



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 17:30  
Zoom Online Call**

**Attendees:**

Mohammad Mansouri, President  
 Mohamed Abdelsamie, VP Academic  
 Marcela Lopes, VP External  
 Basem Halawa, VP Student Life  
 Mina Iskander, VP Finances & Services  
 Leanne Dawson, Speaker  
 Kristina Miller, Clerk

**Quorum**

First Name	Last Name	DGA
Jasper	Greysson-Wong	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Anthonia	Anowai	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Lauren	McMillan	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association
Joey	Lockhart	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association
Estefania	Barreto Ojeda	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association
Karamjot (Kara)	Sidhu	Biomedical Engineering GSA
Sydney	Toutant	Biomedical Technology GSA
Loryn	Bohne	Cardiovascular & Respiratory Students' Association
Tristan	Dorey	Cardiovascular & Respiratory Students' Association
Duncan	Brownsey	Chemistry Graduate Student Association
Madison	Timmons	Chemistry Graduate Student Association
Milanpreet	Kaur	Chemistry Graduate Student Association
Maithree	Kurukulasuriya	Civil Engineering Graduate Society
Rasoul	Sheikhmali	Civil Engineering Graduate Society
Masoomah	Faghihinia	Civil Engineering Graduate Society
Justin	Nadeau	Classics and Religion DGA
Andrew	Thomas	Communication Media and Film DGA
Kathryn	Blair	Computational Media Design
Reza	Hedayati	Computer Science Graduate Society
Madalynn	Thompson	Council of Foothills
Rachel	Kratofil	Council of Foothills
Philip	Piercey	Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne

Zhanna	Lyubykh	Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne
Zack	Moline	Economics Graduate Association
Parnia	Shokri	Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA
Laura	Brooks	English Department Graduate Association
Holly	Szczepanski	Gastrointestinal Graduate Students Association
Ramsha	Mahmood	Gastrointestinal Graduate Students Association
Kristina	Miller	Geography Graduate Students' Association
Hugh	Alvarez	Geography Graduate Students' Association
Yizhi	Huang	Geomatics Graduate Group
Bahareh	Yekkehkhany	Geomatics Graduate Group
Pamela	Narvaez	Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association
Katelyn	O'Keefe	Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association
Christine	Cao	Graduate Engineering Students Consortium
Harrison	Campbell	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association
Keira	Gunn	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society
sarath kumar	jayaraman	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society
Mahwash	Waqar	Haskayne MBA Society
Quentin	Holbert	History Graduate Students Union
Stacey	LeClair	History Graduate Students Union
Brandon	Craig	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Trevor	Low	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Faizan	Malik	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Robert Kenneth	Clarke	Immunology Graduate Association
Kyle	McCallum	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association
Lauren	Miutz	Kinesiology Graduate Students Association
Merion	Hodgson	Linguistics Graduate Students' Association
Alicia	Ussling	Masters of Pathologists' Assistant GSA
Gary	Gress	Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association
Keith	Lau	Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA
Daniel	Castaneda	Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA
Margaret Genevieve	Currie	Nursing Graduate Students' Association
Chloe	Stephenson	Philosophy Graduate Students' Association
Eric	Bohner	Philosophy Graduate Students' Association
Davor	Curic	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association
CJ	Osakwe	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association
Andrew	Kemle	Political Science Graduate Student Association

Chelsie	Hart	Psychology Graduate Students Association
Jaimie	Beveridge	Psychology Graduate Students Association
Vincent	Yong	School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Diba	Mohebzadeh	School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Melike	Ceylan	School of Creative and Performing Arts Graduate Society
Shay	Grover	Strategic Studies Students Consortium
Brendan	Cooke	Sustainable Energy Development
Jin Lun	Du	Sustainable Energy Development
Christopher	McMullen	Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association
Abigail	Williams	Vox Condiscipulum

