



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, March 29, 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  
 Brett Nelson, Speaker  
 Catherine Swytink-Binnema, Clerk

**Quorum**

First Name	Last Name	DGA	Proxy
Megan	Mah	Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association	No
Navid	Akbari	Computer Science Graduate Society	No
Lyliam	Jardine	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Mehrsa	Ehsani	Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne	No
Peihao	Li	Masters of Pathologists' Assistant GSA	No
Xen	Virtue	English Department Graduate Association	No
Allegra	DePasquale	Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association	No
Kellie	Cornforth	Classics and Religion DGA	No
Sydney	Burton	Classics and Religion DGA	No
Kayla	Dias	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association	Yes
jessica	tannenbaum	History Graduate Students Union	No
Trevor	Low	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization	No
Sandip	Dhaliwal	Nursing Graduate Students' Association	No
Pam	Farrell	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Nicole	Boisvert	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association	No
Laura	Conrad	Political Science Graduate Student Association	No
Maria	Genova	Philosophy Graduate Students' Association	No
Amy	Du	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association	No
Brooke	Belanger	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization	No
Isla	Shill	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association	No
Jordan	Arnold	Strategic Studies Students Consortium	No
Rhiannon	Scott	Geography Graduate Students' Association	No

Cassie	Holmes	School of Creative and Performing Arts Graduate Society	No
Justin	Perras	Chemistry Graduate Student Association	No
Seyedeh Zakieh	Mohammadi	Civil Engineering Graduate Society	No
Lisa	Taylor	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Bryan	Zanca	Chemistry Graduate Student Association	No
Omid	Asayesh	Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus	No
Duncan	Brownsey	Chemistry Graduate Student Association	No
Robert	Clarke	Immunology Graduate Association	No
Madeline	Ward	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society	No
Andishe	Ashjari	Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne	No
Omar	Ramadan	English Department Graduate Association	No
Pooja	Woosaree	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association	No
Julia	Jachimowicz	Masters of Public Policy Students Association	No
Davor	Curic	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association	No
Mallika	Sharma	Economics Graduate Association	No
Chris	Verklan	Strategic Studies Students Consortium	No
Mahrokh	Namazi	Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA	No
Dion	Kelly	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization	No
Omar	Babiker	Geomatics Graduate Group	No
Jasper	Greysson-Wong	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	No
Kristaps	Balodis	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society	No
Genevieve	Dryden	Geography Graduate Students' Association	No
Cynthia	Adjekukor	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	No
Jenny	Shin	Biomedical Engineering GSA	No
Emily	Kloppenburg	School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Razieh	Alba		No
Mina	Fahim	Community Health Sciences Student Executive	No
Monikka	Sarino	Master of Management Society	No
Kailyn	Stenhouse	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association	No
Zach	Pfeifer	Political Science Graduate Student Association	No
Daniel	Castaneda Mogollon	Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA	No
Deepak	Patel	Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA	No
Julia	Daun	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association	No
Isla	Shill	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association	No
Mallika	Sharma	Economics Graduate Association	No
Mohsen	Hassani	Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association	No
Shahryar	Soltanpour	Computer Science Graduate Society	No
Maryam	Taherinezhad	Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association	No

Shuhua	Li	Gastrointestinal Graduate Students Association	No
saeid	Ghasemalizadeh	Civil Engineering Graduate Society	No
Alexander	Wentzell	Philosophy Graduate Students' Association	No
James	Steele	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society	No
Anastasiia	Gushchina	Communication Media and Film DGA	No
Apoorve	Chokshi	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association	No
Jessica	Redlich	Masters of Public Policy Students Association	Yes
Lukas	Sadownyk	Graduate Association of Geology and Geophysics Students	No
Maria Laura	Sosa Ponce	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association	No
Karina	Hincapie	Vox Condiscipulum	No
Lindsey	Arkangel	Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association	No
Ali	Ebrahimi Emamieh	Civil Engineering Graduate Society	No
Evangelina	Natynczyk	Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus	No

## February 2022 GRC Meeting Minutes

### Meeting began and online sign-in 17h30

### Territorial Acknowledgement (Alex Paquette) 17h31

### Statement from Board of GSA Execs (Tanille Shandro) 17h33

- Acknowledges: there are many global crises and challenges occurring, and students are struggling
  - remember that everyone has challenges, and be kind to one another
  - the GSA is here to support you
  - don't hesitate to reach out to us or someone else
  - <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/mental-health/>

