



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, April 24, 2018, 6:00 PM  
SA 104**

**Attendees:**

Brit Paris, President  
Negar Mohammadi, VP Academic  
Willem Klumpenhower, VP External  
Taha Afyouni, VP Student Life  
Christiana Manzocco, VPFS  
Kyle McCallum, Speaker  
Haley Vecchiarelli, Clerk

**GRC Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Began 18:04**

**Roll Call 18:04**

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA  
Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association

Jeremy Morris  
Claudia Ladisa  
Andrew Thompson  
Miriam Nightingale

Biomedical Engineering GSA  
Biomedical Technology Graduate Students Association  
Cardiovascular Respiratory Students Association  
Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Graduate Students' Association  
Chemistry Graduate Student Association

Dominic Omusi  
Natasha Garner  
Alejandra Enriquez Garcia  
Thomas Welsh  
Lauretta Pearse  
Hiva Jalilzadeh  
Dinu Attalage  
Brittany Demone

Civil Engineering Graduate Society

Classics and Religion DGA  
Communication Media and Film  
Community Health Sciences Student Executive

Rebecca Lang  
Bria Mele  
Yangyang Fang  
Mike Miekue  
Alya Heirali  
Alyson House  
Steven Granger  
Abraham Saucedo Cepada  
Ghazaleh Maleki Tabrizi  
Mohammad Mansouri  
Edmond Chih  
Paul Meunier

Computer Science Graduate Society  
Council of Foothills  
Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne (DASH)

Economics Graduate Association

Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA

English Graduate Student Association

Environmental Design Student Association  
Gastrointestinal Sciences Graduate Program  
Geography Graduate Students' Association

Geomatics Graduate Group  
Graduate Anthropology & Archaeology Student Association

Graduate Association of Geology and Geophysics Students  
Graduate Engineering Students Consortium  
Graduate Programs in Education Students Association  
Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society (GUMS)

History Graduate Students Union

Immunology Graduate Association  
Kinesiology Graduate Students Association  
Linguistics Graduate Students' Association  
Masters of Public Policy Student Association  
MBA Society (Haskayne)  
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association  
Medical Science Graduate Student Association

Microbiology & Infections Diseases GSA  
Neuroscience Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization

Nursing GSA  
Philosophy GSA

Physics & Astronomy Grad Students' Association

Political Science Graduate Student Association  
Psychology Graduate Students Association

School of Creative and Performing Arts  
Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus  
Strategic Studies Students' Consortium  
Sustainable Energy Development Society  
Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association

Vox Condiscipulum (French, Italian, Spanish)

Joy Olagoke  
Nicole Mancini  
Kristina Miller  
Kyle Plotsky  
Ilyar Asl Sabbaghian  
Hokmabadi  
Tatyanna Gwald  
Kelsey Pennanen

Madelyn Worth  
Rachel Hardeman  
Nuiok Dicaire  
Allison Bailey  
Rory Woroniuk  
Rachel Kratofil  
Simon Barrick  
Lindsay Hracs

Ania Karzynska  
Annamaris Olmo-Velazquez  
Alexandra Bohm  
Myra Chen

Kyle Mayr  
Chris Duszynski  
Sarah Dewell  
Eric Bohner  
Ananya Chattoraj  
Svetlana Kuznetsova  
Taylor Cameron

Devon Currie  
Sarah Simmons

Keith Hickerson

Aruna Amarasinghe  
Diego Nobrega  
Alfred Mulinda

## **Approval of Agenda 18:08**

Motioned/seconded  
Opposed:0  
Abstained:0  
CARRIED

## **Approval of March GRC Minutes 18:09**

Motioned/seconded

Opposed:0

Abstained:1

CARRIED

## **UCalgary Academic and Research Plans (Dr. Dru Marshall, Provost and VP (Academic) and Dr. Ed McCauley, VP (Research) 18:10**

Energized Eyes High strategy launched in February and is currently in the implementation phase.

