Attendees:
Brit Paris, President
Negar Mohammadi, VP Academic
Willem Klumpenhouver, VP External
Taha Afyouni, VP Student Life
Christiana Manzocco, VP Finance and Services
Kyle McCallum, Speaker
Haley Vecchiarelli, Clerk

Quorum

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA
Elizabeth Barretto
Rhiannon Campden

Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association
Danielle Clake
Haley Glass
Jeremy Morris

Biomedical Technology Graduate Students Association
Liam Whalen-Browne

Cardiovascular Respiratory Students Association
Nadia Maarouf

Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Graduate Students' Association
Dominic Omusi
Natasha Garner
Alejandra Enríquez Garcia
Thomas Welsh

Chemistry Graduate Student Association
Dinu Attalage
Keda Cao
Hiva Jalilzadeh
Chee Wong

Civil Engineering Graduate Society

Classics and Religion DGA
Gabriele Roccella
Monica di Rosa
Mohammad Sadeghi Esfaha

Communication Media and Film
Yangyang Fang
Rebecca Lang

Community Health Sciences Student Executive
Celina Boothby

Council of Foothills
Catherine Greene
Alya Heirali

Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne (DASH)
Alyson House
Steven Granger

Economics Graduate Association
Abraham Saucedo Cepada
Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA
Mohammad Mansouri

English Graduate Student Association
Joy Ologoke

Environmental Design Student Association
Meghan Lamb

Gastrointestinal Sciences Graduate Program
Nicole Mancini

Geography Graduate Students' Association
Kyle Plotsky

Graduate Anthropology & Archaeology Student Association
Vishnu Nandan

Graduate Association of Geology and Geophysics Students
Manuele Lazzarotto

Graduate Engineering Students Consortium
Chee Wong

Graduate Programs in Education Students Association
Laura Berlanda

Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society (GUMS)
Takumi Mushiake

History Graduate Students Union
Allison Bailey

Immunology Graduate Association
Rachel Kratofil

Kinesiology Graduate Students Association
Simone Barrick

Linguistics Graduate Students' Association
Lindsay Hracs

Masters of Public Policy Student Association
Benjamin Neff

Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association
Alexandra Meikleham

Medical Science Graduate Student Association
Saeedeh Saghatlou

Microbiology & Infections Diseases GSA
Leah Hohman

Neuroscience Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Keith Chi-Kei Lau

Nursing GSA
Cynthia Kahl

Philosophy GSA
Danielle Fox

Physics & Astronomy Grad Students' Association
Ananya Chatteraj

Political Science Graduate Student Association
Ayesh Mandwal

Psychology Graduate Students Association
Erica Kunimoto

School of Creative and Performing Arts
Michelle Flynn

Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus
Devon Currie

Strategic Studies Students' Consortium
Bahar Bingol

Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association
Alicia Clifford

Aruna Amarasinghe
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Began 5:30

Roll Call – Quorum Achieved 5:34

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda 5:35

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Approval of Meeting 2017 Minutes 5:35

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Open Access (Chritie Hurrell, Digital Initiatives and Scholarly Communication Librarian)
5:36

- Open Scholarship
  - Open Scholarship Umbrella
    - Open Access
    - OERs (Open Educational Resources) – not relying on textbooks
    - Open Source Code
    - Open Data – yours and other data
    - Citizen Science
    - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
  - Why should you care?
    - Price of access to knowledge (e.g. textbooks)
    - Library under pressure for purchasing journals, over $10 million spent per year and still struggling to keep up with prices
    - If you are not an academic, you might not be able to access information, information poverty
    - Equity and inclusion, who can access
      - Applied area, want the people who you do research about to have access
Library working to support
- Open access
  - Journal hosting
  - PRISM
    - You can put your academic outputs
      - Posters, abstracts, papers
      - Persistent link, DOI
  - Support Open Access Publishing
    - Reputable journal
    - Compiling with funder policy
    - Open Access Authors Fund
  - UofC Press
- OERs
  - Guide on where to find
  - Copyright consultation and Creative Commons licenses
  - Use PRISM to share OERs
- Open data
  - PRISM — repository
  - Can assist with finding open data

Q: How does financial support for publishing in an open access journal work?
A: On website, under services, open access. First author must be from UofC, must be a journal on an approved list, maximum of $2.5k.

