

Saaka Sulemana Saaka
President
pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca
October 17th - November 15th

Improving Advocacy

Objective: Have 30% of the GSA advocacy be informed by consultation and communicated to university students year over year by April 30, 2023.

Goal: **Consult with graduate beyond the GSA 2024/26 Strategic Plan.**

Explanation: We are close to producing a draft a new three-year plan, 2023-2026. It will provide a roadmap to our organization for the next three years. However, we know the needs of graduate students will continue to evolve and change. To ensure that our advocacy strategies align with these changing needs, we will continue to consult with fellow graduate students regularly.

Updates: The GSA advocacy survey is still open. Be encouraged to share your thoughts by completing the survey. This will better inform our advocacy priorities and strategies to the municipal, provincial, and federal governments. For example, internally, we have heard from several fellow graduate students on the need to improve services at the wellness centre. We have acted on such concerns and there is good news. The Wellness Centre have hired additional student-advisors for the success centre, residence, and a tenured position for an indigenous advisor (to follow soon). These are the sorts of impacts consultation can have. Also, we have spent a few weeks discussing proposed tuition and fees increases for the 2023/24 academic year. Please review the supplementary document The GSA TFCC Asks for more information (in package).

- Objective:** Achieve 70% of GSA Annual Survey respondents rate their satisfaction of the GSA Advocacy work as moderately satisfied or higher by April 30, 2022
- Goal:** **Develop a Consultation guideline for institutional consultation with graduate students about important topics**
- Explanation:** As consultation can be sometimes performative, we care continuing with a project Tanille was working on in conjunction with the Students' Union. The expectation is to develop clear guidelines that will be discussed with the institution for future consultations when discussing important topics, such as tuition, with the graduate student body and Graduate Representative Council.
- Updates:** The process for the proposed tuition and fees increases is yet another reason why we are advocating the university to work with us and the Students' Union to develop the consultation guidelines into a policy. Doing so ensures that students are adequately consulted by the university on all critical decisions and have incorporated feedback from students into the final decisions. We will continue to work with the Students' Union and Provost office to develop these key stakeholder consultation guidelines for the mutual benefit of parties

Improving Communication

- Objective:** Increase the GSA Annual Survey response rate to 20% of all enrolled graduate students by April 30, 2022.
- Goal:** **Decentralize consultation and improve relationship with fellow graduate students at the department level.**
- Explanation:** We want graduate students to take ownership of the GSA and fully engage in its governance. One of the gaps we heard from fellow students is the lack DGA involvement. My team intends to lay the foundation for reengaging our DGAs.
- Updates:** We have increased the events grant of DGAs. Please take full advantage of this pilot program to organize events to

Report to GRC November 2022

improve engagement in your DGA. Individually and collectively, we are working to organize coffee chats and drop-in hours to listened to some concerns of fellow graduate students.

Objective: Have 99% of GSA Annual Survey respondents indicate general awareness of the GSA and its services by April 30, 2022.

Goal: **Develop a GRC Digest (newsletter) for GRC members to easily communicate the GRC topics with their departments.**

Explanation: Enhancing the communication between the board and the graduate students will be beneficial to the graduate student experience. This will be achieved through strategies that will make it easier for GRC representatives to pass along the information that was discussed at GRC

Updates: As the GRC is the bridge between the main body of GSA and the student member I want to focus on decreasing the barriers of GRC members passing the information along to the students in their department. Therefore, every month by the end of the week that GRC falls in I will complete a "GRC digest" or short report that will be emailed out to all representatives. This report is to be shared with all graduate students to keep students informed about the important things that are going on at the GSA. If and GRC members have feedback about what to include/not include, please reach out to me at pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca

Improving Organization Sustainability

Objective: The 2024/26 strategic plan is near complete and Sherry Choma, our expert consultant, will present a draft to GRC. Also, we have conducted an internal interview to fill the role of the Executive Director. I would like to thank my team, Abhishek Thakkar, Sandra Moses, Nneka JK-Onyeka (Governance Committee Vice Chair), Benedicta Antepim (EDI Committee chair), Thao (Communications Manager), Lina (HR Manager), Matt (LDL General manager), Keira (AVP Labor), Andrew (Advocacy Advisor), and Brett (GRC Speaker) for their continual participation in the process. A second update is that I am hoping to finalize the hiring process soon. Third, the review key governing documents of the GSA to streamline governance and operational procedures is progressing.



