



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, November 27, 2018, 5:30 PM
Theatre 1, HSC, Foothills Campus**

Attendees:

Brit Paris, President
 Elena Favaro, VP Academic
 Mina Iskander, VP Student Life
 Mohammad Mansouri, VP Finances & Services
 Kyle McCallum, Speaker
 Haley Vecchiarelli, Clerk

Quorum

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA (BMBDGA)	Laura Mak
	Megha Murali
Biological Sciences Graduate Students Association (BGSA)	Nicolas Fournier
	Kyle McDade
Biomedical Engineering (BMEG)	Melina Varguez Riegos
Biomedical Technology GSA	Kaitlyn Reilly Baggs
Cardiovascular & Respiratory Science Student Association	Loryn Bohne
Chemical & Petroleum Engineering Graduate Students Association	Milad Ahmadi Khoshooe
Chemistry Graduate Students Association	Duncan Brownsey
	Natasha Garner
	Thomas Welsh
Civil Engineering Graduate Society (CEGS)	Lauretta Pearse
	Mostafa Salari
	Mohammadmahdi Ershad
Classics and Religion DGA (CLARE)	Brittani DeMone
Communication Media and Film DGA (SMFDGA)	Courtney McAlorum

Community Health Sciences Student Executives (CHSSE)	Bria Mele
	Sophie Hu
	Sarah Lee
Computer Science	Behnam Ousat
Council of Foothills (CFD)	Katie Greene
	Rachel Kratofil
Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne (DASH)	Steven Granger
	Ke Wang
Economics Graduate Association	
Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA (ECEG)	Nima Sarajpoor
English Department Graduate Association (EDGA)	Ben Groh
	Hong Nguyen-Sears
Enviromental Design Students Association (EVDSSA)	Tyler Caswell
	Edward Sejnk (proxy)
	Alexander Mayhew
Gastrointestinal Graduate Students Association	Fernando Vicentini
Geography Graduate Students Association (GeoGSA)	Kristina Miller
	Sarah St. Germain
Geomatics Graduate Group (G^3)	Sandra Simeonova
	Yutig Gao
Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Students Association (GAASA)	Ally King
	Cynthia Fasola
	Li-Dunn Chen
Graduate Association of Geology & Geophysics (GAGGS)	
Graduate Engineering Students Consortium (GESC)	Nima Sarajpoor
Graduate Programs in Education Students Association (GPESA)	Sam Ulmer-Krol

Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society (GUMS)	Keira Gunn
	Ryan Morril
Haskayne MBA Society	Ania Karzynska
History Graduate Students Union (HGSU)	Nick Gillen
	Shawn Brackett
Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization (HBITO)	Erik Fraunberger
	Christopher Duszynski
	Michael McLaren
Immunology Graduate Association (IGA)	Madison Turk
Kinesiology Graduate Students Association (KGSA)	Emily Macphail
	Elysa Sandron
	Tyler Tait
Linguistics Graduate Students Association - A Higher Clause	Merion Hodgson
Masters of Public Policy Students Association (MPPSA)	
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students Association (MEGSA)	Shaghayegh Sharjari
	Bivin Sathiaraj
Medical Science Graduate Students Association (MDSC-SA)	Chidera Nwaroh
	Jodi Rattner
Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA (MIDGSA)	Keith Lau
	Leah Hohman
Nursing Graduate Students Association (NGSA)	Parivash Enghiad (proxy)
	Mia Ortiz
Philosophy Graduate Students Association	TJ Perkins
	Lara Roth
Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association (PHAS DGA)	Taylor Cameron
	Svetlana Kuznetsova

Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)	Taruneek Kapoor
	Robert Clifton
Psychology Graduate Students Association (PGSA)	Brooke Russell
	Julie Gorenko (proxy)
School of Creative and Performing Arts Graduate Society	Lauro Pecktor (proxy)
Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus (SGSC)	Alex Van Olm
	Lindsey Kokaritis
Strategic Studies Students Consortium (S3C)	John Reyes
	Timothy Choi
Sustainable Energy Development (SEDV)	
Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association (VMGSA)	Diego Nobrega
Vox Condiscipulum (French, Italian, Spanish)	Caitlin Ryan

