



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 5:30 PM**

**Attendees:**

Tanille Shandro, President  
 Alex Paquette, VP Academic  
 Kirsten Neprily, VP External  
 Mary Zhang, VP Finances & Services  
 Kabita Baral, VP Student Life  
 BrettC Nelson, Speaker  
 Catherine Swytink-Binnema, Clerk

**Quorum**

First Name	Last Name	DGA	Proxy
Jasper	Greysson-Wong	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	No
Cynthia	Adjekukor	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	No
Kayla	Dias	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association	Yes
Amy	Du	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association	No
Maria Laura	Sosa Ponce	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association	No
Conrad	Mielczarek	Biomedical Engineering GSA	No
Jenny	Shin	Biomedical Engineering GSA	No
Justin	Perras	Chemistry Graduate Student Association	No
Duncan	Brownsey	Chemistry Graduate Student Association	No
Bryan	Zanca	Chemistry Graduate Student Association	No
Alireza	Haji Hossein	Civil Engineering Graduate Society	Yes
Saeid	Ghasemalizadeh	Civil Engineering Graduate Society	Yes
Amit	Chaudhari	Civil Engineering Graduate Society	No
Anastasiia	Gushchina	Communication Media and Film DGA	No
Kathryn	Blair	Computational Media Design	No
Mahnaz	Booshehrian	Computational Media Design	No
Shahryar	Soltanpour	Computer Science Graduate Society	No
Navid	Akbari	Computer Science Graduate Society	No
Niloufar	Farajpour	Computer Science Graduate Society	No
Mehrsa	Ehsani	Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne	No
Andishe	Ashjari	Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne	No
Zack	Moline	Economics Graduate Association	No
Mallika	Sharma	Economics Graduate Association	No

Mahrokh	Namazi	Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA	No
Xen	Virtue	English Department Graduate Association	No
Omar	Ramadan	English Department Graduate Association	No
Adewale	Ilesanmi	Geography Graduate Students' Association	No
Md Shohug	Hossain	Geomatics Graduate Group	Yes
Megan	Mah	Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association	No
Allegra	DePasquale	Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association	No
Lukas	Sadownyk	Graduate Association of Geology and Geophysics Students	No
Apoorve	Chokshi	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Lyliam (Lili)	Jardine	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Pamela	Farrell	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Razieh	Alba	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Lisa	Taylor	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Keira	Gunn	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society	No
Madeline	Ward	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society	Yes
Kristaps	Balodis	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society	No
Jessica	Tannenbaum	History Graduate Students Union	No
Trevor	Low	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization	No
Brooke	Belanger	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization	No
Dion	Kelly	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization	No
Oscar	Tejada	Immunology Graduate Association	No
Julia	Daun	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association	No
Emma	McLaughlin	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association	Yes
Nicole	Boisvert	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association	No
Quinn	Goddard	Linguistics Graduate Students' Association	No
Peihao	Li	Masters of Pathologists' Assistant GSA	No
Rachelle	Drummond	Masters of Public Policy Students Association	No
Julia	Jachimowicz	Masters of Public Policy Students Association	No
Akposeiyifa	Ebufegha	Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association	No
Laura	Rojas	Medical Science Graduate Student Association	No
Deepak	Patel	Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA	No
Maria	Genova	Philosophy Graduate Students' Association	No
Alexander	Wentzell	Philosophy Graduate Students' Association	No
Kailyn	Stenhouse	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association	No
Pooja	Woosaree	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association	No

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Laura	Conrad	Political Science Graduate Student Association	No
Zach	Pfeifer	Political Science Graduate Student Association	No
Vincent	Yong	School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape	No
Cassie	Holmes	School of Creative and Performing Arts Graduate Society	No
Cali	Sproule	School of Creative and Performing Arts Graduate Society	No
Evangelina	Natynczyk	Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus	No
Omid	Asayesh	Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus	No
Chris	Verklan	Strategic Studies Students Consortium	No
Jordan	Arnold	Strategic Studies Students Consortium	No
Lindsey	Arkangel	Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association	No
Karina	Hincapie	Vox Condiscipulum	No
Robert	Clarke	Immunology Grad Assoc.	No
Sebastian	Castiblanco	Sustainable Energy Development	No

## April 2022 GRC Meeting Minutes

### Meeting began and online sign-in 17h31

### Territorial Acknowledgement (Brett C Nelson) 17h33

### Approval of the Agenda 17h34

Moved: Cassie Holmes

Seconded: Jessica

Discussion: NA

CARRIED (83% in favour)

### Approval of March 2022 Minutes 17h35

Moved: Rachelle Drummond

Seconded: Mahnaz

Discussion: NA

CARRIED (81% in favour)