Q: OER Week?
A: March 5-8, running workshops at Creative Commons licensing, publishing OERs

Health and Dental Plan Usage (StudentCare, Sofia Huck) 5:43
- Overview
  - One of the largest services, 78% grad students enrolled
  - $2 mil claims
    - almost 50/50, little over a million for health and little under 1 mil for dental
  - 139 students enrolled dependents
    - Common law spouses and children
    - Fees and pricing for dependents to be reviewed this year
  - Managed and overseen by the GSA
    - GRC decides fees and benefits
- Studentcare
  - Manage the health and dental plan of student experience
  - Support and advise GSA regarding plan
- What’s covered
  - Health
  - Vision
  - Dental
  - Travel
- But not to home country

- Why have a group plan?
  - Why not an opt in service?
    - More Expensive
      - 5-7x higher for individual plans
    - Discriminatory
      - Women pay more
    - Not accessible
      - Pre-existing conditions

- Per Capita Health Claims History
  - Rising
    - $165.36/person 2014
    - $201.01/person 2015
    - $233.46/person 2016
  - Means that students know about it and can access it
  - Biggest driving factor in costs is usage

- Per capita Dental Claims History
  - Also, rising
    - $167.96/person 2014
    - $195.56/person 2015
    - $242.50/person 2016
  - Reduced deductible from $55 to $20

- Projections showing about an 10% increase in plan over the next year
  - Need some strategies, feedback
  - How do you want to see your plan changing over the next year?

- What categories are having the biggest cost impact on the GSA plan
  - Prescription drugs
    - Usually biggest
    - Static formulary
      - List of drugs on the plan
      - Moving to provincial formulary
        - May provide cost saving measures
  - Dental services
    - Province of Alberta did not have a fee guide for dental services
      - Cheaper in BC for example
    - Implemented in Jan 2018
      - Fee guide in place
      - Most dental services to go down 8%
      - Fee guide is not mandatory
        - Can ask dentists if follow the guideline

- Studentcare Networks
  - Helping you save more money
  - Networks
    - List of dentists who offer addition savings
    - Followed a fee guide
    - With new fee guide, may be changes to who is part of the network
  - Went up 10% to 30% in dental network savings
• Saving students more money

• Summary
  o Heavily utilized
  o Delving deeper into cost drivers
  o Strategies to mitigate cost drivers
  o Student Feedback

• VP Finances and Services (Christiana)
  o Health and Dental Plan committee
    ▪ Meet Mid January
    ▪ Look at data
    ▪ What is best means of going forward, whether it’s a plan increase or tweaking services
      • How can save costs
    ▪ Please reach out to VPFS if interested

Q: Why is dental choice not covered?
A (Sofia): Dental Choice is not a network member. Had been approached, but they were given some scenario, regarding leasing, so were unable or unwilling to offer discount. Will be going back to them again. The listing of network members is on the student care website.
A (Christiana): Tell your friends and DGA members.

Q: If student is not using dental, but is using physio, can you spread allowance across services?
A (Sofia): No. At least not in current plan design. Can open different plan design. Committee will be having more of these discussions.

Q: Needed something immediately, but StudentCare took two weeks to respond?
A (Sofia): Not able to answer specific questions about individuals. Please message Lina about specifics. In cases that involve predetermination of coverage, especially for expensive coverage, submit a predetermination form, which will determine what the insurance will cover, but this can take time.

Q: Coming year’s projections, another 10% hike. 3-5 year projections?
A (Sofia): 3-5 projections are very complicated for health and dental, and because cost of plan is driven by student usage and usage will change. There are other factors (e.g. provincial regulatory changes (dental fee guide)) that may have impact on plan and are difficult to ascertain. Additionally, after a benefit enhancement has been implemented, it can take often 3-5 years for full usage to occur.
Q: Any case that it would go down?
A (Sofia): If you had a huge spike in enrollment. More students mean spreading the risk through a larger population.
Q: For the networks, does the discount apply even after you max out?
A (Sofía): Yes

Q: How long does the current plan schedule to last?
A (Sofía): Whatever changes will start going into effect in May 2018, depending on enrollment. Will make changes in February 2018.