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- Goal:** **Develop New GSA Strategic Plan (2023-2026)**
- Explanation:** As noted above, the current GSA Strategic Plan sunsets at the end of this year. The Working Group has done a fantastic job in contributing to drafting the Strategic Plan for 2023-2026.
- Updates:** Sherry Choma will present a draft to the GRC for additional feedback. We are hoping to have a complete draft to present to the GRC in January.

Total Hours

Meetings: 70

Events: 11

Other: 42

Total Hours: 157

Average per week: 39.25

Meetings notes: all meetings attended are recorded in my weekly reports.

James Steele
VP Academic
vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca
October 25th – November 28th

Strategic Plan Goals

As VP Academic, I am committed to ensure that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's Strategic Plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan 2019-2022 can be found [here](#).

Advocacy

Graduate Student Vacation

- Advocating for graduate student vacation to be increased from a suggested minimum of 2 weeks to protected minimum of 3 weeks (ongoing).
 - We have compared comparative research with various comparable institutions along with the health benefits of increased vacation and the potential benefits for productivity of graduate students.
 - Now that the research is compiled, Dr. Mary Grantham O'Brien and myself, Senior Associate Dean FGS, will present the research to the appropriate University committees to get this approved.

Student Supervisor Best Practices

- Another collaboration with FGS to compile an extensive set of best practices supervisors and their students.
 - For now, the goal of this project is simply to create a reference for best practice, though with the expectation that the research will reveal policies that must be updated. I will advocate for these changes as needed, should the changes be a priority for graduate students.
 - Along with Clifton Cunningham, Associate Dean FGS, we are going the data of students who were required to withdraw, to understand what can be done to avoid these extreme cases and work our way back from there.

Needs Based Funding & TFCC

- There has been a doubling of requests for Needs Based Funding since last year, which itself was a record year for such requests.
 - This was one of our 'asks' for TFCC consultation, to have needs-based funding tied to the Consumer Price Index, along with an extraordinary increase for this year given that Needs Based Funding has not been increased in over 3 years.
 - We are expecting a decision on this in early December.

- Currently, I am exploring other avenues to advocate for students towards this end.

Other Asks in TFCC

- Saaka and I submitted our proposed rebuttal to the Tuition and Fee increases.
 - Aside from the aforementioned increase for needs-based funding, we requested that the increase for international students be closer to CPI, whereas now it greatly exceeds it.
 - We also advocated for increased funding to the Wellness Centre and to mental health supports.
 - As mentioned above, we hope to see the needle moved in the direction of our asks, with more information coming early December.

Personal Advocacy

- Throughout the year, I advocate for individual students and help guide them through any academic difficulties they might be encountering. This can include trouble with a supervisor or an instructor but can take many shapes.
- If you or someone you know requires assistance related to such matters, please feel free to contact me; no problem is too small, and I meet with multiple students each week.

Committees

- I sit as the graduate student representative on various committees. If you have concerns that you want heard, please let me know and I will be sure to voice them at the appropriate meeting.

Events Updates**PEER Beyond 2023**

- Working with the help of our capable events coordinator Jaime and communications manager Thao, PEER Beyond 2023 is starting to take shape!
- The graduate research conference will take place during February 11th and 12th at the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.
- Visit our website to register now! You will have the opportunity to present a talk, poster, or performance piece relevant to your research.
- This year, we also have a contest for graphic design and slogan design for the conference! The winners will be chosen by a poll open to all graduate students. We cannot wait to see what you all come up with!
- We will also be collaborating with FGS to have the awards ceremony for Images of Research during Peer Beyond.
- The Academic Support Committee will host several Professional Development workshops to prepare students for PEER Beyond.

Mitacs Workshops

- In collaboration with Annie from Mitacs, I put on a pair of workshops in the last week of October and the first week of November.
- The first workshop explained the process of applying for a Mitacs internship, while the second focused on finding an Industry partner to sponsor the internship.
- Both events were well attended, with approx. 50 people attending between in-person and online.
- We hope to collaborate with Annie and her team in future projects.

Improving Organization Sustainability**GSA Governance vs Operations Policy and Procedure Review**

- Along with Saaka, Lina, Daniella, and Andrew, each week we meet to go over the various policies and procedures in the GSA.
- The eventual goal is to streamline our policies and procedures and to safeguard the GSA against some of the difficulties the organization has faced in the last year.

Awards**Awards Update**

- The Citizenship Award and Inclusion Scholarship have been adjudicated and offers have been sent out.
- The GSA Bursary and Professional Development Grant are currently in the process of adjudication.