GRC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Began 17:32

Roll Call 17:32

Territorial Acknowledgement 17:36

Approval of Agenda 17:36

Motioned/seconded

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

Approval of October 2018 GRC Minutes 17:37

Motioned/seconded

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

Graduate Academic and International Specialists (Jaya Dixit and Michelle Speta) 17:38

- Introduction
- Specialized and confidential support
 - What do we do?
 - If student is experiencing a challenge that impedes academic progress
 - Challenges affecting academic progress
 - Student supervisor conflict
 - Barrier to timely completion
 - Leaves of absence and program deadline extension request
 - Failed exams
 - Academic misconduct
- Spheres of support around grad students
 - Student, GPD, FGS Specialist, student Ombuds (inside out)
 - Confidential, doesn't trigger anything into motion but IT CAN
 - Comprehensive range of options
 - Ombudsmen is autonomous, not connected to grad calendar, doesn't always result in ability for direct intervention
- Contact us
 - FGS Office (1010 Earth Science)
 - Wednesday mornings at Foothills HSC G740
 - Book online through learning support and advising portal (success.ucalgary.ca)
 - Reach us at grad.advisor@ucalgary.ca
 - Doesn't matter who you book with, can book with either

Q: Repeat what topics you cover? Topics should be related to academics?

A (Jaya): Most common is conflict with supervisors. Also, if a student has a baby or attend a sick family member. Significant things in life that could affect progress. If a student fails an exam. You can find out what your next steps are. Thing such as academic misconduct or alleged plagiarism go through the academic misconduct policy at FGS.

A (Michelle): We have cards that highlight when to come talk with FGS. We cannot help with courses (determined at program level for which courses to take, for example) or grades. Decisions that are made at the program level are things we can help. We are international specialists but will see any student! We do not provide immigration advice but will work with an immigration specialist to provide solutions and advice.

Trends in Graduate Education (Dr. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice President Academic, University of Calgary) 17:46

- Purpose of the University and value proposition of the University, used to be the pursuit of truth
- Still part of value proposition of the University, but in conversations with community, people want to know what the value proposition of a research-

intensive University, and there is a discussion around this in Eyes High and new Academic and Research Plans

- Student Experience and Impact
 - If we say pursuit of truth is not what Universities are about except in rare circumstances
 - At undergrad level is about employability and being job ready
 - Companies want to hire people come with a way of thinking and come ready for employment
 - In talking with Dr. Lisa Young about this, there have been some things done (mygradskills, internship program), allow you to do things outside your degree program
 - Chapter in your thesis can be a business plan
 - Lends toward increased utility of your degree
 - As current grad students, what would you like to see in your grad program?
 - What can we do to help you once you finish your degree here?
 - I want to make sure our graduate programs are cutting edge. If you are thinking you are not getting what you want, if there are other things that the University can provide, please let me know.

Q: I would love to see more vocal support for the pursuit of truth. It seems like the University is turning its back critical thinking, focusing so heavily on STEM (not to denigrate STEM).

A: I would be interested in that sense, I absolutely think that is not what we've done.

Q: In this context, the shift of the value proposition, from a pursuit of truth to utilitarianism. Particularly when humanities offer so much in times when truth is denigrated.

A: Let me clarify, when I say that every conversation outside the University is about that, that is not be exaggerating. When you are in meeting after meeting after meeting, you have to pay attention to the language that people are using. Otherwise we run the risk of not being on the right side of things. You could completely avoid it, detach from the community and be the ivy tower on the hill. To be frank, to stay connected to the community that we live, lead and serve. There are different corners of the University. Language is really important. We talked about problem solving, sticky problems, grand challenges. We don't solve problems here, we unpack them. When we talk about entrepreneurial thinking, we want to talk about lateral thinking, deep thinking. We have descriptions of words that fit different parts of the academy. We are not going to throw out values. When we talk about what we do at Universities, don't talk about pursuit of truth, why we talk about impact, applicable to all disciplines. What we have been bad at is telling our story. When I meet with community people if they don't understand the value of having a research-intensive university in Calgary, we wouldn't exist. It is important for you to be able to discuss the story of your research, how can you create a narrative that ties people into your story, your research. Last week there was a small group meeting with opportunities board for rebuilding their city, we had two really cool proposals, one on a biotech hub (just announced with Shell building), we also created a

city building project through EVDS. That city building project drew everyone into the room. It was all about how the University could make a difference by generating life into the downtown community and what the downtown could look like.

Q: Tara Christie and I had meeting about idea for the University, and that was one of the reasons I joined the Hunter Hub. There is a small problem here. Great place for creating networks. What I cannot find here at the University is resources for the students to think creatively. Most grad students are experts in their own fields, aren't interdisciplinary. Do something to help the students to think creatively.

A: We have a number of initiatives, including the Ambassadors program, Grad College, Hunter Hub, Taylor Institute.

A (Pres): I think what you are asking about is a course about thinking creatively, that's something we can take to the TI or academic director of the Hunter Hub.

Q: Bringing those opportunities so we can identify what's going on outside of the academy but bringing in strictly industrial language is also not aligning with some disciplines, so something in the middle.

A: We can do that. I will make sure that language reflects this.

Q: Are you planning on having a more public town hall for all grad students.

A: We have not considered it, but we can arrange that.

Q: EVDS to faculty, considering that three of our programs are professional programs, it would be nice to see an internship programs for professional programs. It sounds that a lot of students in our faculty would want that and it would be valuable, almost all in faculty are going into professions after.

A: Great idea. Have you talked to the Dean?

Q: Complicated process, but if we had more support.

A: I'll take that back. This fits in with some of things we had an idea about

Q: What do we want out the University and how do we think the University should help us, but let's flip this. How do we encourage the people out there to know that we have skills? I'm on twitter way too much. UCalgary account has 50k followers, and departments have less. Individual faculties are the highest that will interact with us and signal boost. Why can't the main UCalgary account use the faculty level accounts for a prelim stream and boost those. It would increase exposure for our students.

A: There's a team.

Q: I understand that you want to be concise and have to flow.

A: It would be great to profile a grad student weekly.

Q: Tag research areas for example. Reports can look up like artic for example.

A: These are the kinds of ideas that are really important.

Q: I've never taken a philosophy course; how does the philosophy part of the degree play a role in my degree. How can I transfer to public that we are not just learning how to do techniques, but we are also learning how to think, how to answer questions. I don't see anything here, but other Universities are doing.

A: Do you ever talk to your supervisor about a course like this. Supervisors want to get you out the door. I took a philosophy course even though I am an exercise physiologist. Depends on the school, department, supervisor.

Q: I've some discussion with Dr. Beattie, brought idea to her. She thought it was important and that we need to rethink new grad students might be trained in GSE, one way to consider incorporating into candidacy for example, but many approval levels.

- If you have any ideas email Dru.marshall@ucalgary.ca will come directly to me.

You are coming close to the holiday break and this is really stressful to some people, we do have a great mental health strategy, but we have struggles on campus, make sure you are taking care of yourselves and taking care of each other. If you see that your friends are isolating themselves, bring them back to the group. Have a great end of the term, wish you all the best, great holiday season.

Finance 101: An Introduction to the Financial World of the GSA (VPFS) (see PowerPoint presentation) 18:16

- GSA Financial Oversight
 - Director of Finance and Operations and ED
 - VP FS + BOD
 - FSC
 - Chair Elected by GRC (April)
 - Vice chair is VPFS
 - Is VPFS cannot be in meeting President should attend
 - Monthly meeting
 - Statements of GSA and LDL
 - Members ask questions
 - GRC
 - Members (Graduate Students)
- Where Does the GSA Get Its Money?
 - Health and Dental Fees
 - All of the money we receive for this we spend on health and dental
 - GSA Fees
 - Operation and Services Fees
 - PDG Levy (3%)
 - Restricted funds, only for PDG
 - Advocacy Levy (3%)
 - Restricted funds, only for advocacy
 - Other
 - Quality Money
 - CA Levy
 - Comes from TA, RA and GANT

- Not spend for GSA, Spent for LRC
 - What YOU pay in fees = GSA Fees + Advocacy Levy + Professional Development Award Levy
- How Does the GSA Spend its Money?
 - Staff salary and benefits
 - Executive fellowships
 - Marketing and website
 - Administrative expenses
 - Professional feeds
 - E.g. lawyer fees
 - LDL loss
 - This has been decreasing every year! Last year we lost the lowest amount of money in the LDL
 - We project that this will be even better this fiscal year
 - In October our LDL was better than 2017 October
 - Others
 - Staff T&D
 - Exec Conferences and Functions
 - SLT Fellowships
 - Standing Committees
 - Awards Gala
 - GSA Executive Expenses
 - GRC Meeting Expenses
 - Staff Expenses

Q: Mentioned about the LDL losing money, and working the LDL and supporting with the LDL, when we have meetings and trying to book it, trying to work with them, to be honest with you I do not see a good response from them. It seems like they don't know what they are doing, especially when compared to Alma.

A (VPFS): Thank you for feedback.

A (Danielle): We were recently talking to staff members to mobbing toward an online book system. With their other day to day tasks, it might be more helpful to move to a This time of year is higher for bookings which is not the norm throughout the year.

A (Pres): We don't have a bookings manager, we have a general manager, but if we are losing business because of this we can consider changing.

Q: We also had a difficult experience booking with the LDL, and now we can't have the holiday part there because of double booking.

Q: We have had the same issue. Also, price wise, we wanted to do it during February, but the process was \$2k more compared to Den to book the room and close it. It took a while to go back and forth with communication.

A (VPA): If you wanted to book out entire restaurant, maybe it would be that much.

A (Pres): Let's connect, that doesn't sound correct. Honestly, if you are not getting the response you want, reach out to the execs to get it sorted out for you the best we can. If we know about these issues, we can work to solve them.

President's Report (Brit Paris) (see PowerPoint presentation) 18:29

- Report
 - Policy Updates
 - Workplace harassment policy, covers LDL
 - Personal policy
 - Elections policy being renewed and soon to come out
 - QM
 - Next intake due January 15, 2019
 - That Grad Space
 - Spent two years trying to get that space so go check it out
 - abGPAC advocacy pillars released
 - DGAs and Fundraising
 - If you want to do a raffle, you need a license from Alberta Gaming commission, the money cannot be used for social, professional development or entertainment and you need a letter from the director
 - We can help you
 - Don't do it without a license its illegal

Vice-President (Academic) Report (Elena Favaro) (see PowerPoint presentation) 18:31

- Report
 - Campus Safety wallet cards, provides info on campus safety etc. and links to resources
 - Giving resources can be the best kind of help we can provide
 - Graduate Student Teaching Evaluation
 - Funding has been approved to hire an advisor to study this issue across campus
 - Policy Consultations
 - Student Academic Misconduct Appeals Policy and Procedure
 - Streamlined process
 - Graduate Student Supervision Policy and Procedure for the Formal Evaluation of Graduate Supervisory Privileges renewed
 - Dictates how supervisors should be treating their students and how students should be in the
 - Lays out renewal process for privileges
 - You are not your supervisor's student, you are a student of the Faculty of Graduate Studies who works with your supervisors. You are not their employee probably (unless they employee you as an RA)

- Operational Standard for Graduate Student funding was passed last week
 - Students who receive external awards are left better off than prior to receiving funding
- Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium
 - Deadline for abstract submission is January 9, 2019
 - Symposium will be held February 22, 2019 at the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning
 - Want to volunteer? Email vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca

Vice-President (External) Report (see Power Point presentation) 18:37
Advocating in Ottawa, see written report

Vice-President (Student Life) Report (Mina Iskander) (see Power Point presentation) 18:37

