

Saaka Sulemana Saaka
President
pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca
November 16, 2022 - January 20, 2023

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 2023/26 Strategic Plan.**

Explanation: Our new three-year plan, 2023-2026, is ready. 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 2023 advocacy priorities and strategies to the municipal, provincial, and federal governments. There will be more update when we discuss TFCC.

Objective: Achieve 70% of GSA Annual Survey respondents rate their satisfaction of the GSA Advocacy work as moderately satisfied or higher.

Goal: **Develop a Consultation guideline for institutional consultation with graduate students about important topics**

Explanation: As we experienced last Fall, consultation can be performative. As a result, we are continuing with a project my predecessor was working on with the Students' Union. The expectation is to develop clear guidelines for the institution on future consultations when discussing important topics, such as tuition and

Updates:

fees proposals, with the graduate student body and Graduate Representative Council.

Again, the recent tuition and fees hikes is yet another reason why there is the need to develop the consultation guidelines into a university policy. It was evident throughout the process that the Provost team did not listen to the concerns we raised at the November GRC. At the January 11 Finance and Properties Committee meeting, the Provost committed to working with the GSA and the SU to produce acceptable guidelines for consulting with students. It is critically important that students are adequately consulted by the university and feedback from students incorporated in arriving at key decisions that directly impact us.

Improving Communication

Objective: Increase the GSA Annual Survey response rate to 20% of all enrolled graduate students.

Goal: **Decentralize consultation and improve relationship with fellow graduate students at the department level.**

Explanation: We want fellow 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: November GRC was very inspiring. Thank you all for showing up and for expressing your concerns about the proposed tuition and fees increases. In addition, we have increased the DGA events grant. However, your DGAs are not using the funds. Please take full advantage of this pilot program to organize events to improve engagement in your DGA.

Objective: Have 99% of GSA Annual Survey respondents indicate general awareness of the GSA and its services.

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

Explanation: Enhancing communication between the board and the graduate student body benefits how we work with our partners to across the University of Calgary campuses to improve the graduate student experience. This will be achieved through strategies that will make it easier for GRC representatives to share the information that was discussed at GRC meetings.

Updates: The GRC is the mouthpiece of fellow graduate students. The GRC digest attempts to eliminate barriers GRC members face in bring forward concerns and a s well as passing the information along to the fellow students in their department. The GRC digest provides a short report via representatives to be shared with all graduate students. If you have feedback about what to include/not include, please email me at pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca

Improving Organization Sustainability

Objective: Included in your meeting package is a draft of the GSA 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan, which requires GRC's approval today. Together with Sherry Choma, our expert consultant, I will present the draft to GRC. 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 meaningful participation and contribution. You all brought diverse and insightful perspectives that have shaped the strategic plan we have before GRC today. A second update on organizational sustainability is that we have reviewed the key governing documents of the GSA to streamline governance and operational procedures of the GSA. The changes will be presented to you next month for consideration and approval.

Goal: **Develop New GSA Strategic Plan (2023-2026)**

Explanation: Several months earlier, we hired a consultant and assembled a Working Group to develop a new strategic plan. The Working Group concluded our work in December 2022 and I am happy to report that the GSA 2019-2022 Strategic Plan is fully drafted.

Updates: As noted above, the group did an excellent job in producing the GSA 2020-2026 Strategic Plan which I shall present to you today.

Additional updates

- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Executive (FGSC Executive) has received, reviewed, and recommended the following proposals:
 - Termination of MSc in Educational Research and Additional Required Course in PhD in Educational Research in Adult Learning.
 - Restructuring of Master of Strategic Studies and PhD in Strategic Studies.
 - Change in course requirements in the MSc and PhD in Psychology.
- The GSA Support and Emergency Bursaries
 - 2022-2023: Emergency Funding (278 applications, 43 approved and awarded \$40,792).
 - GSA Support Bursary (they received 1168 applications and 634 were approved and awarded \$537,160). We now have \$98,124.6 left for the rest of the academic year.
- Quality Money (QM)
 - We received 43 applications in two intake periods for Quality Money (QM) and have approved funding for 28 projects in a combined amount of \$107, 617.99. We have seen an increase in QM applications compared to previous years.
- Winter GradO
 - Nearly 200 graduate students attended the Winter GradO, which is relatively smaller in comparison to the Fall GradO. The main takeaway for me was that the sessions were shorter, semi-formal, and interactive. I want to acknowledge and appreciate the collaborative work by our staff, Jaime, Thao, Daniella, Matt and the LDL team, and the FGS team. It was a huge success.