- Strategic Plan—Drives what we do as an organization
  - Originally Eyes High (2012-2017)
    - Goal was to become a Top 5 research institution in Canada
  - Energized Eyes High
    - In 2017, we were in Top 5 of 25/34 metrics
      - Therefore, know we are in the Top 5, now how to get recognized as such
  - Role of Graduate Students
    - Play a major part in strategic plans
    - Graduate students are the lifeblood of the university, push professors and institute to do things in a different way and think creatively to help maintain edge.
  - Pillars of Eyes High
    - Three Foundational Commitments
      1. Sharpen Focus on Research and Scholarship
      2. Enrich the Quality and Breadth of Learning
      3. Integrate the University with the Community
    - Two Horizontal Themes
      1. Student Experience
      2. Campus Culture
        - Consultations told us that student experience was implicit in previous version and going forwarded needed to be explicitly mentioned, both for undergraduate and graduate students. Feedback was that there needed to be explicit mention of campus culture.
    - Together these drive academic and research plans
  - Process (April 2017-January 2018)
    - Phase 1—Celebration
    - Phase 2—Literature Review
    - Phase 3—Survey Development
    - Phase 4—Analysis
    - Phase 5—Drafting

- Phase 6—Consultation
- Phase 7—Formal Approval
- [Integrated Model](#)
  - Centers on value proposition for the institution (i.e. student experience and impact)
  - Last time, two separate plans, but now, while there are two plans, recognize that these are not separate domains but are interconnected
  - Unique across country, as plans were developed together
- [Academic Plan](#)
  - 3 Priorities (7 in 2012)
    - Prioritizing People (2018)
      - Talent Attraction, Development and Retention (2012)
      - Leadership (2012)
        1. Recruit and retain talented people from a diversity of backgrounds
          - Infusing resources (e.g. grad student funding)
        2. Enhance and support a campus learning culture
          - Place to learn, freedom to make mistakes
        3. Recognize and reward people
          - Valuing the people on campus
        4. Encourage and develop leaders
    - Connecting Communities (2018)
      - Internationalization (2012)
      - Connection with Community (2012)
        1. Connect and collaborate with local, regional, national, global and all communities
          - Renewal of international strategy, will be announced with new president
    - Driving Innovation (2018)
      - Interdisciplinary (2012)
      - Teaching and Research Integration (2012)
      - Sustainability (2012)
        1. Facilitate interdisciplinary
        2. Encourage pedagogical innovation
          - Micro-credentials, certificates, value-added
          - Signature pedagogies
        3. Enable the expression of entrepreneurial and critical thinking across all of our endeavors
          - Hunter Hub
        4. Develop and operationalize academic platforms

- Developing a platform for experiential learning
  - 5. Enable leadership and innovation in sustainability
- [Research Plan](#)
  - 3 Priorities
    - Matching Strengths to Opportunities
      1. Ensure that our existing six Strategic Research Themes achieve their potential and evolve
      2. Identify potential and new cross-cutting Strategic Research Themes that meet our institutional criteria
      3. Establish seed funding mechanisms and mentorship to promote research leadership in building disciplinary and/or multidisciplinary research consortia for local, provincial, national, and international opportunities
      4. Engage external communities to identify emerging opportunities where our institutional research capacity could have a major impact by creating new knowledge
    - Increasing Research Capacity
      1. Create cross-cutting initiatives on new research methodologies, modalities, and paradigms
      2. Create avenues to access shared major infrastructure across our university
        - As a graduate student, should be no barriers to access research infrastructure across university
      3. Support a new round of Eyes High postdoctoral scholars and graduate students
      4. Create more time for discovery and creativity by streamlining processes while ensuring compliance
    - Driving Innovation
      1. Create research competitions for prizes that solve major societal or community issues
      2. Create cross-campus programs to support entrepreneurial thinking and initiatives
        - Infuse entrepreneurial thinking across faculties
        - Not just creating value through commercialization but also through social innovation
      3. Explore the expansion of facilities that support the diverse needs of students and faculty for the development of ideas

4. Create pathways and support mechanisms for knowledge translation and commercialization, and lead discussions about diversity of approaches that reflect the comprehensive nature of our scholarship
  5. Transform the university into an 'early adopter' and 'test bed' for research ideas and technologies
- Kick-Off Investments
    - People
      - Double PURE Awards
      - Increase Graduate Student Scholarships
      - Round 4 Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellowships
      - University Professor Program (retain mid-career faculty)
    - Strategies
      - Indigenous Strategy
      - Mental Health Strategy
      - Teaching and Learning

Please come out and be part of the discussion! Challenge the University to think about taking on important problems; early adopt ideas; less risk adverse.

