Hindi and English. I graduated with Bachelor's and Master's from IIT Kanpur. I worked at Reliance Industries Ltd. for about 1 and half year.

### Summary Resume

Currently, I am pursuing my PhD in ESDLab under the supervision of Dr. Marc Secanell Gallart. My research is focused on developing numerical tools to design efficient cooling towers. Besides my academia and work, I like to meet new people and experience new cultures. In my remaining spare time, I involve myself in reading some history books and play volley ball.
4. Ambuj Punia

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta) | NA

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<td>As a student of engineering background, I want to make sure that the fund goes to the person deserving the same. I have taken some positions as financial secretary for the organisation of a technical event during my masters and as the technical secretary for organising the technical fest during my Bachelors. The experience which I got in these events helped me in managing the allocation and organise an event better. For the present position, a student needs to have a broad overview of the technical knowledge and also the financial estimation of what is being asked for. If given a chance I would definitely prove to be an asset to the committee.</td>
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<td>I am Ambuj Punia, working as a PhD student at Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Alberta. My origin goes back to India, where I did my Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering. After my bachelors I did worked in Trident India Limited as a shift engineer for boiler erection and commissioning for a duration of above a year. With a profound interest in research I left my job and joined Indian Institute of Technology to pursue my Masters in Solar Energy Systems. After my masters, worked as a Research Assistant for a duration of 6 months at Indian Institute of Science Bangalore until I got an opportunity to start my PhD since January 2018. Apart from academics, I have an interest in playing badminton, chess and guitar. Overall, I am an honest, industrious and analytical person with an urge to learn new things at each stage of life.</td>
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<td>As of now I am working as a graduate student under prof. Marc Secanell pursuing my PhD since Jan 2018. Taking in terms of my academic potential pertaining to the current position, I have taken part in various technical fest across India and have achieved first position during my bachelors. With the analytical experience during my job I have, I can easily spot a bottleneck from where we can directly look for the solution to the problem. This type of experience can be useful in evaluating the applications. Also as the committee will be keeping in mind sustainable energy, which I am passionate about and have a masters degree in, I can give valuable feedback to the committee which will help in granting of application and funds.</td>
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