## **GRC Meeting Minutes**

### **Meeting Began 17:30**

- Territorial Acknowledgement

### **Roll Call (Speaker) 17:34**

### **Approval of the Agenda 17:38**

Motioned/seconded

Discussion: N/A

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

### **Approval of the February 2020 Minutes 17:42**

Motioned/seconded

Discussion: N/A

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

### **COVID-19 Update (Mohammad Mansouri, GSA President) 17:43**

- Since September 2019, Empower Me service has been supporting graduate students' mental health
  - Information on Empower Me can be found here: [http://www.studentcare.ca/rte/en/IHaveAPlan\\_UniversityofCalgarygraduatestudentsGSA\\_EmpowerMe\\_EmpowerMe](http://www.studentcare.ca/rte/en/IHaveAPlan_UniversityofCalgarygraduatestudentsGSA_EmpowerMe_EmpowerMe)
  - All grad students who pay for the Health and Dental plan have access to the service
- Last couple weeks have been challenging, but the GSA team made the transition work

- Office is closed, but all the services continue to operate online
- No in-person events
- \$50,000 top off for bursaries available from the GSA; \$500,000 budget from the University for emergency bursaries next year (this is 5 times last year's amount)
- Another \$500,000 available for students working extra TA hours
- Free parking at the University
- Strong recommendation to work from home to keep campus available to people needing to be there
- 6 month pause for student loan repayment
- Federal government clarified that international students are exempt from travel restriction
- Tri-council funding – case by case exemptions made, the University will have to put in requests, more information to come
- If there is anything GSA can assist with, get in touch

#### **2020/2021 Budget (Mina Iskandar, VP Finance and Services) 17:50**

- Presented 7 budgets at last meeting
  - Budget information was available for review
  - Did not receive any questions, likely due to overwhelming situation
- Motion: Be it resolved that the Graduate Representative Council approves the 2020-2021 GSA Budget as recommended by the Finance Standing Committee and presented by VPFS at the February GRC.
  - Moved/seconded
  - Discussion: N/A
  - In favour 98.3% (of 60 votes)
  - Opposed 1.7% (of 60 votes)
  - Abstained 0
  - CARRIED

#### **Question period 17:59**

- N/A

#### **DGA period 18:00**

- N/A

#### **Announcements 19:03**

- Basem: GSA is organizing online events, continuing with dance crew and online yoga, café mornings on Wednesdays, will have prizes for trivia on Instagram; will provide Cineplex codes for movie rentals for \$2
- Mina: campus is completely closed unless you have special access; last week tough decision was made to let go of hourly staff at LDL and managers are on temporary time – this will be reflected in the updated budget; the next Board will have to update on this

- Mina: GSA is functioning online; no access to the Wellness Centre, but Empower Me is available to help with problems at this time, can assign a counselor for more complex cases
  - Basem: Wellness Centre workshops are moving to online format, check the website (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/staying-healthy/learning/online-learning>) to see what's available
- Mohamed A: announced winners of GSA awards in UToday article and on the website
  - If you have won an award or know someone who won an award, congratulate them
  - Ceremony had to be canceled
- Daniel: is parking free at Foothills?
  - Mina: any university managed parking lot is free; cannot comment on AHS parking lots
- Daniel: What is the process for VPFS election?
  - Mohammad: Will discuss soon; By-election will occur
- Joey: What is the DGA election protocol?
  - Mohammad: working on this; will know as soon as they know, continue as usual; by the time elections come, updates will be available
- Rachel: TRW parkade is managed by the University, can park there for free; all other lots are managed by AHS
  - Weekend hours are uncertain
- Next meeting 28 April, 2020
  - By-election candidates' forum for VP Finances and Services
  - Elections: Speaker, Clerk, CRO, Finance Standing Committee Chair for 2020-2021
    - Can self-nominate or nominate someone else
    - Questions about responsibilities, reach out to the person in the position, or to Mohammad Mansouri ([pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca))
    - Don't need to be current GRC member to run for the positions

#### **Other Business 18:13**

- N/A

#### **Meeting adjourned 18:14**

- Motioned/seconded
- Discussion: N/A
- Opposed:0
- Abstained:0
- CARRIED