FYI & Highlights**Upcoming Events:**

- Dec 2nd – Coffee n' Chat
 - Come out for some free coffee and snacks and join the discussion about how we can make improvements and advocate for graduate students!
- Dec 8th – Career Services Workshop, collaboration hosted by the Academic Support Committee
 - Details to come.

Internal Advocacy Survey

- Survey is currently live. Tell your friends and help get us some data about current student priorities!

Total Hours

Meeting: 90

Others: 60

Total: 140

Average per week: 32

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
GRC	Tuesday	Oct 25 th
GSA BoD Meeting	Wednesday	Oct 26 th
TFCC Huddle	Wednesday	Oct 26 th
Mitacs Workshop	Wednesday	Oct 26 th
Awards Meeting	Thursday	Oct 27 th
FGS TFCC Followup	Thursday	Oct 27 th
Images of Research Collab for PB	Thursday	Oct 27 th
PEER Beyond Mtg	Thursday	Oct 27 th
TFCC Discussion with SU	Friday	Oct 28 th
Meeting with Shazia, VPA for SU	Friday	Oct 28 th
Academic Support	Friday	Oct 28 th
Student Advo Meeting	Friday	Oct 28 th
TFCC Prep	Monday	Oct 31 st
TFCC Rebuttal	Monday	Oct 31 st
Student Meeting	Tuesday	Nov 1 st
Student Meeting	Tuesday	Nov 1 st
Gov vs Opps	Wednesday	Nov 2 nd
GSA BoD Mtg	Wednesday	Nov 2 nd
GSA ED Interview	Wednesday	Nov 2 nd
Mitacs Workshop	Wednesday	Nov 2 nd
Awards Mtg	Thursday	Nov 3 rd
PEER Beyond Mtg	Thursday	Nov 3 rd
VPX Meeting	Thursday	Nov 3 rd
Gov vs Opps	Wednesday	Nov 9 th
BoD Meeting	Wednesday	Nov 9 th
GRC Debrief	Wednesday	Nov 9 th
ED Hiring Committee	Wednesday	Nov 9 th
Student Meeting	Wednesday	Nov 9 th
Internal Advo Mtg w/ Andrew	Monday	Nov 14 th
GFC TLC	Tuesday	Nov 15 th
Student Meeting	Tuesday	Nov 15 th
Gov vs Opps	Wednesday	Nov 16 th
BoD Meeting	Wednesday	Nov 16 th

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External TL Committee	Wednesday	Nov 16 th
Course Feedback Working Grp	Wednesday	Nov 16 th
Awards Mtg	Thursday	Nov 17 th
PEER Beyond Huddle	Thursday	Nov 17 th
Student Meeting	Friday	Nov 18 th
SES Senior Admin/ VPTL Mtg	Friday	Nov 18 th
Academic Support	Friday	Nov 18 th
Student Meeting	Monday	Nov 21 st
Graduate Student Exp. Survey Update	Tuesday	Nov 22 nd
DGA/GSG Social	Tuesday	Nov 22 nd
Gov vs Opps	Wednesday	Nov 23 rd
Student Advising	Wednesday	Nov 23 rd
BoD Meeting	Wednesday	Nov 23 rd
HR Policy Mtg w/ VPFS & EDIC	Wednesday	Nov 23 rd
GSA Awards	Thursday	Nov 24 th
PEER Beyond Mtg	Thursday	Nov 24 th
FGS Council	Thursday	Nov 24 th
Academic Support	Friday	Nov 25 th
Learning Tech. Advisory Comm.	Monday	Nov 28 th

A.C. Cameron
VP External
vpext.gsa@ucalgary.ca
[Date Range: Oct. 15th - Nov 20th]

Strategic Plan Goals

As VP External, I am committed to ensure that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's Strategic Plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan 2019-2022 can be found [here](#).

Improving Advocacy (External Partners)

Gauging Priorities of Members

- Advocacy Priorities Survey remains open for the fall semester. Please encourage the rest of your DGA (all students in your department) to complete. [Survey link here](#).

CASA Membership

- Advo Week Nov. 20th-25th

Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

- Have submitted updates to:
 - F.06 Grants for Graduate Students
 - I.04 Intellectual Property
- Drafted an update for F.02 Student Loans, but the Feds passed this already.
- Still to come:
 - New Policy: Food-Security
 - New Policy: Affordable Housing
- Andrew and I are helping draft a policy paper on food-housing insecurity.

Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC)

- F.06 done. Mainly developing and framing our Asks for Advo Week.

ab-GPAC Membership

- Met with our fellow members (Oct 21st, Nov 18th) to review our workplans.
- Working groups still haven't met. I lead the food-housing group and sit on PSE affordability; our 3rd Director, Kirsten, leads the mental health working group.
- Moved our Advo Week to January 16th-19th. Passed motion to take the following asks:
 - Restored public funding to PSIs, and mitigate the privatization of PSE.
 - Better Mental Health Support for students
 - More financial aid for graduate students (grants, bursaries)
 - Immigration paths and the ANIP.
- We are still evaluating our position as a paid member. Stay tuned.

Calgary Student Alliance Membership

- I sit on Transit Reform Committee – we asked to enroll students in the low-income transit pass, and were returned an option to create two streams of UPass: a standard- and low-income pass.
- Have asked Shane (Ancillary Services) to see our UPass contract. Awaiting reply.
- Ongoing discussion of transit safety: emphasizing that we need to address the roots of these issues: investing in harm reduction, rather than increasing police presence.

Advocacy: Local and On-Campus Initiatives

Food-Security Huddles with the Students' Union and Provost's Office

- Taking survey of the food-access programs and opportunities on campus.
- Change of Provost means we've had to ensure the conversation remains (promising).
- Provost's office in collaboration with many others on campus have launched the **Nourish to Flourish Working Group**, thanks to the help of an anonymous donor, to facilitate programs of immediate food access on campus: two community fridges and a meal-voucher pilot coming soon!
- Nourish to Flourish had its first meeting, Nov. 15th. Understands that our focus should aim towards sustainable operations and eliminating the roots of food insecurity in the long-run, but needs to develop some band-aid solutions for the time being.

Food-Housing (ad-hoc) Working Group

- Finished the groups Terms of Reference and Offered Pam Farrell the position of Chair.
- Our purpose is to understand the roots of food-housing (in)security for our campus members; collaborate with Nourish to Flourish to improve security for our community.
- Secondly to explore opportunities for housing/food-access and/or literacy partnerships in the city, and to expand the [GSA's Food-Housing Website](#) with further info.

Advocacy Engagement Working Group

- Founded to improve students' access and engagement to the advocacy efforts.
- **Shifting focus:** spaces to train our DGAs in knowing their power as organizations.
- Have set about three types of roles for the group membership: Events/Logistics; Outreach/Onboarding; Research/Messaging.
- Looking for more members!

Collaborative Opportunity – FASA.

- FASA have had to reboot their exec team since their president became VP External for the SU. Haven't heard much from them since.

Collaborative Opportunity – CAUS.

- CAUS is creating a voter-pledge-mobilizing campaign, would like our help.
- They have reached out through abGPAC to collaborate on this campaign.

Collaborative Opportunity – Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), Public Interest Alberta (PIA), and Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL)

- These organizations are in solidarity with post-secondary education, and open to collaborating on some public campaigns leading up to the next election.
- Opportunity for training sessions, "how-to-organize" for interested students.

- Each organization has offered support to a solidarity campaign. Currently:
 - PIA has launched their Better Way Alberta campaign, including points on:
 - Post-Secondary Education
 - Public Health
 - Labour Relations
 - Housing
 - ...
 - Alberta Federation of Labour is keen on workers' rights in the province.
 - PSAC is keen on the rights of academically employed graduate students.
 - ACORN is keen on rent control. Not much direct contact with them yet.
- **Question for you:** would you like to join training sessions geared towards political organizing in preparation for the next provincial election? Email me!

Next Steps – Regroup.

- Improving internal coordination by creating specific roles and team-leads in the group:
 - Events & Logistics; Outreach & Onboarding; Research & Messaging.
 - Planning a timeline for onboarding and trainings.
 - Planning our next public event sufficiently far in advance.

Improving Service Delivery

Emergency Housing Support

- Email requests have largely subsided on my end. Transitioning this function to VPFS.

GSA's Food-Housing Website ([link here](#))

- Website live, needs some volunteers to update. Join the Food-Housing Working Group!

Improving Communication

Advocacy Blog

- Posting sporadic updates to the [GSA's website: Blogs and News](#).
- **Question:** How would you like to receive updates and advocacy-related information?

Improving Organization Sustainability

Shifted TFCC to President, VP Academic

- Have shifted leadership of TFCC to President and VP Academic to alleviate some of my workload. More time to focus on Food-Housing and Engagement opportunities.

Other Accomplishments

We are well-received at CASA

- Policy: Grants for Graduate Students passed plenary very smoothly, in time for the federal pre-budget submissions.
- Sustainability and ecological awareness have permeated into many workplans, including the drafting of a new operating policy focused on such. Consultations ongoing.