- Report
 - That Grad Space Coffee
 - Building Bridges Booth November 28, 2018 Feasby Lounge 11-2
 - Mental health resources on campus
 - Chocolates and good prizes
 - Holiday Buffet
 - December 17, 2018
 - Free but to get a ticket you have to bring a new toy before December 10 to the GSA Office
 - If you have dietary restrictions, write up with toy
 - Com/media agreement waiting for a few signatures, going a little slow, going back and forth, hopefully update next GRC

Vice-President (Finances and Services) Report (see Power Point presentation) 18:39

- Report
 - Improve Health and Dental Plan
 - Preparing Request for Proposals (from companies)
 - Health and Dental Advisory Committee
 - Email vpfs.gsa@ucalgary.ca
 - LDL Performance
 - Relationship with Sustainability Committee
 - Profit is up over last year
 - If feedback, please email us
 - Sustainability Committee
 - East Calgary landfill tour in October

- Workshop in December
 - How can you make your life sustainable?
- Investment policy
 - Being reviewed with FSC and RBC
 - We are doing well, but we can be better

Question Period 18:41

Q: Wondering about regarding the raffle, we were having a holiday party and we want to do a raffle at the holiday party but to do a fun thing, we are selling tickets for the party, but by buying tickets for a party, got a raffle ticket. We called the AGLC. I could either hold the raffle in an open format, anyone who bought a ticket could get a ticket, but anyone else who knew it was happening could walk in and get a ticket so completely open. If we wanted to charge tickets for the raffle, would have to provide information about charitable organization.

A (Pres): Nothing that we said contradicts this. What you said was a door prize. Paying for a ticket to the event, like tonight, you are getting door prizes. We are not a charitable organization. A DGA could do a raffle on behalf of a charitable organization.

A: What you did calling the AGLC is good.

A (ED): If you have to pay money for a chance to win a prize, you need a license. Can partner with a charitable organization, they would have to sign off.

Q: Sustainability workshop in December?

A (VPFS): Sold out. It is on December 5 and participants will learn how to make their own body butter.

Q: That Grad Space recently, I wanted to project onto the screen and I couldn't do it. Not sure how to use the screen, is there a way to post instructions?

A (Pres): Let us know if you want to use the TV. Should be a plug and play. Remote is locked in the case.

Q: Open for drop in hours?

A: Like screens in the LDL where it shows events etc.

A (Pres): Another illegal thing, you cannot just play movie without license.

A (VPA): University was contacted about several departments about showing movies. Just to protect all of us. We can help you do this.

Q: What if you are asked to show a movie

A (Pres): Do you have an instructional license to show this film?

A (VPA): If you take it out of our libraries it's okay. Not here's a movie I downloaded.

Q: What about Youtube?

A (VPA): It is the instructor's responsibility to make sure they have a license.

A (Pres): Please do not assume that the Instructor of record knows this.

A (VPA): There is a copyright office on campus.

Q: Why would a GAT get in trouble for this? It isn't my job to supervise my instructor.

A (VPA): Also my question, you are hired by the University...

Q: To assist the teacher

A: ... to assist the teacher. IF you are the ones showing the content, you are responsible. This Canadian copyright law.

Q: Why can't you have the instructor of record press play.

A (Pres): IF you want to, you can tell them to press play.

A (VPA): Then the instructor is violating copyright law.

DGA Period 18:52

- Sociology Grad Student Research Symposium
 - March 7-8, 2019
 - Abstracts are open, Deadline is January 7

- GSA Squared
 - Arts and Craft night
 - Wednesday, November 28, 7 pm
 - That Grad Space
 - Come by!

Announcements 18:53

- Labour Relations Committee needs representatives from the following faculties:
 - Business
 - EVDS
 - Kinesiology
 - Science
- Lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca
- You get an honourarium!

Other Business 18:55

Next Month 18:55

January 29, 2019, ST147

Update on Health and Dental

Adjournment of Open Session 18:56

Moved/seconded

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 18:56