Total Hours

Meetings: 175

Events: 17

Other: 82

Total Hours: 223

Average per week: 39.1

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

James Steele
VP Academic
vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca
November 28th – January 23rd

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.
 - Update: Dr. O'Brien and myself presented our case at various committees in the last two months, most importantly presenting it at FGS Council in January. While there are a few more checks and balances this proposal must pass, its passage through FGS Council means that it now has the endorsement of FGS and makes its passage through the remaining university channels all but assured.
 - It's passage was conditional on a few small amendments: That we add language to make it clear that graduate students must still complete course work if they go on vacation and that we clarify that vacation means time-off (e.g., so that graduate students may take time off even if they do not leave the city).

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.
 - Update: No new progress on this progress as we focused on TFCC and the vacation proposal.

TFCC Update

- Throughout November and December, myself, Saaka, and AC went back and forth with the Interim Provost and her team regarding their tuition and fund increase proposal.
- Our goal was primarily to increase needs-based-funding that is provided to the GSA for disbursement, by the university.
- This goal was successful: we were able to increase the quantity of needs-based funding by over \$100,000, or over 20%, as well as an assurance from the university that this funding we'll increase in all subsequent years with the same percentage increase as tuition.
- The University of Calgary has also agreed to a comparable increase in the International Graduate Tuition Award, along with analogous incremental increases according to the increase in tuition.
- We also received assurances from the provost's team that there will be a working group formed to assess student mental on-campus and what the university can do for graduate student mental-health, in particular with respect to the Wellness Centre.
- This was a joint ask with the SU, as they are likewise concerned about the mental well being of their members.
- The result of this as is this working group. The result is not ideal as it does provide any immediate, concrete results. Instead it will be our job as executive to ensure that this working group produces positive results.
- You can read the full report on the GSA website.

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.

Academic Support Committee

- The Academic Support Committee put on a successful professional development workshop in collaboration with the Career Centre.
- Over 30 attendees.

Events Updates**PEER Beyond 2023**

- Working with the help of our capable events coordinator Jaime and communications manager Thao, PEER Beyond 2023 is fast approaching and we are very excited to host the first iteration of this conference since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

- The graduate research conference will take place during February 11th and 12th at the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.
- Presenter registration is now closed, but there is still room to register as an attendee!
- We are also happy to announce that the winner of the Graphic Design Competition is [reference]. Please visit our website or social media pages to see [reference] work, or come to the conference and see the work in-person!
- We will also be collaborating with FGS to have the awards ceremony for Images of Research during Peer Beyond.
- Finally, we are excited to announce that Dr. Joshua Whitehead, a former University of Calgary graduate student and now a professor at U of C in the Department of Indigenous studies and the Department of English. Dr. Whitehead is also the author of several widely published books, including *Jonny Appleseed* (2018), and his most recent *Making Love with Land* (2022).
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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.
- Update: We have now finished reviewing the documents and are in the process of compiling the results into a new set of policies and procedures. Once these documents have been completed we will then send them distribute them to all GRC members for your review and approval.

Awards

Awards Update

- The Fall 2022 intake of the Bursary, Professional Development Grant have all been completed with the awards disbursed.
- The Winter 2023 intake for the Bursary has now closed and has moved into the evaluation process.
- The Bursary now has an increase in demand of over 300%. We are actively working with various university partners to address some of the underlying problems we have identified so far, and will have more information in this regard soon.
- The increased needs-based funding we received through the FCC consultation will likewise be used to increase payments related to the Bursary, the GSA Bursary and the Emergency Support Bursary.
- I would encourage everyone who is feeling the financial strains, common to the the current graduate student experience, to likewise apply for the University's Tuition Reinvestment Bursary.