### Approval of the Agenda 17h35

Moved: Julia Daun

Seconded: Pam Farrell

Discussion: NA

CARRIED (83% in favour)

### Approval of February 2022 Minutes 17h36

Moved: Mahrokh Namazi

Seconded: Jasper Greysson-Wong

Discussion: NA

CARRIED (84% in favour)

### ab-GPAC presentation (Anas Fassih, Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Jacob Lamb, Brandon Simmons) 17h37

- Alberta Graduate Advocacy Council
  1. a non-partisan provincial organization representing the graduate students of Alberta's post-secondary institutions
    - represent almost 20k grad students

- currently represents students at the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Concordia University, and Athabasca University
    - in the process of trying to add University of Lethbridge
  - non-partisan: work with whichever government is in power
- 2. ab-GPAC structure:
  - Board of Directors (3 per GSA, 12 total): directed by Advocacy and Outreach Committee (8 members) and Governance Committee (3 members)
  - Executive Committee (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer): directed by Board of Directors
  - Executive Director (Brandon Simmons): directed by Executive Committee
  - Part-time Staff (e.g., summer researcher): directed by Executive Director
- Mission: to advance Alberta graduate education that is safe, accessible, valued, volitional, and meaningful
- Vision: for ab-GPAC to be a pathway for GSAs in Alberta to connect, share, and influence government and institutional decision makers on united messages
  1. among GSAs, there must be a consensus decision on what is taken to government (e.g., elected officials and MLAs), because not everything can be
- Values:
  1. Pursue unified policy agendas
  2. Politically non-partisan advocacy
  3. Respect and include our diversity
  4. Accountable to members
  5. Protective of Research Excellence
  6. Take the time to be thoughtful
  7. Learn from and leverage our diversity
  8. Be transparent and approachable
- We need to know the current political landscape in order to know how to best approach the government: E.g., the current provincial Alberta government is currently dealing with COVID-19 impacts, economic recovery, oil prices amid the energy transition, Fair Deal Panel Report (and Western alienation), large-scale federal support
  1. our priority areas:
    - tuition and funding: this has been a high priority area, for a long time
    - child-care and caregiving: to get better access, etc.
    - mental health
    - alleviating barriers to post-secondary education for indigenous students
    - international students' immigration in Alberta: international students have better opportunities to become permanent residents in other provinces after graduation, compared to in Alberta
- updates and progress
  1. joint 2022-2023 budget submission to the provincial government
  2. meetings with over 17 MLAs
  3. letters to the Minister of Advanced Education re graduate student priorities
  4. Labour Relationship report (from interviews and collective agreements from post-secondary education institutes across Canada)
  5. Building strategic plan, networking with stakeholders, preparing for GSA exec team transition
- chair@abgpac.ca, www.abgpac.ca, abGPAC on Facebook, @abGPAC on Twitter
- Anas Fassih: commends how strongly the University of Calgary GSA is involved in ab-GPAC

## 2022-2023 GSA/LDL budgets for approval (Mary Zhang) 18h01

- (details in package)
- Internally Restricted Budgets
  1. proposed/forecast changes:

	current	proposed/forecast
<b>Collective Agreement Budget</b>		
forecasted revenue	\$90k	\$100k
budgeted Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC) agreement fees	\$24,350	\$32,466
<b>Quality Money Budget</b>		
Graduate Student Group support (for DGAs, etc.)	\$40k	\$60k
administrative support allocation to reflect true cost of managing QM	\$30k	\$90k

2. Other changes include:
  - Graduate Student orientation: increased because we predict more in-person activities
  - Sustainability series: increased because it is relatively low compared to other committees
  - PDG (Professional Development Grant) Top-up: removed because it was rarely used
  - reallocation of the Graduate Citizenship Award and the Award Website expense to the Operating Budget
- Operating and LDL Budgets
  1. GSA Operating Budget:
    - GSA bursary top-up: \$30k
    - student-focused project allocation: reduced to \$2700 (because it was not actively used)
    - operating expenses budget increased to allow for in-person activities
  2. Last Defence Lounge Budget:
    - estimated annual sales revenue: \$311k (estimated as 50% of last operating year)
    - estimated cost of goods sold: \$127,374
    - annual occupancy cost: \$17,010
- Motions for Approval:
  - 1. Be it resolved that: The Graduate Representative Council (GRC) approves the 2022-2023 GSA Budgets as recommended by the Finance Standing Committee and presented by the VP Finance and Services during the February GRC meeting and included in the March meeting package.
  - 2. Be it resolved that: The Graduate Representative Council (GRC) approves the 2022-2023 LDL Budgets as recommended by the Finance Standing Committee and presented by the VP Finance and Services during the February GRC meeting and included in the March meeting package.
  - Moved: Mary Zhang
  - Seconded: Mohsen Hassani