*Q: Grad Scholarship details?*

*A: Eyes High doctoral studentships, domestic and international.*

*Q: Focus groups and discussions happen, when would these happen?*

*A (Ed): Some starting in May, but most in the Fall. We will make sure that the GSA has this information to pass along to you all. These discussions are really interesting.*

*Q: Mental Health Strategy, at Foothills, it is a challenge to come over here, more implementation on other campuses?*

*A (Dru): Counseling center is on main campus and mental health hub on main campus, but we are looking at setting up satellite sites soon on other campuses.*

## **Elections 18:50**

Speaker

Nominations: Kyle McCallum

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 2

Kyle approved

Clerk

Nominations: Haley Vecchiarelli

Opposed: 1

Abstention: 2

Haley approved

Chair, FSC

Nominations Annie Hoang, Haley Glass

Abstention: 5  
Annie elected

CRO

Nominations: Somshukla Chaudhuri (Rai)

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 2

Rai approved

### **Swearing in of New Executive Officers 19:00**

Brit Paris—President

Elena Favaro—Vice President, Academic

Mohammad Mansouri—Vice President, Finance and Services

Pledge:

I do solemnly swear that, to the best of my abilities, I will:

- Uphold the GSA's Objects and Bylaws;
- Utilize my position to advocate on behalf of all graduate students at the University of Calgary;
- Utilize the Association's fiscal resources responsibly;
- And strive to represent the Association and all of its members with integrity and mindfulness in the University and at local, provincial and national levels.

### **President's Report (Brit Paris) (see PowerPoint presentation) 19:01**

- Year in Review
  - DGA Bylaw Template
  - GSG
  - Cross-Association Relations
  - Collective Agreement Awareness
- Next Year
  - Establish labour relations committee
  - Review and reinvigorate QM program
  - Improving Governance

### **Vice-President (Academic) Report (Negar Mohammadi) (see PowerPoint presentation) 19:04**

- Year in Review
  - Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium
  - Pitch Competition
  - Awards Timeline
  - Awards Gala

**Vice-President (External) Report (Willem Klumpenhouwer) (see PowerPoint presentation) 19:05**

- Year in Review
  - Advocacy
  - Tuition freeze
  - Mayoral Forum
  - Secondary Suites
  - Open Letter
  - Ward Sutherland Political Leadership award revocation
  - ab-GPAC
  - Bylaw reviews

**Vice-President (Student Life) Report (Taha Afyouni) (see PowerPoint presentation) 19:06**

- Year in Review
  - So many events!

**Vice-President (Finance & Services) Report (Christiana Manzocco) (see Power Point presentation) 19:07**

- Year in Review
  - Sustainability
  - Health and Dental Plan
  - Finances
  - LDL sustainability
- LDL Finances
  - Come so far, over past couple years we have cut this down very significantly
    - This year we only lost 25k
  - A lot of concerted effort into cost management (e.g. living wage but trimming hours of operation, discounts, food waste, etc)

**Question Period 19:11**

Q: Operational bursary increasing?

A (Brit): No one has asked, but we will now take this into consideration. GSG are also eligible for operation bursaries. We should look at how much is being accessed.

**DGA Period 19:12**

**Other Business 19:12**

- [Cumming School of Medicine Symposium \(Friday, May 25\)](#)
- [Facebook Group](#)



- May GRC
  - Thank you to those of you who served this year, we hope you come back!
  - Shawna Cunningham will be here to discuss Indigenous Strategy

**Adjournment of Open Session 19:14**

Moved/seconded

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 19:14