Senate.

- Member of the Community Engagement Working Group.
 - Chancellor's Scholars Mentorship Program.
 - New Opportunities: creating guidelines for new partnerships with community members.

FYI & Highlights

Alberta Teacher's Association – Campaign

- Rally for Education, [Oct 22, Ab Legislature](#) went well! Made some contacts in local 38.
- Something coming up with the Calgary chapter (local 38) on **December 6th**, not sure what yet. Watch their social media for more information!

Tuition and University Budget Cycle:

- We have more time for consultations; Budget Committee are shifting their decision to sometime (unknown) after the Dec 9th BoG meeting.
- Provost's team is coming to Nov. GRC to consult. **Please bring your questions!**
- If you would like the GSA to run advocacy campaigns beyond GRC, TFCC and meetings scheduled by the University, you need to pass a motion at GRC of what you'd like.

*How to move the GSA as an Organization

- As an organization, our definitions, protocols, and procedures are given in [our Bylaws](#).
- The GSA is made of "active membership", meaning all graduate students currently enrolled at UCalgary. Every active member is automatically a member of their respective departmental graduate association/consortium. Each department elects their representative to correspond with the executive Board through the GRC.

Graduate Representative Council (GRC)

- The GRC has authority over priorities and focal points of the Board.
- GRC generally follows [Roberts Rules of Order](#).
- The Board must abide by motions tabled and passed at GRC meetings. If there is something you would like the Board to do, you need to table and pass a motion at GRC.

As a departmental graduate association (DGA) or consortium

- Your departmental association/consortium is governed by your internal constitution/bylaws. Ask your DGA exec where you can find these posted.
- Your DGA is free to endorse/act in solidarity

As an individual or self-assembled collective

- You are free to act so long as you remain in the [University's Policies and Procedures](#).

Support Our Science – [Letter Campaign](#)

- Tri-Council Awards values haven't increased since 2003. These used to be prestigious and sufficient monies to live off of, but cost of living has caught up if not more.
- Support our Sciences is a movement calling for restored fundings of these awards.

Danielle Smith is currently residing as Premier.

- Vocal around privatized healthcare; back-pedaling on her Sovereignty Act.
- Has said she will prioritize rural voices – does not bode well for education!

Bills 17 and 32

Graduate Students' Association of the University of Calgary
ES1030, 2500 University Dr. NW
Calgary AB T2N 1N4
www.gsa.ucalgary.ca

- Both remain in effect. See your AVP-Labour for more information.

Staff updates.

- Governance Coordinator – formerly Crystal, now Executive Coordinator – Taruneesh.

October Hours (Since the 17th)

Meetings: 52

Research: 14

Communications: 17

Events and Other: 17

Total: 100

October Average, per week: 41.2 hrs.

Notes: I need a raise! (And some time off).

November Hours (to the 20th).

Meetings: 35

Research: 16

Communications: 17

Events and Other: 21

Total: 89

November Average per week: 33 hrs.

Total Hours (all-in-all)

Meeting: 387 + 87

Research: 90 + 30

Comms: 139 + 33

Events and Other: 123 + 38

Total: 764 + 188 = 962

Average per week: 33 hrs.

Meetings Attended

Please refer to my Board Reports for finer details and internal meetings.

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
TFCC Chats with Dr. Yates		Oct 18 th
TFCC Chat with SU		Oct 18 th
Advocacy Engagement		Oct 18 th
TFCC with Dr. Yates		Oct 19 th
TFCC with SU		Oct 19 th
TFCC: Rebuttal		Oct 20 th
ab-GPAC Board Meeting		Oct 21 st

Alberta Teacher's Association: Rally for Education	Oct 22 nd
Public Interest Alberta with CAUS: Better Way Alberta: Post-Secondary	Oct 24 th
Public Interest Alberta: Better Way Alberta, with AFL.	Oct 24 th
CASA Consultation	Oct 25 th
GRC	Oct 25 th
TFCC Huddle	Oct 26 th
CASA Consultation	Oct 26 th
Food-Housing Interview	Oct 26 th
TFCC Huddle	Oct 27 th
FPC Huddle	Oct 27 th
Budget Town Hall	Oct 28 th
ELT Huddle	Oct 28 th
CASA – FPC Meeting	Oct 28 th
Ancillary Services	Oct 28 th
CSA Meeting	Oct 28 th
TFCC Rebuttal Meeting	Nov 1 st
FPC Huddle	Nov 2 nd
CASA – GAC	Nov 7 th
Food Meeting: Shawna x Pam x Andrew x AC	Nov 7 th
PSAC Solidarity	Nov 7 th
Meeting with SU	Nov 8 th
Interviewing the Interim ED	Nov 9 th
Calgary Chamber presents: Conversation with Chrystia Freeland	Nov 9 th
GSA x SU x Freeland's Office	Nov 10 th
Advocacy Engagement	Nov 10 th
President's Community Report	Nov 14 th
Nourish to Flourish	Nov 15 th