Total Hours

Meeting: 90

Others: 34

Total: 124

Average per week: 24.8 (Calculation not including vacation/time-off)

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
GRC (November)	Tuesday	Nov 29 th
Governance/Operations	Wednesday	Nov 30 th
Board Meeting	Wednesday	Nov 30 th
Copyright Committee	Wednesday	Nov 30 th
Student Meeting	Wednesday	Nov 30 th
Student Meeting	Wednesday	Nov 30 th
Peer Beyond	Thursday	Dec 1 st
GSA Awards	Thursday	Dec 1 st
Academic Support C.	Friday	Dec 2 nd
GSA Holiday Party	Sunday	Dec 4 th
Governance/Operations	Wednesday	Dec 7 th
Student Meeting	Wednesday	Dec 7 th
Board Meeting	Wednesday	Dec 7 th
TFCC Prep	Wednesday	Dec 7 th
GSA Awards	Thursday	Dec 8 th
TFCC Negotiations	Thursday	Dec 8 th
GFC Full Council	Thursday	Dec 8 th
Student Meeting	Friday	Dec 9 th
Student Meeting	Friday	Dec 9 th
GFC Academic Plan.	Monday	Dec 12 th
TFCC Debrief	Tuesday	Dec 13 th
TFCC Negotiations	Tuesday	Dec 13 th
SLT Holiday	Tuesday	Dec 13 th
Governance/Operations	Wednesday	Dec 14 th
Board Meeting	Wednesday	Dec 14 th
GFC GAPS	Wednesday	Dec 14 th
ADRC	Wednesday	Dec 14 th
Student Meeting	Wednesday	Dec 14 th
GSA Awards	Thursday	Dec 15 th
Peer Beyond	Thursday	Dec 15 th
Awards Brunch	Friday	Dec 15 th
Student Meeting	Friday	Dec 15 th
Course Feedback WG	Friday	Dec 15 th

Governance/Operations	Wednesday	Dec 21 st
Student Meeting	Thursday	Dec 23 rd
Vacation Advo Discussion	Wednesday	Jan 4 th
FGS Council for Vacation	Thursday	Jan 5 th
Student Meeting	Thursday	Jan 5 th
Peer Beyond	Friday	Jan 5 th
Jan GRC Planning	Tuesday	Jan 10 th
Strat Plan Implement.	Tuesday	Jan 10 th
Governance/Operations	Wednesday	Jan 11 th
Board Meeting	Wednesday	Jan 11 th
Awards Meeting	Thursday	Jan 12 th
GSA Meeting	Thursday	Jan 12 th
PEER Beyond	Friday	Jan 13 th
PEER Beyond	Monday	Jan 16 th
Student Meeting	Monday	Jan 16 th
Student Representation	Monday	Jan 16 th
Student Meeting	Monday	Jan 16 th
FGS Council for Vacation	Thursday	Jan 19 th

Cameron Armstrong
VP Finance and Services
vpfs.gsa@ucalgary.ca
November 29-January 31

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](#).

The 2023-2026 plan will be available soon.

Improving Advocacy

Labour Relations

- Per the GSA bylaws, the VPFS is responsible for “the oversight of the LRC (GLU), 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, Mick Elliott, for more information at mick.elliott@ucalgary.ca

Search Committee Process Improvement

- All search committee postings will now be advertised through the following channels:
 - GSA volunteer database
 - SLT leaders
 - GSG leaders
 - DGA leaders
 - GSA weekly newsletter
 - All GSA executives

Improving Service Delivery

Health and Dental Updates

- Enrolment changes started in January.
 - Enrolment methodology has not changed.
 - Full-time students are still automatically enrolled.
 - Part-time students are still automatically opted out.
 - Students now pay pro-rated fees through August 2023.
 - Starting September 2023, one enrolment payment plan will begin.
 - Student starting their studies outside of the September intake will pay pro-rated fees for their first year.
- Changes to the Health and Dental plan:
 - We're developing a survey to gather data on students' preferences for the plan next year.
 - We're looking to see what areas of coverage students find most important and the sentiment around willingness to pay a premium for premium coverage or vice versa.
- Health and Dental changes timeline:
 - January GRC:
 - StudentCare presentation and survey introduction.
 - Mid-February FSC meeting:
 - Review of survey data.
 - Voting on StudentCare plan changes.
 - February GRC:
 - Review of survey data.
 - Voting on StudentCare plan changes.
 - March:
 - Approval of StudentCare plan changes.
 - Approval of 2023-2024 budget.

Discounts for Students

- We are currently in the middle of negotiating a discount with a vendor in Mac Hall.
 - This discount will include regular savings for graduate students as well as catering benefits for any GSGs, DGAs or SLTs that want to host an event for their members.
- 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

- Past:
 - Getting Started with Financial Education on January 24.
- Upcoming:
 - How Best to Get a Job, Internship or Co-op on February 7.
 - Budgeting Basics on February 21.

Finance Standing Committee

- Review of financial statements and GSA budget proposal on January 26.
- Please contact the FSC Chair, Pavana Bollu, at fsc.gsa@ucalgary.ca for more information.

Health and Dental Committee

- Currently rallying efforts around student survey development and corresponding budget changes.

Improving Organization Sustainability

Sustainability Committee Workshop Series

- Tote bag decorating event coming soon.
- Currently executing two Quality Money projects:
 - Battery recycling.
 - Pizza and salad garden boxes.
- Please contact the SC Chair, Sandra Moses, at sustain.gsa@ucalgary.ca for more information.

Single-use Plastic Elimination Advocacy

- Met with graduate student and reviewed research on single-use plastics at UCalgary.
- Met with SU to see what can be done by the SU to eliminate/reduce single use plastics.
 - Single-use plastics will be banned in January 2024.
- Hosted conversation regarding environmental stewardship at the LDL.

Styrofoam Recycling Advocacy

- Presented research to the Director of Caretaking.
- Goal is to expand upon current pilot program at Foothills campus.
- UCalgary is reviewing the materials and budget to see if expansion is feasible.

Climate Action Grant Review Committee

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

Total Hours

Meetings: 69

Other: 55

Total: 124

Average per week: 16

PTO: 3 days

Holiday: 4 days

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 30
ALAC Meeting	Wednesday	November 30
Campus Rally for Iran	Wednesday	November 30
GRC H&D Update	Wednesday	November 30
GSA Meeting	Thursday	November 31
LDL Marketing Meeting	Friday	December 1
Styrofoam Recycling Presentation	Friday	December 1
Styrofoam Recycling Follow Up	Monday	December 5
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	December 7
Meeting with Head of Ancillary Serv	Wednesday	December 7
Cross-cultural Workshop	Thursday	December 8
StudentCare Meeting	Friday	December 9
Experiential Learning Interview	Monday	December 12
SLT Holiday Get-together	Tuesday	December 13
Styrofoam Meeting	Wednesday	December 14
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	December 14
MBA Get-together	Thursday	December 15
FGS Council Meeting	Thursday	December 15
Single-use Plastics Meeting	Thursday	December 15
LDL Marketing Meeting	Friday	December 16
Meeting with VP Finance	Friday	December 16
GSA Staff Meeting	Tuesday	December 20
Single-use Plastics Meeting	Tuesday	December 20
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	December 21
January 2023 GRC Meeting	Tuesday	January 10

Strategic Planning Meeting	Tuesday	January 10
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	January 11
Energy Perspectives Meeting	Thursday	January 12
LDL Marketing Meeting	Friday	January 13
Promotion Meeting	Tuesday	January 17
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	January 18
Budget Review Meeting	Wednesday	January 18
Courageous Conversations Series	Thursday	January 19
FGS Policy Meeting	Thursday	January 19
Call with StudentCare	Thursday	January 19
GLU Meeting	Thursday	January 19
Resource Meeting	Thursday	January 19
StudentCare Meeting	Friday	January 20
Water Literacy Workshop	Tuesday	January 24
Financial Education Workshop	Tuesday	January 24
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	January 25
GLU Negotiations Follow Up	Wednesday	January 25
Resource Meeting	Wednesday	January 25
FSC Meeting	Thursday	January 26
TFCC Meeting	Thursday	January 26
LDL Marketing Meeting	Friday	January 27
Work/life Balance Workshop	Tuesday	January 31
StudentCare Q&A	Tuesday	January 31
GRC Meeting	Tuesday	January 31

Masume Akbari
VP Student Life
vpsl.gsa@ucalgary.ca
November 22-January 23

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

Advocating for Mental Health

- I have been advocating for graduate students' mental health to Kaitlin Van Geel, Counsellor, Student Wellness Services. She informed me about the first mental health support session on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:00pm to help students navigate their struggles such as:
 - Financial difficulties,
 - Mental health related issues.
- The Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee (MHWS) vice-chair advocacy has been participating in following committee meetings as my delegate, advocating for graduate students:
 - Sexual and gender Wellness Week- Committee (GSA² chairs also attend these meetings),
 - National Standard Post-Secondary Committee,
 - Campus Mental Health and Strategy Implementation Committee.

Advocating for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI)

- I asked to add two budget lines to 2023-24 GSA budget for EDI committee:
 - Operational budget (\$1000),
 - Events Budget (\$ 3000).

Advocating for international students

- The Newcomers and International Students Subcommittee (NISS) chairs have been participating in following committee meetings as my delegate, advocating for graduate students:
 - International Student Support Network (ISSN).

Advocating for engineering graduate students to Schulich School of Engineering

- Participated in bi-weekly meetings with Schulich School of Engineering Graduate Student Council, dean of faculty of engineering and their team and discussed:
 - Events for graduate students,

- Workshops for graduate students,
- Equipment for engineering lounge,
- Assigning honorarium to SSE chairs and vice chairs,
- Student engagement.

Meeting with the dean of Schulich School of Engineering and his team, Jan 11, 2023

- A discussion about Master of Engineering Students and their financial struggles:
 - SSE will provide at least 125 ¼ GAT for MEng students next academic year.

Advocating for Iranian current and potential future graduate students to FGS

- Due to uprisings in Iran, internet shut down and inflation, Iranians are in urgent help. Where it is possible, FGS is asking programs to:
 - Provide flexibility on deadlines,
 - Provide flexibility on official documentation,
 - Recommend alternatives such as Duolingo for English language Proficiency,
 - Considering the potential impacts of Fall 2022 on Iranian students' grades,
 - Waive the application fee upon request by Iranians.

Improving Service Delivery

Student Engagement and Events Committee (SEEC)

- Various events have been planned and organized by SEEC subcommittees. These diverse events are planned to cover different groups of graduate students' interest and enhance their student life experience at UCalgary.
 - Event Subcommittee (ES) events:
 - Wine Tasting, Jan 13, 2023
 - Curling, Feb 23, 2023
 - Gender and Sexuality Alliance Subcommittee (GSA^2) events:
 - Queer Speaker Series, Nov 23, 2022
 - Queer Gingerbread House Decorating, Dec 7, 2022
 - 2SLGBTQIAP+ Book Club, Jan 18, 2023
 - Coming Out Monologues, Jan 20, 2023
 - Queer Film Night, Jan 27, 2022
 - Queer Sexual Health Trivia Night, Feb 13, 2023
 - Anti-Valentine's Day Cake Decorating, Feb 14, 2023
 - Queer Speaker Series, Feb 17, 2023
 - GSA^2 Charity Drag Event – Newbie Night, Mar 4, 2023
 - Intersectionality Symposium, Mar 10, 2023
 - Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee (MHWS) events:
 - 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
 - Recognizing and Destigmatizing Mental Health Panel Event, Jan 25, 2023

- Yoga & Toe-ga: Movement for Mental Health, Feb 7, 2023
- Pet Therapy with PALS
- Newcomers and International Students Subcommittee (NISS) events:
 - FIFA23 Tournament, Dec 3, 2022
 - A letter to home, Dec 15, 2022
 - Ice Skating, Jan 27, 2023

Student Engagement Coordinator

- SLT holiday party, Dec 13, 2022
- XC skiing with the OC, Jan 22, 2023
- Lake Louise trip, Jan 29, 2023
- Colorado vs Calgary hockey game, Feb 19, 2023
- 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

Vice President Student Life

- December 6, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
 - I have hosted this event alongside Nicole, the SU president, at Canadian Natural Resources Limited Engineering Complex – Main Atrium.
 - This event was livestreamed at Event page: <https://events.ucalgary.ca/current-students/event/423336>.
- GSA holiday Potluck, Dec 28, 2022
- Graduate Orientation (Grad O) for new students, Jan 4, 2023
- Departmental graduate orientations, Jan 3-5, 2023

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.
- 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.

Breakfast with VPSL, Mar 2, 2023

- I am planning a breakfast with Vice President Student Life at LDL for graduate students to connect with them and hear their feedbacks about GSA events and services over the past year.

Improving Organization Sustainability

Events at LDL

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

Other Accomplishments

Graduate Orientation (Grad O) for new students, Jan 4, 2023

- The GSA president, Saaka, and I had hosted GSA section of Grad O for new graduate students. It was an engaging and fun session for graduate students. Most of them joined the LDL social after the orientation session.

Departmental Graduate Orientations

- I have participated in departmental graduate orientations to inform new graduate students about GSA resources, events, and advocacy plans.

