Dear Member Organizations,

The purpose of this letter is to highlight the work ab-GPAC has done, and will continue to do, in the Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs Post-Secondary System Review (henceforth referred to as “AB2030”). AB2030 is a comprehensive, system-wide review of Alberta’s post-secondary system. The project is helmed by the private consulting firm McKinsey&Co, with a $3.7 Million contract awarded on June 12th, 2020. The goal of AB2030 is to transform the post-secondary sector in Alberta to provide high quality education, meet current and future labour market demands, and drive innovation to make Alberta competitive in the 21st century global economy.

The engagement timeline for the AB2030 process is proceeding rapidly. Initial planning and research from McKinsey&Co have been underway since early August. As of late August, consultation with various stakeholders are well underway. By the end of September, key decisions around post-secondary system archetypes will be framed, where these decisions will inform the overall AB2030 strategy. The end of October will present the first integrated view of the AB2030 strategy, outcomes framework, and roadmap. The review will conclude mid-December, with the presentation of the final strategy, business case, governance framework, and execution roadmap.

As a stakeholder, ab-GPAC’s Chair Evan Wong was interviewed on graduate students, and will also be interviewed on diversity and indigenous participation. In the upcoming weeks, ab-GPAC will also be actively participating in roundtable discussions on creating a more efficient system by bringing costs down and removing duplication, and strengthening PSIs’ role in the development of an innovation ecosystem and the commercialization of research.

In addition to the above engagement, a guiding coalition of 17 individuals from various stakeholder groups was established to oversee the AB2030 process, and to ensure it remains focused on key priorities. **Graduate students are the only student group without representation on the guiding coalition**, as seats were offered to both the Chair of the Council of Alberta Undergraduate Students (CAUS) and the Executive Director of Alberta Student Executive Council (ASEC), representing undergraduate students and college / polytechnic students respectively. ab-GPAC has directly pushed for a representative seat on the guiding coalition for graduate students, but was denied by the Ministry of Advanced Education. Currently, ab-GPAC is working closely with other student leaders in the province to ensure the graduate perspective is well-reflected at the guiding coalition table.
The current stakeholder engagement plan entails:

- 140+ interviews to gather initial hypotheses, perspectives, and concerns
- 25+ roundtables to review and react to issues analysis; discuss and debate options and provide input
- Online public survey [https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-2030-building-skills-for-jobs.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-2030-building-skills-for-jobs.aspx)
- 6 - 8 townhalls to playback input and perspectives, share strategic themes and options, provide facts and benchmarks and invite new input
- 1 summit to frame the Alberta 2030 declaration

Moving forward, ab-GPAC will continue to push for graduate representation at all stakeholder engagement events, especially at the upcoming townhalls and summit. ab-GPAC will also be creating a white paper submission to McKinsey&Co., concerning the following high-impact advocacy priorities:

1. Internationalization and recruitment
2. Diversify the economy, skills for jobs, and innovation
3. Experiential learning and funding for professional development
4. Post-secondary funding and indigeneity
5. Post-secondary structure and governance

ab-GPAC will continue to seek vital feedback from member GSAs, as we continue along into the AB2030 process. We will ensure the voices of graduate students are heard at every possible opportunity, and that we contribute to transforming the Alberta post-secondary system in benefit of our members. We also encourage you at this time to share the links to the recently launched surveys to ensure the government hears from as many Albertans as possible.

Sincerely,

Evan Wong  
Chair

Christine Cao  
Vice-Chair

Brandon Simmons  
Executive Director

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council