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Senate Community Engagement Committee: New Opportunities	Nov 17 th
AFL, PIA	Nov 17 th
Provost's Office: Food	Nov 17 th
ab-GPAC Board Meeting	Nov 18 th
CASA – Advo Week! (I'm in Ottawa till the 28 th :)	Nov 20 th –28 th

Masume Akbari
VP Student Life
vpsl.gsa@ucalgary.ca
October 26-November 21

Strategic Plan Goals

As Vice President Student Life, I am committed to ensure that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's Strategic Plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan 2019-2022 can be found [here](#).

Improving Advocacy

Meeting with Kaitlin Van Geel, Counsellor, Wellness Centre, Oct 31, 2022

- I have informed them about different student struggles:
 - Financial anxieties and possible workshops or sessions to help students navigate these issues.
 - Iranian students facing trauma due to uprising and government crackdown in Iran and possible support sessions.

Meeting with Kevin Wiens, Senior Director, Wellness Centre, Nov 8, 2022

- GSA VPFS, advocacy advisor, and I had a talk with Kevin Wiens about the following topics:
 - The number of students at UCalgary has increased after Covid-19 and getting back to in-person mode, but the number of existing physicians at wellness center has decreased. The wellness center is working on recruiting more physicians.
 - The students are reaching out for more mental health support from wellness centre. The wellness centre is interested in recruiting more counsellors and acquiring financial supports will help them speed up this process.
 - The need of having an on-call physician was discussed as the students might need emergency assistant at wellness centre.

Advocacy engagement Monthly meeting, Nov 8, 2022

- I have participated at this monthly meeting to help this group with approaches to increase engagement with graduate students.

Meeting with Varity Turpin (Vice-Provost Student Experience) and her team, Nov 18, 2022

- GSA executives advocated about different student-life, academic, financial, and external students' issues to this group.

Gender and Sexuality Alliance Subcommittee (GSA^2)

- GSA^2 has been reached out by students regarding a professor's email that has been sent to a whole department. This professor has received complaints regarding a student, with the assumption that they "appear as male/doesn't appear as female", using a female bathroom. The students that contacted GSA^2 were upset by this assumption and the email being sent out to the whole department and asked GSA^2 to act on this issue.

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- GSA² prepared an email and sent it to the professor addressing this issue and suggesting possible resolutions.
- GSA² will be working on a bathroom policy draft for University of Calgary in collaboration with EDI committee and GSA board members. University of Calgary Doesn't have any bathroom policy.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) Committee

- Working on different EDI related issues at the University of Calgary that graduate students informed GSA about them.

Improving Service Delivery

Student Engagement and Events Committee (SEEC)

- SEEC subcommittees planned/are planning various events based on different groups of graduate students' interest to enhance their student life experience at UCalgary.
 - Event Subcommittee (ES) events:
 - Laser Tag, Nov 2022
 - Gender and Sexuality Alliance Subcommittee (GSA²) events:
 - 2SLGBTQIAP+ Book Club and Coffee Chat, Nov 17, 2022
 - Transgender Day of Remembrance, Nov 21, 2022
 - Queer Speaker Series, Nov 23, 2022
 - Queer Gingerbread House Decorating, Dec 7, 2022
 - 2SLGBTQIAP+ Book Club, Jan 18, 2022
 - Queer Film Night, Jan 27, 2022
 - Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee (MHWS) events:
 - Crafts and Snacks with GSA, Nov 1,
 - Mocktail Event for National Addictions Awareness Week, Nov 24
 - 12 Days of Giveaways, Dec 1 to Dec 12, 2022
 - Pet Therapy December Destress, Dec 2, 2022
 - Newcomers and International Students Subcommittee (NISS) events:
 - Literature Review Seminar, Nov 2, 2022
 - FIFA23 Tournament, Dec 3, 2022
 - A letter to home, Dec 15, 2022

Events' coordinator's events

- Halloween at LDL, Oct 31, 2022
- Yoga, Mondays 7-8 pm
- GSA Monthly Board Game Night, Third Wednesday of the month 5 – 7 pm
- Strength Training, Thursdays 6-6:45 pm
- LDL Monday Night Trivia

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- I have hosted the Nov 14, Trivia night with the subject sitcom. This event was very well attended with 7 groups of 4 participants.
- World Cup watch party at the LDL, Nov 20–Dec 18

Fall 2022 Chancellor installation and Convocation Ceremony, Nov 10, 2022

- It was a great honor to attend the convocation ceremony at Jack Simpson Gymnasium as one of UClagray graduate students' representative.