Q: Clarify travel insurance.
A (Sofía): Will cover for entire academic purpose abroad. Plus 120 days afterwards at a time.
A (Willem): Will cover for conference/etc.
Q: It does not cover home country?
A (Sofía): The emergency travel coverage is meant to replace Alberta Health while traveling abroad. You could go see a dentist or buy glasses (might be cheaper). However, cannot use your emergency travel insurance in home country.
Q: What is the amount covered?
A (Sofía): Up to $5 mil per incidence.
Q: If not from US, can you use it in the US.
A (Sofía): Yes.
A (Sofía): You do not need to notify us, unless traveling for academic reasons for more than 120 days. We recommend printing out a travel passport.

President’s Report (Brit Paris) (see PowerPoint presentation) 6:11

- Report Highlights
  - GSGs policy has been approved, working on forms
    - Will launch in January
  - GRC handbook has been updated
    - Make sure you are following policy
  - DGA bylaw review
    - Approved DGA bylaw template
    - Will be sent out next week, with updated GRC handbook and updated DGA policy
    - Governance committee is there to help
  - DGA transition workshop
    - Towards end of the year
  - Governance
    - Purchased strategic plan evaluation software
    - Bringing in staff and outgoing and incoming executive
  - Looking for a volunteer for the Employment Recognition Committee
    - You Make a Difference Committee
Improve GRC experience

- Nameplates
- Food being served before
- Please join us at LDL for beverages
- Question of the Month (kahoot)
  - Childcare provided for free for GRC attendees?
    - Working with DGAs to get more people out to meetings and this issue has come up
    - Please let your reps know that this
    - We are exploring this option, so please let your colleagues know

Vice-President (Academic) Report (Negar Mohammadi) (see PowerPoint presentation) 6:18

- Awards—Congrats!
  - AGCA recipients have been notified
  - The adjudication of the APSG is under review
  - GSA Bursary under review
  - QM Grant recipients have been notified
- Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium
  - Feb 20, 2018
  - Sign up for a poster or talk!
    - Abstract deadline Jan 29
- UC Academic and Research Plans
  - Eyes High 2011-2016 plan, in 2017 to renew strategy (Energizing Eyes High)
    - With renewal, update of academic and research plans
    - Drs. Dru Marshall (Provost) and Ed McCauley (Vice President, Research) will be updating all departments, including GSA
    - If you have any questions or comments about this plan, please email VPA

Vice-President (External) Report (Willem Klumpenhouwer) (see PowerPoint presentation) 6:20

- Tuition
  - Government has yet to make a decision on tuition
  - Will announce this week (likely freezing or follow inflation)
- Labour Relations Pilot Committee
  - Need people from Nursing, Social Work or Haskayne
  - If have policy work, please ask to join
  - Hired a new researcher to collect info and arm us with info for renegotiating the CA
Vice-President (Student Life) Report (Taha Afyouni) (see PowerPoint presentation) 6:22

- Past Events
  - Halloween party – the event was well attended
  - Indoor Soccer tournament, 16 teams, Congrats Team Falcons!
- Upcoming Events
  - FGS/GSA Photo Competition
  - GSA DGA Holiday Food Drive
- Projects
  - United Way Campaign
    - Candy Grams, to deliver anywhere on campus
  - Supporting Indigenous Graduate Students with Indigenous Strategy
  - GSA Elections
    - Want a robust election with a lot of candidates
    - A lot of people do not have campaigning experience, so offering workshops
    - Please reach out to any executive if interested

Vice-President (Finance & Services) Report (Christiana Manzocco) (see PowerPoint presentation) 6:24

- Sustainability
  - LDL is composting all their waste
    - Weighing it, so have data about diversion from landfill
  - LDL Waste Audit, partnering with Office of Sustainability
    - We currently have a lot of volunteers for the first one, but keep an eye out for future waste audits
    - Great experience if interested in sustainability and waste management
  - LDL Supplier Audit
    - Complex process
    - Protein providers
      - All beef comes from local farms
      - Wild salmon
  - Sustainability Award Funding
    - Now sustainable funding for multiple years
    - Sustainability office contributing $250 toward award
- Hunter Hub
  - Collision Space open in basement of MacHall
  - Figuring out how to rent out space to students
- Innovation Development Grants
  - Partnering with Innovate Calgary
Looking at experiences of grant winners, what could change, curriculum provided through Innovate Calgary is being audited