FYI & Highlights

- GSA² in collaboration with EDI and MHWS is hosting the intersectionality symposium on March 10, 2023.
 - The Intersectionality Symposium will feature 3 speaker panels to create awareness about underrepresented groups and shed light on less visible topics in our lives. The panel topics selected for the inaugural Intersectionality Symposium include Intersectionality in Academia, Disability Awareness, and Black Mental Health. Graduate attendees will be eligible to receive an EDI certificate through MyGradSkills. All attendees are eligible to receive door prizes.

Total Hours

Meeting: 37

Others: 94

Total: 131

Average per week: 25

Notes:

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Grad Student Experience Survey Meeting	Tuesday	November 22, 2022
Events team meeting	Tuesday	November 22, 2022
DGA/GSG social	Tuesday	November 22, 2022
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 23, 2022
GRC	Tuesday	November 29, 2022
Dec 6 event meeting	Wednesday	November 30, 2022
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	November 30, 2022
Hosting Dec 6 event (National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women)	Monday	December 6, 2022
Events team meeting	Tuesday	December 13, 2022

SLT holiday get together	Tuesday	December 13, 2022
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	December 14, 2022
A Letter to Home event	Thursday	December 15, 2022
Engineering Grad Student Engagement meeting	Thursday	December 15, 2022
Events team meeting	Thursday	December 15, 2022
Advocacy engagement Monthly meeting	Thursday	December 15, 2022
FGS Council meeting	Thursday	December 15, 2022
GSA board-staff meeting	Tuesday	December 20, 2022
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	December 21, 2022
GSA Winter Potluck	Wednesday	December 28, 2022
Departmental orientation- Chemical Engineering	Tuesday	January 3, 2023
Hosting Grad O- LDL social	Wednesday	January 3, 2023
Departmental orientation- GSC	Thursday	January 5, 2023
Departmental orientation- Data Science	Thursday	January 5, 2023
SEEC chair meeting	Thursday	January 5, 2023
GRC agenda discussion	Tuesday	January 10, 2023
Events team meeting	Tuesday	January 10, 2023
Strategic planning board/staff meeting	Tuesday	January 10, 2023
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	January 11, 2023
Meeting with <small>the dean of Schulich School of Engineering and his team</small>	Wednesday	January 11, 2023
Grad O review- FGS & GSA	Thursday	January 12, 2023
GSA board-staff meeting	Thursday	January 12, 2023
SEEC #5 meeting	Thursday	January 12, 2023
GSA board-staff meeting	Tuesday	January 17, 2023
Events team meeting	Tuesday	January 17, 2023
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday	January 18, 2023
2023-2024 Budget Review	Wednesday	January 18, 2023
FGS Council meeting	Thursday	January 19, 2023
Health and Dental committee meeting	Friday	January 20, 2023

A.C. Cameron
VP External
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[Date Range: Nov 21st - Jan 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 was great!

International student asks very well received. Money is tight otherwise.

Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

- Drafted a Food-Security policy with Andrew. Sent to CASA's board for review. Consultation sessions ongoing, aiming to vet through the AGM in March.

Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC)

- Connecting with Support our Sciences for our next meeting

ab-GPAC Membership

- Moved our Advo Week to January 16th-19th. Passed motion at our November Board meeting to take the following asks:
 - Restoring 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.
- Board meeting, Dec 16th; asks all in draft. Given a Jan 4th deadline to submit research for Jan 16th advo week. Schedule came out the week of the 9th. There were only two meetings: Ministry of Advanced Ed; Education Critic. I could make neither for conflicting schedules. Kirsten and Saaka represented our organization well. There was little to no training from abGPAC staff, or coordination from the other member associations.
- Overall, we are having difficulties with the other member associations. We do not feel our voices are heard or valued by the other delegates. Meetings are poorly scheduled, and most of our documents appear very last minute.
- We are not happy with our membership here and are drafting a letter of concern.

Calgary Student Alliance Membership

- Failed quorum for November meeting. Chair has stepped down. Nicole (SU Pres) has been declared the new chair (from Vice Chair). Group quiet largely; more details coming.

SU Leader's Dinner

- Chats with Councilors Walcott, Penner, Wong, and Mian about affordable housing and transit services. They are all advocates for these issues, and we have invited follow ups.
- Chatted with the NDP about student funding, impacts of post-secondary fundings over the past four years, support from MLA Eggen here. We have interest from other MLAs about freedom of union association, and passed on contact for Graduate Labour Union.
- Didn't hear too much from the UCP.

Advocacy: Local and On-Campus Initiatives

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

- **Nourish to Flourish Working Group**, launched a meal voucher program in December, offering vouchers for free meals at the landing, from many campus hubs, 250 vouchers purchased, and all distributed within first 24 hours.
- Nourish to Flourish re-evaluating tactics, looking at what goals are possible in the next year; what are our dreams for food security systems in five years.

Food-Housing (ad-hoc) Working Group

- Pam Farrell has taken the chair position. (Congratulations!)
- We are working on a food-housing assessment survey; made contact with department of sociology who have been developing a food security survey of their own. Collaborating to incorporate aspects of housing situation, travel time, and local food-access to better inform our efforts and advocacy going forward.
- Reached out to the founders of the Grad Snacks program (Foothills Campus) to share resources and food literacy practices.
- Still open to members to help improve 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.
- Largely quiet the past few months. Revamping this week, to build on momentum from the tuition protest at the Board of Governors meeting. Focus aimed at provincial funding.
- Looking for more members! [Join our LOUD Series!](#)

Collaborative Opportunity – SU.

- SU is launching a student strike campaign to follow up the BoG protest. Our group has an opportunity to support their efforts, if members are on board.

Collaborative Opportunity – CAUS.

- Waiting for further details.

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

- See November update.

Commented [AC1]: update this one.

- **Question for you:** would you like to join training sessions geared towards political organizing in preparation for the next provincial election? **Email me!**

Improving Service Delivery

Emergency Housing Support

- Housing requests still coming in. Emailing with Ancillary Services to ensure sufficient accommodations.

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](#). (We've got a draft almost ready to summarize our fall efforts: city budget; federal advo; please stay tuned.)
- **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.
- Drafting a TFCC guidebook for future exec, including pro-tips and asks from prior years.

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

[Grad Snacks Program](#) Launched at Foothills Campus!

Alberta Teacher's Association – Campaign

- Quiet at the moment, but keep an eye out for provincial education rallies.

Tuition and University Budget Cycle:

- The SU organized a rally outside the BoG meeting (Jan 20th), in protest of poor consultation processes. Student energy was very engaged, ask Saaka for details of how the BoG meeting went.

***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

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

Staff updates.

- GSA has hired an Administrative Assistant (Allie Bishop).

Total Hours (all-in-all)

Meeting: 543

Research: 142

Comms: 196

Events and Other: 232

Total: 1113

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
CASA – Advo Week!	(I'm in Ottawa till the 28 th :)	Nov 20 th –28 th
Nourish to Flourish		Nov 25 th
GRC		Nov 29 th
TFCC Huddle GSA		Dec 1 st
CSA Meeting		Dec 1 st
TFCC Huddle with the SU		Dec 2 nd
GSA Advo Meeting		Dec 6 th
Budget Town Hall		Dec 7 th
Advo Team TFCC Huddle		Dec 7 th
Food-Housing Meeting		Dec 9 th
Advo Huddle		Dec 9 th
Senate Community Engagement Committee		Dec 12 th
Advo Team TFCC Huddle		Dec 13 th
TFCC Meeting		Dec 13 th
SLT Xmas Party		Dec 13 th
Advo Huddle		Dec 14 th
Food-Housing Meeting		Dec 15 th
Advo Engagement (LOUD) meeting		Dec 15 th
Senate Year End Meeting		Dec 15 th
Ab-GPAC Board Meeting		Dec 16 th
GSA Staff Meeting		Dec 20 th
Advo Huddle		Dec 20 th
CASA Fed Policy Meeting		Jan 9 th
GRC Agenda Planning		Jan 10 th
GSA Advo Budget Meeting		Jan 10 th
Senate Community Engagement Meeting		Jan 10 th
Nourish to Flourish		Jan 11 th
SU Leader's Dinner Study		Jan 11 th
Food-Housing WG Meeting		Jan 12 th
SU Leader's Dinner		Jan 12 th



Report to GRC January 2023

CASA Federal Policy Meeting	Jan 13 th
GLU Solidarity meeting	Jan 13 th
Advo Engagement (LOUD) Meeting	Jan 17 th
GSA Budget Meeting	Jan 18 th
LOUD Huddle	Jan 18 th
Advo Huddle	Jan 19 th
Tuition Protest	Jan 20 th
LOUD Huddle	Jan 20 th