Geomatics DGA meet and greet, Nov 10, 2022

- At this event, I have explained about GSA and GRC structures and invited geomatics grad students for more engagement in GRC and GSA activities.

Improving Communication

Communication and social media

- Attending GSA events to open an in-person line of communication for graduate students to express their concerns, ask their questions, and provide me with their feedbacks.
- Hosting GSA trivia on November 14, 2022, to improve student engagement and to communicate with graduate students in-person.
- Hosting DGA/GSG social on November 22, 2022, at LDL to connect with these groups in a casual setting and asking for their feedbacks and recommendations on GSA operations.
- Meetings with DGAs and GSGs as per their request to assist them with their operational questions and inform them about available GSA resources.
- Advertising DGAs' and GSGs' events on GSA social media and newsletter as per their request to increase engagement with these events.

Improving Organization Sustainability

Events at LDL

- Encouraging different committees and subcommittees to hold their events at LDL to boost LDL operation.

Other Accomplishments

Departmental Graduate Associations (DGAs)

- Meeting and communicating with different DGAs to support them with their questions, concerns, and activities.

Graduate Student Groups (GSGs)

- Meeting and communicating with different GSGs to support them with their questions, concerns, and activities.

FYI & Highlights

- NISS is working on a Letter to Home event on Dec 15 to give a chance to students far from home before the holidays to get together and write letter to their families and loved ones. This event is planned to help them feel better if they are home-sick and tired of this chilly winter.

Total Hours

Meeting: 42
Others: 61
Total: 103
Average per week: 25
Notes:

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	October 26, 2022
SEEC/NISS meeting	Wednesday	October 26, 2022
Meeting with Kaitlin from Wellness Centre	Monday	October 31, 2022
Events team meeting	Tuesday	November 1, 2022
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 2, 2022
GSA Executive Director Interview	Wednesday	November 2, 2022
Geomatics Engineering DGA (G^3) discussion	Wednesday	November 2, 2022
Chemical Engineering DGA (CEGS) Discussion	Thursday	November 3, 2022
GSA board-staff meeting	Thursday	November 3, 2022
SEEC #4 meeting	Thursday	November 3, 2022
Health and Dental committee meeting	Friday	November 4, 2022
Intersectionality Planning meeting	Monday	November 7, 2022
Events team meeting	Tuesday	November 8, 2022
Meeting with IGSA	Tuesday	November 8, 2022
GSA/Wellness center meeting	Tuesday	November 8, 2022
Advocacy engagement Monthly meeting	Tuesday	November 8, 2022
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 9, 2022
GRC debrief	Wednesday	November 9, 2022
GSA Executive Hiring Committee meeting	Wednesday	November 9, 2022
SEEC chair meeting	Thursday	November 10, 2022
GSA board-staff meeting	Thursday	November 15, 2022
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 16, 2022
Meeting with NISS to plan an event	Wednesday	November 16, 2022
GSA/SES/VPTL Fall meeting	Friday	November 18, 2022

Cameron Armstrong
VP Finance and Services
vpfs.gsa@ucalgary.ca
October 25-November 28

Strategic Plan Goals

As Vice President of Finance and Services, I am committed to ensure that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's Strategic Plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan 2019-2022 can be found [here](#).

Improving Advocacy

Labour Relations

- Per the GSA bylaws, the VPFS is responsible for "the oversight of the LRC, ensuring fulfilment of the Association's duty of fair representation to AEGS."
- Please contact the Associate Vice President of Labour, Keira Gunn, at lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca, for more information.

Haskayne Dean Selection Committee

- Working with the EDI Committee to ensure the Dean selection committee has EDI issues and specific cases at front of mind during recruitment.
- See the link below for more information on the search committee:
 - <https://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/reviews-and-searches/search-dean-hsb>
- Please contact the GSA Representative, Cathy Stones, for more information.