- Emergency Bursary form
  - Improving clarity
- Finance: Investment Club
  - 100k of fake money to trade with and do with what they will
  - Promote financial understanding

**Question Period 6:29**

**Q:** Photography competition, restrictions about sharing pictures of animals?
**A:** Follow departmental guidelines.

*A (Katherine):* Printed and shared in FGS Office, LDL and on Facebook.

*A (Haley):* Follow Photography SOP from University Animal Welfare Committee, message your Animal Resource Centre director for more information.

**Q:** How come it is only in Mac Hall that we have compost facilities?
**A (Christiana):** I cannot speak to the specifics of what facilities is doing, but planning on rolling out green bins around campus.

*A (Willem):* City has rolled out composting.

**Q:** DGA bylaw template, you are doing audits, and will you recommend to specific DGAS or mandate all DGAs follow your template?
**A (Brit):** Not mandatory, but is recommended. We want to support you, or help you move to that template. If you want us to look at your bylaws, let us know.

*A (Katherine):* As long as your bylaws do not go against our policies (see handbook).

*A (Willem):* Or our overarching bylaws.

**Q:** Our bylaws have been passed down, and they get updated every year, but hopefully can just move things over.
**A (Brit):** You do not have to use our template, but follow the policies (e.g. you have to have elections, can’t charge members).

**Q:** Re: Sustainability, is there something we can do for education in terms of graduate spaces/offices. No one knows what goes where in the bins. Or pointing us to somewhere where that information is available?
**A (Christiana):** We have been working with family housing on this. Maybe this is different from home countries, for example. We will be getting info from sustainability office, so hopefully can take that info and give to you to disseminate.

**Q:** Looking at having at least 2 reps, to attend a GRC meeting. It is really hard for foothills DGAs for example. Video conferences? It is not feasible to get 2 members over.
**A (Brit):** We are considering it. We see more downsides to this. If we allow for video conferencing, you would all video conference in. It is difficult for such a large group. Attendance at GRC is very important to me, so if you have solutions or ideas for people to still attend if we allowed video conferencing.
Q: Always one of us attends, but difficult to get more than one. People would attend, because maintaining funding, you would still get the attendance.
A (Brit): I think everyone would attend online, if given the choice.
Q: An extra hour to our workday.
A (Brit): Driving people over? Making it only optional for Foothills?
Q: Maybe a single room?
A (Brit): Good idea.
Q: An exception for Foothills, so only one person has to be here?
Q: A deterrent for people to run for the DGA executive, because they would have to attend them.
A (Brit): You GRC representative does not have to be an executive.
Q: Downtown campus as well!
A (Brit): We are actively looking at this. Feeding you before. Offering babysitting. Whatever we can do to get people in the room. We will discuss again in January.
Q: I agree, but it is a lot easier to get the same people if you could video conference in, even if we do not get pizza.
A (Brit): I appreciate the solutions. If anyone has any other thoughts or solutions, please let me know.
A (Willem): We appreciate you taking the time out of your day.
A (Brit): Part of the changes we are making to show our appreciation.

Q: More pizza, so everyone who shows up on time can eat.
A (Brit): Sorry!

DGA Period

- English Department Free-Exchange: Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Theme: Re/Collection
  - Dec 30 Abstract Deadline
- Sociology Graduate Student Research Symposium
  - Feb 16 Abstract Deadline

Other Business

- GRCI
  - ToRs approved for committee
  - Leadership workshop set up, date will be announced soon
- Panel discussions at School of Public Policy, Mike used to negotiate tickets, so can we do that again? It is a loss if we cannot access.
  - Will look into it
- If you work with kids:
  - Youth Development Research Symposium in Red Deer
    - Due Friday
  - Physical Health and Education Canada
    - Abstracts extended to January
• DGA Food Drive
• Letters to Home

**Adjournment of Open Session**
Moved/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm