

Brit Paris
GSA President
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October 19 to November 19, 2018

Strategic Plan Pillars

As President, part of my job is to ensure the organization is moving forward in accordance with the strategic plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan (2016-2019), *Peer Beyond*, can be found [here](#).

Improving the Association (Resilience)

Improve Governance Processes and Procedures – 2018-2019 Goal

- Develop and implement policy review timeline and processes
- Develop and implement DGA Bylaw approval processes

Update:

- DGA and GSG policies have been updated, DGA bylaws are currently under review by the Governance Committee.
- Elections policy currently under review.
- Workplace Harassment policy adopted.
- Personnel policy updated.

Improving Student Engagement

Improve the Quality Money Program – 2018-2019 Goal

- Increase student applications
- Increase quality of applications
- Increase impact of applications
- Improve tracking of funded projects

Update:

- 2 rounds of QM funding have been completed.
- Extension request form and procedure implemented.

Emergency Bursaries

- 14 applications adjudicated in the last month

That Grad Space

- Space now open! See <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/services/thatgradspace/> for more information

Improving Student Representation (Organizational Learning)

Establish Labour Relations Committee – 2018-2019 Goal

- Increase autonomy of committee from the Board
- Increase student representation

Update:

- Representatives recruited for Engineering, Arts, Nursing, and Medicine.
- Representatives needed for Business, Education, EVDS, Kinesiology, Science, and Social Work. An honorarium is provided! Contact lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca for more information!

Renew Strategic Plan – 2018-2019 Goal

- Create a strategic plan to guide the organization to sustainable growth from 2019 through to 2022.

Update:

- Meetings to begin in January, starting with managers and executive.

Other Accomplishments

- (Finally) Opened That Grad Space!

FYI & Highlights

- Met with Director of Dinos Athletics to get the GSA on their radar.
- Presidential search committee has wrapped up. I am very excited to work with Dr. Ed McCauley in the new year.
- Currently chairing Ab-GPAC's governance committee and working on updating the finance policy, volunteer policy, and budget submission.

Total Hours

Meetings: 100

Other: 20

Total: 120

Average per week: 30

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
TI Senior Director Search	Friday	October 19
TI Senior Director Search	Friday	October 19
Presidential Search Committee Meeting	Saturday	October 20

Presidential Search Dinner	Saturday	October 20
BOD Meeting	Monday	October 29
TI Senior Director Search	Monday	October 29
SLT Professional Development	Tuesday	October 30
Meeting with MyGradSkills and Career Services	Tuesday	October 30
GRC Meeting and socializing	Tuesday	October 30
Quality Money Review	Wednesday	October 31
Advocacy coordinator planning	Wednesday	October 31
TI Senior Director Search	Wednesday	October 31
Parking fee discussion with ancillary services	Wednesday	October 31
GSA Halloween Party	Wednesday	October 31
1 on 1 Lisa Young	Thursday	November 1
Interview with HR regarding employee experiences	Thursday	November 1
ab-GPAC governance committee	Thursday	November 1
FGS Council Executive	Thursday	November 1
Interview re food services on campus	Thursday	November 1
Social with Senate	Thursday	November 1
TI Senior Director Search	Monday	November 2
Appeal Orientation Test	Friday	November 2
Peer Beyond Planning Meeting	Friday	November 2
Board of Directors Meeting	Monday	November 5
Academic Priorities and Planning Committee	Monday	November 5
That Grad Space Opening	Tuesday	November 6
Consultation with U of A GSA	Tuesday	November 6
Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Conference	Wednesday	November 7
1 on 1 GSA ED	Tuesday	November 13
Lunch with Director of Dinos Athletics	Tuesday	November 13
Ab-GPAC Governance Committee	Tuesday	November 13
Beers with BOG	Tuesday	November 13
Library Announcement	Wednesday	November 14
Consultation on IT Strategy	Saturday	November 14
Fall Convocation	Friday	November 16
Board of Directors Meeting	Monday	November 19
Meeting with Governance Committee Chairs	Monday	November 19

Elena Favaro
Vice President Academic
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19 October – 20 November 2018

Strategic Plan Pillars

As Vice President Academic, I'm committed to ensuring that the GSA's Strategic Plan is the guiding document when developing program, undertaking projects, or participating in initiatives as a representative of the Graduate Student population. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan (2016-2019), *Peer Beyond*, can be found [here](#).

Improving the Association (Resilience)

Graduate Student Specific Bystander Intervention Training Opportunities

- A key mandate of mine has been to improve understanding of support available to students in academic crises. This also extends to students facing non-academic crises
- Bystander Intervention Training on campus is an excellent way for Grad students to recognize and realize their potential as bystanders.
 - Training will be offered in the new year on both Main and Foothill campuses
- Sometimes just recognizing someone may need help is the best kind of support someone can lend.
- Campus Support Wallet cards will be available at GRC

Awards Program Committee

- The Awards Committee is currently engaged in adjudicating Bursary and Professional Development Grant applications.
- IDEA ToR has been edited and will go to the board for approval

Graduate Student Teaching Evaluations

- Along with the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, Leslie Reid, we are consulting departments across campus about their standard operating procedures with regards to collecting, collating, and disseminating teaching assistant evaluations to graduate students. Stay tuned for updates during GRC.

Improving Student Engagement

Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium

- Planning is currently underway for the 3rd annual Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium. This event will be held in February 2019 and will be an opportunity for Graduate Students across campus to showcase their research in a supportive, inclusive environment.
- If you wish to help with the planning of this committee, please contact me at vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca

Improve access to Awards

- 79 Bursary applications were submitted
- 40 Professional Development Grants were submitted

Improving Student Representation (Organizational Learning)

Copyright Committee

- Consulted with the Vice Provost Libraries and Culture and copyright officer about targeted messaging to Graduate students about copyright issues
 - As TA's, RA's, and instructors, it's important we're adhering to all copyright law and regulations
 - Discovery process is underway; funding for initiatives is being sought

Student Academic Misconduct Appeals Policy and Procedure Consultation

- Attended and consulted on training for implementation of the new student academic misconduct policy and procedures
- Adjustments to training and training materials being undertaken by the student appeals office and university legal council
- Implementation of the new policy and procedures will be realized in January

Other Accomplishments

FYI & Highlights

- Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium Call for Abstracts is now open: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/events/peerbeyondsymposium/>
- The VPA and the Office of the Vice President Research have always had a great working relationship; I'm excited to work with Dr. Ed McCauley as he starts his new role as university president.

Total Hours

Meetings: 68.75hours

Other: 50 hours

Total: 118.75 hours

Average per Week: 30 hours

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Student Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee meeting	Friday	19 October
LDL food tasting for new menu	Friday	19 October
GSA Board Meeting	Monday	22 October
One-on-One with Jason Unsworth	Monday	22 October
Meeting with student	Monday	22 October
One-on-One with Jason Unsworth	Tuesday	23 October
GFC Research and Scholarship Committee	Tuesday	23 October
Peer Beyond Working Group	Wednesday	24 October
UCalgary Sustainability Update	Thursday	25 October
Faculty of Graduate Studies Council	Thursday	25 October
Student Academic Misconduct Appeals Policy and Procedure Consultation	Friday	26 October
Meeting with Renata Gordon – Bystander Intervention Training	Friday	26 October
GSA Board Meeting	Monday	29 October
Student Engagement Committee	Monday	29 October
Graduate Representative Council	Tuesday	30 October
One-on-One with Leslie Reid	Wednesday	31 October
Quality Money Evaluation	Wednesday	31 October
Meeting with student	Wednesday	31 October
Copyright Meeting	Thursday	1 November
Beers with Senate	Thursday	1 November
UAC/UAT training with Legal Service	Friday	2 November
Peer Beyond Meeting: Taylor Institute	Friday	2 November
Peer Beyond Meeting: Organization and Technical Committees	Friday	2 November
Canadian Association of Graduate Students Conference, Winnipeg, MB	Wednesday-Friday	7-9 November

Peer Beyond Meeting: Organization Meeting with Chairs	Sunday	11 November
IDEA Meetings (2)	Thursday	15 November
Convocation Ceremonies	Friday	16 November
Meeting with Renata Gordon – Bystander Intervention Training	Friday	16 November
GSA Board Meeting	Monday	19 November

Marcela Lopes
GSA VP External
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October 19 to November 20, 2018

Strategic Plan Pillars

As the Vice President External, part of my job is to ensure the organization is moving forward in accordance with the strategic plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan (2016-2019), *Peer Beyond*, can be found [here](#).

Improving the Association (Resilience)

Create awareness of UCalgary GSA – 2018-2019 Goal

- Increase GSA's exposure to federal, provincial and municipal government
- Increase GSA's exposure to other Associations.

Update: I will be attending CASA Advocacy Week from November 26th to 28th in Ottawa. During this week we will have meetings with the Federal Government to advocate on behalf of our students.

Continue improving our relationship with UCalgary Senate

No updates.

Improving Student Engagement

GSA's Talk Series

- Relaunch of the Talk Series

Update: After the Let's Talk U.S Election, the Let's Talk series will continue. I have been meeting with Career Services and My Grad Skills in order to provide more information on Professional Development to graduate students through the Let's Talk Series.

Improving Student Representation (Organizational Learning)

Strength advocacy– 2018-2019 Goal

- Increase awareness of graduate student issues by:
 - Increasing advocacy efforts; and

- Increasing our own understand of issues.

Alberta Graduate Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)

Update: We have been meeting with Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Alberta and we have a meeting scheduled with our Minister of Advanced Education, Marlin Schmidt. On October 24th the Minister of Advanced Education introduced a bill to cap out tuition and to prevent international differential to unpredicted increases.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

CASA is a national voice for Canada's post-secondary students and advocates on behalf of post-secondary students to the federal government.

Update: As observer members, we are part of the Graduate Committee. In this committee we discuss graduate student priorities and review / create policies.

Other Accomplishments

Ongoing Committees

- Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee
- December 6th Event Committee
- Senate Engagement Committee
 - Mentorship working group
 - Lecture of a lifetime working group
- President's transition implementation working group
- Senate Strategic Plan Working Group
 - Create a new Strategic Plan for UCalgary Senate
- Graduate College Steering Committee

FYI & Highlights

If you or anyone you know has interest and want to contribute on Government Advocacy, please contact me.

Total Hours

Meetings: 34 hours

Events: 25 hours

Other: 16 hours

Total: 75 hours

Average per week: 25 hours (Medical Leave from Nov 4th to 16th).

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Board Meeting	Monday	October 22
Meeting w/ MLA Sindurgson	Tuesday	October 23
Meeting w/ Jason and Christopher (researcher)	Wednesday	October 24
December 6th event	Wednesday	October 24
Meeting w/ Elena + Jason	Wednesday	October 24
Meeting w/ Nicole (ab-GPAC Executive Director)	Wednesday	October 24
CASA grad working group	Friday	October 26
Ab-GPAC meeting (Sasha / Nicole)	Monday	October 29
CCC Graduate Student Working Group	Monday	October 29
One-on-one with Jason	Monday	October 29
GSA SLT	Monday	October 29
Professional Development (Career Services and My Grad Skills)	Tuesday	October 30
One-on-one w/ John Alho	Tuesday	October 30
Meeting w/ Haley (chair of Awards Committee)	Tuesday	October 30
GRC	Tuesday	October 30
Quality Money Meeting	Wednesday	October 31
Advocacy plans - Brit + Jason	Wednesday	October 31
Food Survey	Thursday	November 1
Ab-GPAC Executive	Friday	November 2
Board Meeting	Monday	November 19
Senate Strategic Plan Meeting	Monday	November 19
Grad College Steering Committee	Tuesday	November 20
Professional Development (Career Services and My Grad Skills)	Tuesday	November 20

Mina Iskander
Vice President Student Life
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October 19 to November 18, 2018

2018-2019 Goals

Strategic Plan Pillars

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 (2016-2019), *Peer Beyond*, can be found [here](#).

Improving the Association (Resilience)

Provide better DGA support

- I have worked with several new DGA executives to strengthen their understanding of their roles as student leaders and to facilitate the transition process.
- I have worked on streamlining the logistics of events booking and event grants and support (in collaboration with the governance coordinator). Therefore, for a DGA/GSG to organize an event, all they need to do is fill out one form on our website that includes everything they need including venue booking.

Secure agreements for the continuing benefit of our students

- I have negotiated and signed our agreement with the conference and events management to secure 120 room bookings for the whole GSA per month – including DGAs and GSGs. This number is to be managed by our staff so we can offer more room bookings for active DGAs and GSGs.
- I am working on finalizing our first agreement with com/media services to secure two free com/media bookings a month for each DGA/GSG. In previous years, we did not have any form of written agreement between the GSA and com/media.

Update:

- Waiting for a few signatures on the com/media agreement to happen this month and the agreement will hopefully be ready soon.

Implement a new collaborative structure for student experience committees

- This year, based on recommendations from the previous Board, I have a new structure of the student experience committees. The new structure contains one main committee: Student Experience and Events Committee and this committee includes four subcommittees: Community Engagement and Events, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Mental Health and Wellness and Newcomers and International Students. This new structure ensures a collaborative approach in all student experience aspects.

Improving Student Engagement

Provide on-ground communication

- This year, in collaboration with the Community Engagement and Events (CEE) Subcommittee, we established a new on-ground communication program called *Building Bridges*. GSA Quality Money funds this project. Simply, each month we have a booth in a specific places on campus providing information about a specific topic with the help of one executive member, volunteers from CEE and the Chair of CEE. Last month, we served 100 students giving them candy and chocolates, sharing information about the health and dental plans. We also had two representatives from our insurance broker *StudentCare* to answer questions.

Update:

- Next booth of Building Bridges in Foothills Feasby Lounge on November 28 from 11 am to 2 pm. I will be focusing on Mental Health support on Campus.

That Grad Space

- Space now open! See <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/services/thatgradspace/> for more information

Support our remote campuses

- I am communicating with student representatives from Foothills campus and Downtown campus to host social events there in addition to the regular events that have been happening in Foothills previously. The GSA President and Vice President External will be arranging events in Edmonton campus as well.

Organizational Learning

None this time.