Tuition and Fees

- Attended budget meeting held by President McCauley and staff to better understand the proposed budget.
- Attended 2022 community report update held by President McCauley and Chancellor Cornish to gauge progress of past goals and see what future plans entail.
- Attended fireside chat with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland to better understand the federal measures and their effects on provincial education and economies.
- Constructed TFCC proposal alongside other executive board members and the GSA advocacy advisor to advocate for student services.
- Set an additional meeting with the Director of Financial Reporting for UCalgary to inquire about aggregate line items in the financial statements.

Improving Service Delivery

Health and Dental Upgrades

- Preferred provider network now online. Practitioners added for:
 - Chiropractic – 25 practitioners added
 - Massage therapy – 21 practitioners added
 - Physiotherapy – 5 practitioners added
- Process improvement areas being followed up with StudentCare:
 - Shortening blackout period
 - Rolling intake/approval for students
 - Customer service KPI establishment and tracking

Discounts for Students

- Milestones discount
 - Receive a 20% discount on any regular priced food items to all University of Calgary Graduate students at any corporate Milestones in Calgary with proof of Student ID. Plus, Milestones Market Mall will provide off-site catering events with competitive pricing for any functions for faculty members of the University of Calgary.
 - Corporate Milestones locations include:
 - [Stephen Ave](#)
 - [South Centre](#)
 - [Market Mall](#)
- A reminder of the discounts offered locally:
 - SPC discount
 - <https://www.spccard.ca/>
 - CJSW discount
 - <https://cjsw.com/students/>
 - University District discount
 - Discounts ranging from 10-15% off and food promotions available in the University District: https://myuniversitydistrict.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/UD_StudentDiscount_Flyer_Website.pdf

Improving Communication

Financial Education Workshops

- “What is Inflation?” workshop on November 8.
- Budgeting 101 workshop on November 22.

Finance Standing Committee

- In-depth review of financial statements on November 3.
- In-depth review of investment portfolio on November 23.
- Please contact the FSC Chair, Pavana Bollu, at fsc.gsa@ucalgary.ca for more information.



Report to GRC November 2022

Health and Dental Committee

- GRC representative selected and brought up to speed.

Improving Organization Sustainability

Sustainability Committee Workshop Series

- Build-your-own terrarium workshop held on November 2
- Sustainable Foods Cook-a-long is being held in late November.
- Please contact the SC Chair, Sandra Moses, at sustain.gsa@ucalgary.ca for more information.

Climate Action Grant Review Committee

- Serving as the GSA representative on the Climate Action Grant review board.
- More information can be found here: <https://ucalgary.ca/sustainability/mobilizing-alberta/funding>

Total Hours

Meeting: 56

Others: 44

Total: 100

Average per week: 25

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Financial Statement Review	Wednesday	October 26
TFCC Meeting	Wednesday	October 26
TD Bank Meeting	Wednesday	October 26
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	October 26
Check-in	Wednesday	October 26
CIBC Meeting	Thursday	October 27
Careers in Climate Meeting	Thursday	October 27
Budget Town Hall	Friday	October 28
FSC Board Meeting	Monday	October 31
Indigenous Ceremony	Tuesday	November 1
TFCC Meeting	Tuesday	November 1
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 2
Executive Director Interview	Wednesday	November 2
Sustainability Workshop	Wednesday	November 2
FSC Meeting	Thursday	November 3
GSA Staff Meeting	Thursday	November 3
H&D Meeting	Friday	November 4
LDL Marketing Meeting	Friday	November 4
StudentCare Meeting	Monday	November 7

Graduate Students' Association of the University of Calgary
 ES1030, 2500 University Dr. NW
 Calgary AB T2N 1N4
www.gsa.ucalgary.ca



Report to GRC November 2022

LRC Meeting	Tuesday	November 8
Wellness Centre Meeting	Tuesday	November 8
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 9
GRC Meeting	Wednesday	November 9
Hiring Committee Meeting	Wednesday	November 9
HR Policy Meeting	Thursday	November 10
Financial Statement Meeting	Thursday	November 10
ESG Investing Webinar	Monday	November 14
2022 Community Report Update	Monday	November 14
GSA Staff Meeting	Tuesday	November 15
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 16
FGS Policy Meeting	Thursday	November 17
GSA Executive Admin Meeting	Friday	November 18
LDL Marketing Meeting	Friday	November 18
Grad Survey Meeting	Tuesday	November 22
Budgeting 101	Tuesday	November 22
DGA/GSG Social	Tuesday	November 22
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 23
HR Policy Meeting	Wednesday	November 23
LRC Meeting	Wednesday	November 23
FSC Meeting	Wednesday	November 23
Dean Search Meeting	Thursday	November 24
FGS Council Meeting	Thursday	November 24
Climate Action Meeting	Monday	November 24