- Discussion: NA
- Motion 1: CARRIED (60 in favour, 3 opposed, 7 abstain)

#### **Executive Reports 18h14**

- (details in package)
- President
  - reminder: the GSA execs are working for grad students, so the GRC should hold them accountable
  - Advocacy
    - Return to Campus Plan
      - institutional advocacy: We are the only institution with a mask mandate, and there is pressure to remove it. The GSA is advocating with the SU to keep the mask mandate.
        - reach out to Tanille or Kirsten if you have questions, concerns, etc.
      - The physical GSA office is open, but with reduced hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 10 am to 3 pm)
      - Some GSA employees had moved out of the province and have been working remotely. When they were called back, one resigned (the Executive Assistant), one will return by July (the Board has agreed to it), and one (the Executive Director) is still in discussion re their return to in-person duties
        - Note: Although this info regards GSA employment, nothing confidential has been shared, and confidentiality has been kept
    - Consultation Guideline for Institutional Consultation with Grad Students
      - still working with the SU
      - currently there is no guideline for how the university consults with graduate students, so there are fluctuations year to year
  - Communication
    - GSA Email Communications: complete
    - GRC Digest Newsletter: ongoing
  - Organization Sustainability
    - Strategic Plan: we have the list of possible companies, have created the budget, gotten the budget approved, and, in April, will identify the company to use
    - Internal EDI Audit: still working through choosing a company
    - Federal Advocacy Contingency Fund: these details are highly confidential (if any GRC members would like to discuss, we are happy to go to an on-camera confidential discussion)
- VP Academic
  - Advocacy
    - Minimum Funding Policy: complete
    - Flexible Grading Option Policy: complete
    - Extension Policy: complete (students are no longer forced to sign an extension)
    - Leave of Absence Policy: complete (funding is guaranteed after a leave of absence)
    - AGES and GAC: in progress

- GAC no longer will allow course-based students. We want to have awards available for them, but there is push back. We will reach out through faculties.
    - AGES only available to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year students: Currently paid out as a lump sum (because of governmental regulation). Thus, students in later years could get the award and then leave. Because of this, FGS said only early years can get it. It should be easy to get this problem fixed, and get FGS to change the policy (so that later year students can still get the award).
  - Service Delivery & Organization Sustainability
    - GSA Awards Platform: complete
    - GSA Academic Workshops & Events: complete
    - Peer Beyond Symposium: complete
    - Student-Supervisor Brochure: complete (contains resources to guide in student-supervisor relationship)
    - Wellness Tool Kit for TAs: in progress
- VP External
  - Advocacy
    - Governmental Advocacy (federal/provincial): In the past month, met with NDP David Eggen (they are the NDP “version” of the Minister of Advanced Education) and met with the Minister of Advanced Education re the release of the 2022-23 provincial budget and gave feedback on where funding for graduate students should be put
    - Consultation with Key Stakeholders
    - Tuition & Fees Consultations
  - Communication
    - CASA Campaign: pushing at the federal level for mental health supports
    - Showcase ab-GPAC work
    - Media Relations
    - Meet with municipal and provincial politicians
- VP Student Life
  - Advocacy
    - Mental Health Consultations:
      - had a lot of one-on-one consultation with graduate students
      - looked at strategies, policies, etc. to see where and how to make changes
  - Communication
    - GSA Blog
    - GSA Newsletter
  - Service Delivery
    - Popular Online Events: collectively, over 50 events
    - SEEC & EDI committee collaborative events: 5 different panel series
    - Ticket Program
  - Organization Sustainability
    - Sponsorship Package
    - Discounted Tickets
- VP Finance & Service Report
  - Service Delivery

