GRADUATE STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 PM
TUESDAY, November 29, 2016
Clara Christie Theatre, Foothills Campus

Attendees:
Sam Hossack, President
Abu Abdelhafiz, VP Academic
Yangyang Fang, VP External
Adrienne Offenbecker, VP Student Life
Arash Afshar, VP Finance and Services
Joey Windsor, Speaker
Veronika Kiryanova, Clerk
Jason Unsworth, Executive Director

Quorum

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA
Biochemical Sciences Graduate Students Association
Fintan Stanley
Jonathan Lee
Kara Vanden Broek
Jessica Hopson
Alex Mitchell
Atianna Marie Skara
Nadia Maarouf
Ross Arnold
Teeratorn Kadeethum
Alejandra Garcia
Natasha Garner
Thomas Welsh
Gabrielle Roccella
Moe Esfahlani
Sarah Lee
Raymond Lee
Laura Sevick
Mark Hofmeister
Haley Vecchiarelli
Leanne Dawson

Chemistry Graduate Student Association
Electrical and Computer Engineering
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>English Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Zachary Brewer</td>
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<td>Environmental Design Student Association</td>
<td>Minella Chiappe</td>
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<td>Gastrointestinal Graduate Student Association</td>
<td>Fernando Vicente</td>
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<td>Geography Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Sarah St. Germain</td>
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<td>Geomatics Graduate Group</td>
<td>Kyle Plotsky</td>
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<td>German Studies Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Mostafa Sakr</td>
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<td>Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Graduate Student Association</td>
<td>Bernadette Raedler</td>
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<td>Graduate Association of Geoscience Students</td>
<td>Adam Benfer</td>
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<td>Graduate Engineering Students Consortium</td>
<td>Leanne Dawson</td>
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<td>Graduate Programs in Education</td>
<td>Brit Paris</td>
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<td>Graduate University Mathematics Society</td>
<td>Sumin Leem Ola</td>
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<td>Haskayne PhD Student Group</td>
<td>Carly Drake</td>
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<td>History Graduate Students Union</td>
<td>Rebecca Ralph</td>
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<td>Immunology Graduate Association</td>
<td>Rachel Kratofil</td>
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<td>Kinesiology Graduate Student Association</td>
<td>Arpan Neupane</td>
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<td>Linguistics Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Kathryn Wytsma-Fisher</td>
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<td>Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Lindsay Hracs</td>
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<td>Medical Sciences Graduate Student Association</td>
<td>Annamaris Olmo Valezquez</td>
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<td>Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Myra Chen</td>
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<td>Neurosciences - Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization</td>
<td>Md Abu Naser Mohon</td>
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<td>Philosophy Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Nicole Burma</td>
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<td>Physics and Astronomy Departmental Graduate Association</td>
<td>Brian Hanely</td>
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<td>Political Science Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Samara Burns</td>
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<td>Psychology Graduate Students Association</td>
<td>Elizabeth Watt</td>
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<td>Jessica Weber</td>
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<td>Camila Torres</td>
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<td>Sociology Graduate Students Caucus</td>
<td>Emilie Lacroix</td>
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<td>Clark Amistad</td>
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<td>Strategic Studies Students Consortium</td>
<td>Stephanie Cantlay</td>
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<td>Martine Dennie</td>
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<td>Kiernan McClelland</td>
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GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Began 5:35 pm

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

October, 2016 Minutes

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

GRC Initiative Update

- Brit Paris updated the GRC on the progress of GRC initiative
- She reminded the GRC that in the past the GRC voted to distribute the 10K budget towards the online graduate student forum and awards and scholarships.
- Brit said that any input and ideas regarding the forum are welcomed.
- She said that the new scholarships will complement current awards, one of the areas of scholarship offer will likely be leadership (e.g. students that started an initiative that benefits the community).
- Brit was looking for GRC members to join the committee; committee commitment will be no more than 5-7 hours a month, and meeting times will be managed around student schedules.

President’s Report (Sam Hossack) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Sam discussed the progress of the Labour Relations meeting with the Ministry. She mentioned that the committee was fairly unanimous in changes they would like to see happen. More updates to come in the new year.
- Feedback regarding tuition and fees is being collected and responses are compiled. Sam is asking students to contribute their opinions.
- Sam stated that graduate student participation in the Energizing Eyes High was high.
• She also stated that the GSA strategic plan objectives will be available online soon.
• Sam also updated the GRC regarding the “What is a Graduate Student?” Campaign, Canada-Wide GSA Collaborations, Quality Money Renewal (the decision on which will be available in January), and GSA Annual Survey (survey timing will be changed and format of the survey will be updated).

**Vice-President (Academic) Report (Abu Abdelhafiz) (see PowerPoint presentation)**

- Abu mentioned that feedback is available for the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award (AGCA) applicants.
- He also mentioned that Open Education Resources will be looking for graduate student representatives.
- Abu unveiled the new Innovation Development Award. Support for this award was provided by the Innovate Calgary and Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Haskayne School of Business. This award is designed to foster graduate student entrepreneurship and innovation. Abu walked the GRC through the steps and timeline involved in award competition.

**Vice-President (External) Report (Yangyang Fang) (see PowerPoint presentation)**

- Yangyang updated the GRC regarding the initiatives of the External Relations Standing Committee, including US Elections 101 Pizza Party and Student discussion on tuition and fees consultations.
- She also let the GRC know about her experience at convocation, updated the GRC on the reasons behind External Relations Standing Committee ToRs revisions, and Revision of Order of the University of Calgary nomination and evaluation forms.
- Yangyang talked about the Labor Relations Roundtables, where she believes educational representatives stood united.
- She talked about the University Advocacy Week, where we reach out to the community and the government regarding student life and challenges.
- She stated that the Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution Service (RTDRS) consultations was not public, and that some policy amendments were resultant from the meeting; legal fees reduction decision followed.
- She also mentioned that she met with Ministry regarding the internship program (which is open to graduate students), and tuition and funding review.
- She also stated that the upcoming Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer and Budget submission is looking for student volunteers
- Yangyang invited students to nominate individuals for Honorary Degree (HD) and Order of the University of Calgary (OTUC) and GSA Political Leadership Award
Vice-President (Student Life) Report (Adrianne Offenbecker) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Adrianne used her time to talk about the upcoming graduate student events. She talked about UCalgary Meet Up program organized by International Student Services. The program is expanding to increase interaction between domestic & international students. Graduate student group composed of a small group of approximately 6-8 students and a facilitator; this group will interact, explore the city, and attend various events.
- Adrianne encouraged students to apply for the FGS/GSA Photo Competition; students submit a photo that captures their research and is accompanied by a short abstract. Prizes will be awarded to first through third place and the People’s Choice award winner.
- Adrianne encouraged students to participate in the GSA Holiday Food Drive. Prizes will be awarded to the DGAs with most contribution (calculated per number of students in the particular department).
- Adrianne also encouraged students to participate in the United Way Fundraiser on December 8 (7-11 pm), tickets are $10 and lots of great prizes will be up for grabs!
- Adrianne invited students to participate in the multitude of upcoming events. Students were encouraged to reserve their tickets and spots online.

Vice-President (Finance & Services) Report (Arash Afshar) (see Power Point presentation)

- Arash updated the GRC regarding the Quality Money application processes, which are currently under review. He encouraged students to apply for the next round of Quality Money Grant competition.
- Arash updated the GRC on the state of sustainability initiatives. He also stated that GSA fees and Health & Dental fees will be discussed at the next GRC.
- Arash stated that we are on track with our budget. LDL is also financially healthy, however, fewer customers are coming to the LDL, therefore our goal is to increase LDL attendance and use
- Capital asset project has been started. Some accounting miscalculations have been found, and it was discovered that the amortization schedule for LDL furniture and renovations was incorrect, which will result in unexpected costs for the 2016-17 fiscal year

Question Period:

- **Q:** Can you resend tuition survey?
  - **A:** Yes
- **Q (from the speaker):** Is the information being presented in GRC being clearly presented?
  - **A:** Yes
- **Q:** Can any graduate student sit on the Senate’s sub-committees once the ToRs are changed or are positions only open to GSA execs?
  - **A:** All graduate students will be eligible
- **Q:** Labor relations min required funding form some of the department is lower than average (lower than the official minimum value)?
  - **A:** There are many ways through which graduate students can be funded, these include external awards, grants, TAships, departmental funding. Funding is different in every department. We are working with the FGS to ensure clarity in funding expectations. Students can comment on funding within tuition and fees
consultation. Some departments do not commit to a certain amount of funding for the students while others have good funding models. We encourage you to tell us about the specific concerns you have in your department.

**DGA Period**

- On March 16-17 the Centre for Strategic Studies will be hosting a 19-th Annual Graduate Strategic Studies Conference: Security, Strategy, and Defense: “Addressing complex threats”
- Abstract to be submitted Dec 1.  
  https://strategyconference.ca/2017-call-for-papers/

- Sociology Department CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
  - Graduate Student Research Symposium "What does progress look like?"  
    March 9 & 10 2017  
    Hosted by the Sociology Graduate Student Caucus, University of Calgary  
  - https://soci.ucalgary.ca/gsrs

- Joey: July 22 and 23 The Linguistics DGA (A Higher Clause) with the ConLangers of Western Canada will be hosting the Language Creation Conference 7 at the University of Calgary. I welcome any suggestions for how to open up this event to the larger Graduate Student community, or additional events we could organize around this event such as special public lectures, or meet n greets with the minds behind some of your favorite invented languages (eg. Those use in Game of Thrones, Defiance, or Star Trek...)

**Other Business**

- Sam
  - Please fill out the tuition survey
  - Faculty of Science safety information team committee is looking for graduate student representatives (have to be a part of the Faculty of Science)
  - UC emergency app is looking for people to test it on December 9, 1-3pm

- Judicial Board will soon convene for a mock trial this year to test the process that governs that body. The GSA Board is currently working on improving some back-of-house services for the Speaker and Judicial Board, and as soon as that is completed, the body will convene to test out the process and make recommendations accordingly to GRC.

- Adrianne: Sexual Harassment Sexual Violence initiative is looking for graduate student opinion, several sub committees are looking for representatives (meet once every few weeks for an hour) Contact vpsl@ucalgary.ca for information
• December 6th - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This year's December 6th events will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 6, in the Rosza Centre [https://www.ucalgary.ca/women/Dec6Memorial](https://www.ucalgary.ca/women/Dec6Memorial)

**Adjournment of Open Session**
Moved/seconded
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm
Presentation: GRC Initiative Update

Brit Paris, GRCI Committee Chair
President Report

Sam Hossack
Updates

• Labour Relations
  • Met with Ministry Nov. 14

• Tuition and Fees
  • Collecting feedback and compiling responses

• Energizing Eyes High
  • Nearly 200 graduate student participants!

• GSA Strategic Plan
  • Objectives and Initiatives on website
  • Metrics and Dashboard upcoming
Upcoming

• “What is a Graduate Student?” Campaign
  • January Launch!

• Canada-Wide GSA Collaborations
  • Developing information/best practices/data sharing organization for GSA’s across Canada

• Quality Money Renewal - BoG
  • December 16th Vote

• GSA Annual Survey
  • End of January/Beginning of February
VP Academic Report
Abu Abdelhafiz
Some exciting news

• Professional Grants revamped and expanded → applications closed and now being evaluated
• NEW Innovation Development Award
  • Finalized and open soon. BIG announcement coming!
• Excellence Awards expanded with Newcomer Award, and others!
• Campus-wide research conference
  • next semester
• Family Bursaries increased from $1500 to $2000 per award → applications closed and now being evaluated
More updates

• **Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award (AGCA)**
  • Results are up. **PLEASE** ask me for feedback on your application.
  • Personalized feedback delivered (score, rank, comments + VPA’s summary, recommendations for building a stronger application going forward).
  • Roughly 60 applicants requested and received feedback, so please get yours today.

• **OER:**
  • OER Advocate position will be open for grad students now.
  • Peer reviewer positions in AB Open Educational Resources (OER) Program **still open** for grad students.
Upcoming events

- Deadlines:
  - Innovation Development Award: will open very soon.
Innovation Development Award

Abubaker Abdelhafiz (Abu)
Our Partners

• **Office of the Vice President-Research:**
  - Generously donated $10,000 and is providing support.

• **Innovate Calgary:**
  - Review of application package.
  - Offering subsidized business services.
  - Providing Mentorship and reporting services

• **Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Haskayne School of Business:**
  - Review of application package.
  - Providing access to large pool of external judges.
What is it?

• Encourage “entrepreneurial thinking” across campus
• Ever watched Shark Tank/etc, laughed at the contestants and told whoever listening that you can ‘totally do better than those guys’?
• Ever looked at your research or your area of passion and thought ‘there’s a really good business idea here’ before?

• Well, here’s your chance!
What is it?

• The GSA Innovation Development Award is a new GSA Award intended to support entrepreneurship among students by providing monetary rewards and business support services to students who want to take their research or academic interests to society at large.

• Our award package includes monetary rewards and subsidized professional mentorship services, with a value totaling $30,000.
How does it work?

1. BIG announcement coming soon.
2. Applications will be open for 2+ months.
3. Once applications are closed.
4. Initial internal screening by GSA Awards Committee.
5. Shortlist forwarded to Hunter Centre @ Haskayne School of Business (~10 teams) ➔ Applications get evaluated by external judges from the business and alumni communities.
6. Second shortlist (~5 teams) returned to GSA Exec and Awards committee for interviews and final screening.
7. Three teams win the award.
8. Winning teams get to compete in a public pitch for an extra cash top-up of $1000!
Dates

• Award will formally be announced and opened by early December.
• Applications close after ~8 weeks (around Late Jan).
• Applications will be screened and forwarded to external judges, and winners will be notified around early-to-mid March.
VP External Report

Xiao Yang Fang (Yangyang)
Stuff That Happened

• **External Relations Standing Committee**
  - US Elections 101 Pizza Party (Nov 8)
  - Student discussion on tuition and fees consultations (Nov 22)

• **Senate**
  - Convocations (Nov 10)
  - Revising committee ToRs
  - Revision of Order of the University of Calgary nomination and evaluation forms
On Advocacy

• Labor Relations Roundtables (Nov 14)
• University Advocacy Week (Nov 9-18)
• Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution Service (RTDRS) consultations (Nov 15)
• Meeting with Ministry (Nov 23)
• Tuition and Funding review (Nov 30)
  • Survey
  • NISC
  • Student discussion
• Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (upcoming)
• Budget submission (upcoming)
Make Nominations!

• Nominations for HD and OTUC (rolling basis)
  • http://www.ucalgary.ca/senate/nominate

• *NEW* Political Leadership Award (Dec 15 deadline)
  • https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/financial-support/awards/
  • Email Jiayi.cao2@ucalgary.ca
VP Student Life Report

Adrianne Offenbecker
Updates

• **UCalgary Meet Up program (ISS)**
  • Increase interaction between domestic & international students
  • Pilot program for grad only group

• **FGS/GSA Photo Competition**
  • Deadline is December 31, 2016
    • 1\textsuperscript{st} place: $500
    • 2\textsuperscript{nd} place: $300
    • 3\textsuperscript{rd} place: $100
    • People’s Choice: $100 gift card to book store
GSA Holiday Food Drive
Nov 16 - Dec 13

Proceeds to the Campus Food Bank

The DGA with the highest number of food items per capita wins a $300 coupon for the Last Defense Lounge.

1st Place: $300  2nd Place: $200  3rd Place: $100
UNITED WAY FUNDRAISER!

Thursday December 8 • 7-11pm

Purchase tickets at www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/events
Upcoming Events

• Knitting 101 (December 1)

• Take a Break: Dog Therapy (December 6)

• Wine Wednesday (December 7)

• Take a Break: Chocolate Fountain (December 7, 14)

• Holiday Party Potluck (December 18)
VP Finance & Services Report

Arash Afshar
Quality Money

- Received 14 applications
- Waiting on conditionally approved application responses
- Will have unallocated funds!

Stay tuned for news regarding the 3rd intake
All about Sustainability!

- Sustainability Strategic Planning
  - Processing the data
  - Will announce the results soon

- Sustainability Workshops
  - In planning phase
  - Raise awareness

- Sustainability Award (2 awards, each $1,000)
  - Working on ToR
  - Stay tuned!
Next GRC

• GSA fees discussion

• Health & Dental fees increases
  • We don’t have accurate data yet
  • We anticipate an increase in fees
    • based on the current plan usage
September Statement

Arash Afshar
GSA & LDL Statement

• GSA is on track
  • Difference with last year is that we received the fees in October as opposed to September
• LDL statement
  • Sep bottom line is 18% in green
  • Sep YTD bottom line is 2% in red

• Overall sales are down
  • It is something to watch for
    • Den & Black Lounge are experiencing the same
DGA Period
Other Business