Annie Hoang for GSA Vice-President Finance & Services

Who am I?
I am Annie Hoang - a master’s student in chemistry and VP Finance & Services candidate. As a dedicated academic researcher and communicator, with volunteer experience in various organizations and University committees, I want to facilitate the GSA’s mission in achieving long-term financial sustainability while providing support and empowerment for the graduate student community.

What are my strategic goals as VP Finance?
1. Improve Communication and Understanding of GSA Finances & Services
   - Increase clarity for communicating the Collective Agreement, financial resources (e.g. emergency bursaries, Quality Money, etc.), and the GSA’s overall finances in the annual report.
   - Develop a “Finance 101” workshop for the next Finance Standing Committee to reduce the learning curve in making valuable recommendations to the GSA’s annual budget.

2. Re-Evaluate the Current GSA Health & Dental Plan
   - Assess our current plan with Studentcare and insurer (Desjardins) and compare with other universities.
   - Examine our “one size fits all” model with flexible and alternative options (e.g. “multi-tiered” model, including basic, enhanced, and ‘mix and match’ plans) to effectively address student needs.
   - Provide clear notification of coverage changes, promote network discounts, and improve transparency with a comprehensive document to explain all coverages and exclusions.

3. Manage the Sustainability of the Last Defence Lounge (LDL)
   - Analyze monthly trends to mitigate the net loss of the LDL by reducing costs and increasing revenue, while maintaining good sustainability practices (e.g. living wages, locally sourced products, etc.).
   - Refine marketing strategies for promoting the LDL and events, including the “sparkling wine celebration” for successful completion of thesis defence or course-based graduate program.

4. Enhance Financial and Entrepreneurial Knowledge
   - Collaborate with Money Smart to tailor finance workshops towards graduate student life, allowing students to have the proper tools for financial planning during and after graduate school.
   - Work with the Hunter Hub to provide more workshops on how to relate graduate students’ transferable skills with entrepreneurial thinking and innovation.

How does this affect you?
The decisions of the VP Finance will affect your annual fees to the GSA, premiums and coverage to your health & dental plan, the management of LDL, as well as many other resources and services by the GSA.

What makes me qualified for this position?
During my graduate studies, I have developed a strong foundation of leadership skills through active involvement in many organizations, as well as the GSA (including committees that the VP Finance oversees):
   - GSA Health and Dental Plan Committee Member (2018)
   - GSA Finance Standing Committee Member (2017 - present)
   - Vice-President of the Electrochemical Society Calgary Student Chapter (2017 - present)
   - Beakerhead Curiosity Rover Committee Member (2017 - present)
   - Event Coordinator for UofC Nanogroup’s NanoNexus Day (2016)

I have sat at the GSA boardroom table many times to discuss GSA and LDL finances, as well as the Health & Dental Plan, alongside the executive director, accounting manager, current VP finance, and other financial representatives. I will work hard with the other GSA VPs and President to ensure that all our strategic goals are met. With your support, it would be a huge honor to serve as your VP Finance & Services for 2018-2019.