- Studentcare Customer Service: reminder, you can always ask to speak to Manager if you are not satisfied with the customer service, or you can reach out to Mary or GSA
    - For example, if there are a number of complaints re a specific agent, the manager can be asked to remove them
  - H&D Legal Support Service
  - Sustainability Committee Styrofoam Recycle Pilot Program: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/zero-styrofoam-waste-initiative/>
  - Financial literacy workshops: The latest one ( re “Buying your first home”) was popular, and the next one is coming up
- Communication
  - GSA Budget
  - FSC Meetings
- Organization Sustainability
  - LDL Reopening: new employees have been hired, and we’ve opened part-time work opportunities for graduate students
    - the LDL will be opened in early April

### **Labour Relations Committee**

- Currently:
  - there is a massive arbitration case going on with University of Calgary
  - negotiations can be initiated at any point this year, but will likely not begin until Fall
- There are many opportunities to get involved:
  - Labour Relations Committee: beginning in May 2022, need representatives from Engineering and “Remaining Faculties” (cannot be from Science, Engineering, Arts, Werklund, Cumming, Kinesiology)
  - Departmental Stewards: currently planning next round of training for departmental stewards
  - Collective Bargaining Teams: continually looking for members to join in Data/Outreach, Steering, Negotiating (very limited space)
- If you want any more information or have questions, contact: [lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca)

### **Question Period 18h40**

- Question: What is the plan with by-election? How can interested students make themselves known to GRC members?
  - Answer: Crystal manages election along with the CRO (Chief Returning Officer). GRC representative vote in the by-election, however, it can be motioned to open it to the student body (motion requires 2/3 majority to pass). You can campaign through DGAs, etc., get them to share your info.
- Question: Do the AGES restrictions apply to this year’s awards (that were applied to in January)?
  - Answer: New AGES regulations will start in the 2022-2023 period.
- For more questions, reach out to the execs: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/about-the-gsa/gsa-executive-board/>

### **DGA period (DGAs) 18h46**

- SCPA: Alchemy 2022 festival, 20 different performances over this week and next
  - students can get tickets for free (on Claim your Seat)



- <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/creative-performing-arts/news-and-events/school-events/scpa-2021-22-season/alchemy-2022>
- Shows involving Graduate Students (use code CYSFREE to get free student tickets):
  - Clock, Clouds, and Colours: Land's End Student Composers Concert, April 2
  - Here We Go, by Caryl Churchill. Directed by Cali Sproule. March 31, April 1 & 2
  - The Man, Directed by by Stafford Perry. March 31, April 2 & 4
  - Horse Girls, by Jennifer Rachel Weiner. Directed by Randi Edmundson. April 7, 8 & 9
  - Biological, by Leanna Brodie. A reading directed by Jenna Turk. April 6, 7 & 9
  - Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Created and Directed by Cosmo Christoffersen. April 1, 4, 5 & 6

### **Announcements (All) 18h50**

- 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
- EHS (Environment, Health and Safety) Policy Changes Consultation: The University of Calgary's Executive Leadership Team Operations approved a policy development plan for revisions to the Occupational Health and Safety Policy
  - a survey link to give feedback will be sent out (filling out the survey can give a chance to win a Starbucks gift card)
- GSA by-election coming soon
  - for President role: contact Tanille ([pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca)) for info
  - for VP Academic: contact Alex ([vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca)) for info
- GRC Roles to be decided next month: GRC Speaker, GRC Clerk, Finance Standing Committee (FSC) Chair, Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
  - nominate someone, or yourself, during April GRC Meeting
  - email [governance.gsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:governance.gsa@ucalgary.ca) for info
  - details will also be in April GRC meeting package
- LDL reopening early April
- The Indigenous Academic Integrity Project: with Keeta Gladue (Writing Symbols Lodge), April 5, 12-1 pm MT, Zoom
- Will & Estate Planning: April 7, 4-5 pm MT, Zoom
- Eco-friendly workshop: Earth Day, April 13, 3-4:30 pm MT, Science Theatres SB101
  - interactive workshop to make photo frames and penholders using recycled materials
  - \$5 per person, supplied provided
- for more details, see [gsa.ucalgary.ca/events/](https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/events/)

### **GRC prize draw 18h54**

Three winners announced, Crystal will email winners tomorrow.

### **Other business 18h55**

- NA

### **Adjournment 18h56**

MOTION to adjourn March 2022 GRC meeting at 18h56: Jasper Greysson-Wong  
Seconded: Cassie Holmes  
CARRIED (90% in favour)