### President and VP Academic by-election: Forum and Vote (facilitated by CRO (Kristina Miller) 17h37

- Process: Each candidate has 2 minutes to present their platforms and then they will answer questions from other candidates and the audience (candidates have 30 seconds to answer a question)
- VP Academic Role Candidate:
  - James Steele
    - restructure awards: in particular, would restructure the emergency bursary so that it gives help within days instead of students having to wait until the next pay-period
    - interdisciplinary research workshop: explaining how to do it, why it's important, and how to start it
    - create a VP Academic roundtable with representatives from each DGA

- Question: How do you plan to expand on the Peer Beyond Symposium?
  - Answer: I would add an emphasis on interdisciplinary research.
- Question: Would you do anything re the ethics review for human subjects?
  - Answer: This is one of the main reasons we want the roundtable: So that everyone from different departments can present their problems
- Question: What experience do you have with supervisor-student conflicts?
  - Answer: I have an abundance of empathy, and I have dealt with supervisor conflicts before, in previous student government roles
- Question: Given the many regulations in place surrounding bursaries/funding, do you think you can solve the problem re the bursary?
  - Answer: I want to work together with Finance, GSA, and U of C
- President Role Candidates:
  - Md Shohug Hossain
    - The pandemic has widened the existing gaps between students and has impeded the delivery of various supports
    - I want to prioritize student voices
    - I want to work with administration to provide more bursaries
    - I want to expand collaborations between the GSA and other organizations on campus, to improve supports available for students
    - I want to make the GSA better reflect all departments' perspectives
    - Question: Do you have any sort of plan to address concerns re Covid, especially for TAs?
      - Answer: Educate all students about how wearing masks is for safety. But we can't force anyone to do it.
  - Devin Limpert
    - Goals
      - development of EDI principles
      - building DGA funding
      - want to make campus a safe place and a home for students
      - “servant leadership” with putting students first
      - focus on VPs' and committee leads' priorities
      - ESG and EDI
    - Question: Your background is in business, and your platform wants to make the GSA more entrepreneurial: How do Arts, etc. and other programs fit with that entrepreneurial focus?
      - Answer: I want to destigmatize the word “entrepreneur” because entrepreneurship is about thinking outside the box and challenging things, not specifically about making money or running a business
    - Question: What concrete steps do you plan, for the principles you outlined?
      - Answer: I would work with EDI group on campus, making sure all board members have taken EDI training
    - Question: Any sort of plan to address concerns re covid, especially for TAs?
      - Answer: I would check U of C's plan and work with AVP Labour. I believe comfort is most important so that people can advocate for themselves and make the choice for themselves.
    - Question: What is your advocacy experience?
      - Answer: I have been president of my community association, so already work with the city making sure voices are heard. I worked

with Haskayne to make sure clubs worked together. I worked to get funding for my residence.

- Saaka Sulemana
  - We need to think about an inclusive approach to governance: All levels have to work together.
  - The tuition increases are concerning for all: We need to bring in advocacy groups
  - Question: Re decentralizing career centres, where will you get funding for that?
    - Answer: The Alberta government has set aside funding for the U of C, and we can position the GSA to be able to get funding for it
  - Question: What is your experience managing teams and conflict?
    - My approach to managing a past conflict was to encourage dialogue, and to let everyone go home to think about it in a shared framework, and then come back to discuss: Sometimes instead of exerting power, you want to let people come together and hear each other
  - Question: Any sort of plan to address concerns re covid, especially for TAs?
    - Answer: There are federal and provincial regulations, and the U of C has to work in line with provincial regulations. We need to push the U of C to announce early what their plan is.
  - Question: Re your platform point of increasing the minimum funding, hasn't that been done?
    - Answer: Some progress has been made, but there are still gaps: e.g., Master's students entering 3<sup>rd</sup> year, PhDs entering 5<sup>th</sup> year. U of A has been able to make progress in these places, and we can learn from them.
- Provisional Results:
  - VP Academic: James Steele
  - President: Saaka Sulemana

### **GRC Roles: Speaker, Clerk, FSC Chair, CRO (Chair) 18h17**

- Roles elected by the GRC:
  - Speaker/Judicial Board Chair
    - Chairs the GRC meetings, AGM, and any Special General Meetings, if necessary. Follows Roberts Rules of Order.
    - Liaison between the Board and GRC
    - \$100 honorarium each meeting (up to \$250/year for judicial board chair role, if applicable)
    - Convenes the Judicial Board when necessary and is a non-voting chair in meetings. Supported by the Executive Director when necessary.
    - Nominees: BrettC Nelson
  - Clerk
    - Records minutes for GRC meetings, Annual General Meeting, and Special General Meeting
    - \$100 honorarium each meeting
    - Nominees: Quinn Goddard, Niloufar Farajpour
  - Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