Other Accomplishments

- New events are happening this year including parties, off-campus trips, and new discounted tickets at insanely cheap prices.
- Streamlining the Active Living fees for students who have families. There is a reduced fee for family membership but it is not available online. I had a meeting with the Active Living management and I got the proper information and prices to be shared with students in our newsletter.

FYI & Highlights

None this time.

Total Hours

Meetings: 68
Other: 12
Total: 80
Average per week: 24
Notes:

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
SEEC chairs meeting	Friday	October 19
LDL food tasting	Friday	October 19
Graduate Orientation meeting	Friday	October 19
Board Meeting	Monday	October 22
Ucalgary PEP- AH working Group meeting	Monday	October 22
SEEC Special meeting	Monday	October 22
Wellness Centre monthly meeting	Tuesday	October 23
Substance Use Advisory Group meeting	Wednesday	October 24
Peer Beyond meeting	Wednesday	October 24
Meeting with Jen Quinn (LSE)	Wednesday	October 24
Sustainability Report	Thursday	October 25
Meeting with events coordinator	Thursday	October 25
Board Meeting	Monday	October 29
UcalgaryStrong Advisory Committee	Tuesday	October 30
Pluralism and Religious Diversity Week 2019 first meeting	Tuesday	October 30
GRC meeting & social in LDL	Tuesday	October 30
QM review meeting	Wednesday	October 31
Meeting with Shane Royal for parking rates	Wednesday	October 31
SEEC chairs meeting	Thursday	November 1
Beers with Senate	Thursday	November 1
Meeting with Lorie Tran	Friday	November 2
Board Meeting	Monday	November 5
Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee	Monday	November 5
SEEC monthly meeting	Monday	November 5
That Grad Space Breakfast and Lunch opening events	Tuesday	November 6
General Faculties Council	Thursday	November 8
Meeting with Lorie Tran	Friday	November 9

Meeting with QM applicant for feedback	Friday	November 9
GRC make-up for SEDV	Friday	November 9
Meeting with QM applicant	Friday	November 9

Mohammad Mansouri
Vice President Finance and Services
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October 19 to November 19, 2018

Strategic Plan Pillars

As Vice President Finance and Services, my activities and undertaken projects must be in alignment with the GSA's Strategic Plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan (2016-2019), *Peer Beyond*, can be found [here](#).

Improving the Association (Resilience)

Health and Dental plan

- As a VP Finance and Services, I usually receive daily emails from graduate students regarding the health and dental plan. I reply to all emails in less than 24 hours, usually two hours. We also had a couple of specific cases in the last months that I have communicated with StudentCare about, and they were solved.

Improve Health and Dental Plan - 2018-2019 goal

- Define a timeline
- Study the current plan
- Involve students as much as possible
- Involve experts
- Define criteria
- RFP process and call for proposal
- Select the best option
- Perform transition

Update:

- The concerns, criteria, potential improvements were categorized.
- We are preparing RFP, it will be ready by the end of this month.

Finance Standing Committee

- The committee has monthly meeting to review income statement of GSA & LDL.
- The committee are reviewing the investment policy in collaboration with VPFS and staffs.

Continue to Improve LDL performance-2018-2019 goal

- Increase the benefits
- Optimum Hours of operation
- Manage food costs for highest possible revenue
- Manage labour expenditures for highest possible revenue
- Improve sustainability

Update:

- We received positive feedback regarding the new menu.
- Two sustainable initiatives were defined in collaboration with sustainability committee. The implementation of the initiatives will start on December.

Improving Student Engagement

Sustainability Committee

- The committee is organizing the second event.
- The committee is collaborating with LDL to implement sustainable performance.

Health and Dental Advisory Committee

- ToR of the committee was approved by the GSA board.
- The first Committee meeting held on October 19.
- Historical information was explained for committee members.
- The concerns of the current plan were discussed

Improving Student Representation (Organizational Learning)

None at this time

Other Accomplishments

- Reviewing the investment policy in collaboration with FSC members and staffs to proposed the potential improvement to the board.

FYI & Highlights

Health and Dental Plan

- Please don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding Health and Dental Plan.

Total Hours

Meeting:40

Others:20

Total: 60 hours

Average per week: 30 hours

Notes:

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day	Date
Health and Dental Committee	Friday	October 19

Finance Standing Committee	Friday	October 19
Board meeting	Monday	November 5
Meeting with Office of Sustainability	Tuesday	November 6
Meeting with office of sustainability	Thursday	November 8
General Faculty Council	Thursday	November 8
Meeting with office of Sustainability	Friday	November 9
One by one meeting (Quality Money)	Friday	November 9
IT strategy feedback request	Wednesday	November 14
Convocation	Friday	November 16
AL&AC Meeting	Monday	November 19
Board Meeting	Monday	November 19
Investment policy Meeting	Monday	November 19