- Responsible for the electoral process with support from Executive Director and Governance and Services Manager
  - Administer general election, by-elections, as well as any referenda and plebiscites if necessary
  - Eligible for up to \$1500/yr honorarium
  - Nominees: Tanille Shandro
- Finance Standing Committee (FSC) Chair
  - Schedule and chair all FSC meetings, file meeting minutes, prepare agendas
  - Minimum of two oral reports to GRC every year
  - Organize financial literacy workshops
  - Eligible for up to \$900/yr honorarium
  - Nominees: Oscar Tejada
- Voting
  - Chair: BrettC Nelson
  - Clerk: Quinn Goddard
  - CRO: Tanille Shandro
  - FSC Chair: Oscar Tejada

**Swearing in of incoming Board of Directors (Chair) 18h43**

- swearing in General Election VP External, VP Student Life, VP Finance & Services

**FSC Chair 2021-2022 report (Finance Standing Committee Chair (Mahnaz Boosherhrian)) 18h48**

- FSC Highlights from past year
  - Finance 101 orientation session for committee members (by Daniella Ikurusi)
  - GSA Strategic Plan Funding (by Tanille Shandro)
  - Reviewed:
    - monthly GSA and LDL Income Statements
    - 2022-23 Proposed GSA and LDL budgets
    - ATB Investment Portfolio

- GSA Operating Budget
  - fiscal year end: March 31, 2022
  - based on approved 2021-2022 budget

	<b>Annual budget (predicted)</b>	<b>YTD March 2022 (actual)</b>
<b>operating Revenue</b>	\$1,128,098	\$1,410,979
<b>expenses</b>	-\$989,858	-\$945,407
<b>amortization</b>	-\$25,000	-\$23,203
<b>unrealized loss on investments</b>	--	-\$195,278
<b>net income before LDL consolidation</b>	\$113,240	\$247,091
<b>net income after consolidation</b>	\$240	\$158,372

- operating revenue increased because of increased enrolment and investments
  - unrealized loss: because of fluctuations of market
  - LDL: increased revenue and decreased cost, compared to expected
- Last Defense Lounge
  - closed March 2020-March 2022 and reopened April 8, 2022
  - higher actual expenses due to reopening costs

- majority of the budgeted expenses are fixed & unavoidable costs

	<b>Annual budget (predicted)</b>	<b>YTD March 2022 (actual)</b>
revenue	\$0	-\$1,245
expenses	\$72,826	\$87,474
net amount	-\$72,826	-\$88,719

- Acknowledgements
  - Committee members: Evangelina Natynczyk, Ellie Masoudi, Redwan Raalakba, Nishtha Baranwal, Ifeoma Chima, Kiarash Arbabifard, Vincent Yong, Reza Hedayati, Salman Tariq, Ayoola Ademola
  - Mary Zhang (VP Finances & Services and Co-chair)
  - Daniella Ikurusi (Director of Finance & Operations)

### **Executive & LRC Chair Reports 18h57**

- President
  - Advocacy
    - Return to Campus Plan: still advocating for clear communication on what's going to happen in the spring
      - the province is pressuring the U of C to remove regulations
      - make sure you know your rights as and employee of the university
    - Consultation Guideline for Institutional Consultation with Grad Students
  - Communication
    - GSA Email Communications
    - GRC Digest Newsletter
  - Organization Sustainability
    - Strategic Plan: We have received funding to move forward. The current Strategic Plan expires this year, so we need to move forward. We have chosen Sherry Choma and have begun this week.
      - there will be lots of chances for involvement
    - Internal EDI Audit: EDI committee has recommended a company to move forward with
    - Federal Advocacy Contingency Fund
- VP Academic
  - Advocacy
    - Minimum Funding Policy: complete
    - Flexible Grading Option Policy: complete
    - Extension Policy: complete
    - Leave of Absence Policy: complete
    - AGES and GAC: in progress
      - we have brought it forward to the ministry
      - if it gets fixed, it would go back to the way it was
  - Service Delivery & Organization Sustainability
    - GSA Awards Platform: complete
    - GSA Academic Workshops & Events: complete
    - Peer Beyond Symposium: complete
    - Student-Supervisor Brochure: complete
    - Wellness Tool Kit for TAs: in progress
      - working on helping TAs recognize when their students need help, and when they themselves need help
- VP External

- Advocacy
  - Governmental Advocacy (federal/provincial)
  - Consultation with Key Stakeholders
  - Tuition & Fees Consultations
- Communication
  - CASA Campaign
  - Showcase ab-GPAC work
  - Media Relations
  - Meet with municipal and provincial politicians
- wrapping up meetings with current politicians
- just had 4<sup>th</sup> student leaders meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, talking about current priorities
- VP Student Life
  - Advocacy
    - Mental Health Consultations: ongoing process
  - Communication: ongoing process
    - GSA Blog
    - GSA Newsletter
  - Service Delivery
    - Popular Online Events
    - SEEC & EDI committee collaborative events: over 50 events by SEEC, some in collaboration with EDI, and some in collaboration with the sustainability committee
    - Ticket Program
  - Organization Sustainability: ongoing
    - Sponsorship Package
    - Discounted Tickets
- VP Finance & Service Report
  - Service Delivery
    - H&D plan
    - Financial literacy workshops
    - Financial literacy blogs
  - Communication
    - Financial transparency
    - Annual transition reports: complete
    - Transition meetings
  - Organization Sustainability
    - Sponsorship package: developed
    - Celebrate your graduation with LDL: get a free sparkling wine when you graduate
- Labour Relations Committee (LRC) (Keira Gunn)
  - Get involved: to get involved, or for any questions/concerns about your Graduate Assistantship, contact [lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca)
    - LRC: need representatives for Engineering and for “Remaining Faculties” (this latter representative cannot be from Science, Arts, Engineering, Werklund, Cumming, Kinesiology)
    - Collective Bargaining Teams
    - Departmental Stewards
  - Upcoming changes: will talk about upcoming changes at the next meeting
    - Bill 32 and Union Dues
    - Bill X? [Keira was not sure of the number] and Representation



- Summer plans: monthly social activities sponsored by PSAC
- We have a meeting in two weeks with the U of C re reopening and TAs, etc.

### **Question Period 19h08**

- Question: Is the GRC staying online for next year?
  - Answer: Still TBD. Will be voted on in a future meeting
  - We will most likely send out a poll at the start of the Fall semester in preparation for the first GRC meeting in October for the next year. There will still be a virtual meeting for May.
- Question: Keira, is there something specific we should say to raise concerns about spring/summer for the LRC?
  - Answer: The concerns are that mask mandates will be removed. All other regulations/restrictions have “dissipated.” Contact me if you have concerns.
- Question: Keira, is the list of volunteer opportunities and ways to apply listed on the LRC website?
  - A: They should be. If not, I will fix it tomorrow
- For more questions, reach out to the execs: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/about-the-gsa/gsa-executive-board/>

### **DGA period (DGAs) 19h11**

- The Philosophy Graduate Students Association is hosting our tenth annual Philosophy Graduate Conference next week, May 4th and May 5th, 10am to 2:30pm, over Zoom.
  - Our theme this year is disagreement and dissent. We have four great talks from students external to UCalgary and two excellent keynotes.
  - You can register here: [tinyurl.com/philconference2022](https://tinyurl.com/philconference2022)
- The KGSA (Kinesiology Graduate Students' Association) is hosting their AGM this Thursday from 12:30-2:00 PM!
  - New exec team will be elected then
- World Stage Design is coming to Calgary this summer and it will be an incredible event with designers around the world alongside graduate student work!
  - <https://wsd2021.ca/>
- School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures: annual forum this Friday: <https://wpsites.ucalgary.ca/sllc-graduate-forum/program/>
- The MPPS (Master of Public Policy Students' Association) and SEDV (Sustainable Energy Development Masters program), along with the School of Public Policy are hosting an Indigenous Reconciliation forum on May 3
  - feel free to email me for the link (virtual and in person): [rachelle.drummond@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rachelle.drummond@ucalgary.ca)
- Department of Communication, Media and Film is hosting a virtual grad conference entitled Visions of Change in May
  - [news.ucalgary.ca/news/visions-change-cmf-graduate-student-conference](https://news.ucalgary.ca/news/visions-change-cmf-graduate-student-conference)

### **Announcements (All) 19h15**

- GSA Emergency Bursary & GSA Support Bursary
  - applications are accepted year-round
  - see [gsa.ucalgary.ca/financial-support/bursaries/](https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/financial-support/bursaries/) for more info
- Workshop: Window box for herbs, with Janet Melrose (Calgary Gardening expert), May 12, 5-7 pm MT, Last Defence Lounge
- for more details, see [gsa.ucalgary.ca/events/](https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/events/)

**GRC prize draw 19h16**

Three winners announced, Crystal will email winners tomorrow.

**Other business 19h17**

- Saaka Sulemana: I am honoured to be president. As we enter the post-pandemic period, I am optimistic that we can work for the good of all grad students. Thank you to all past committee members for your work. I am honoured to work with all of you moving forward.
- Ilesanmi Adewale: introduced themselves, because they are new and now represent the Geo GSA

**Adjournment 19h20**

MOTION to adjourn April 2022 GRC meeting at 19h20: Jasper Greysson-Wong

Seconded: Nicole Boisvert

CARRIED (83% in favour)