

Brit Paris
GSA President
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February 20, 2019 to March 19, 2019

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:

- Changes were made to the privacy policy, now being reviewed by the Governance committee and will then return to the Board for final approval.
- Governance committee is reviewing final set of DGA bylaws and working with DGAs to bring bylaws into alignment with GSA policy. Governance chair is beginning to intervene when there are reports of DGAs not complying with their own bylaws.
- Election policy will be reviewed by the next Board following the completion of the by-election.

Hire new Executive Director

- The search advisory committee short-listed candidates for interviews, which will be scheduled the week of March 25th. There are currently 7 applicants who have received a first round interview. Second round interviews are set to take place April 1st and 2nd.

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:

- Quality Money applications closed on March 6th and all have been adjudicated and notified. We are now working on the draft report which goes to the Provost's office and the VP Finance & Services office, before the final version goes to the Board of Governors for the May meeting.

Emergency Bursaries

- Applications open and ongoing. Please let people know about this valuable service!
<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/financial-support/bursaries/>

Improving Student Representation (Organizational Learning)**Establish Labour Relations Committee – 2018-2019 Goal**

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

Update:

- The AVP, Labour for 2019-2020 has been elected, along with the Science representative. A call for other representatives will come out at the end of April/early May.
- We are now scheduling lunch and learns with DGAs, if you didn't get the email but are interested please email lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca to get yours booked! You bring the students, we bring the pizza!
- The Honorarium for the LRC reps and chair were approved by Finance Standing Committee and we can finally get those cheques out!

Renew Strategic Plan – 2018-2019 Goal

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

Update:

- Mohammad has joined the strategic plan committee as incoming president.
- The Strategic Plan Committee has been meeting regularly and has, at the time of writing this report, drafted goal headings: Service Delivery, Organizational Sustainability, Communication, and Financial Security
- Meetings are ongoing to finalize these after consulting staff, and coming up with descriptors. We will then move on to the vision and mission of the GSA.

FYI & Highlights

- New University Code of Conduct will come into effect in June. The university is working on a website and FAQ. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me as I have been involved on GFC and the Board of Governors as it moved through the approval process, and am currently consulting with the university on the FAQ.
- In consultation with Ancillary Services, the new parking permit fee for Varsity Courts will not be implemented until September. Thank you to those who came forward and met with us and Ancillary Services. We are already working towards a better consultation plan with residence groups for next year.

Total Hours

Meetings: 79
Other: 45
Total: 124
Average per week: 31

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Lunch with Post-Doc Association	Wednesday	February 20
1 on 1 Provost Dru Marshall	Wednesday	February 20
BOD Meeting	Thursday	February 21
GSA Strategic Plan Committee	Monday	February 25
1 on 1 Dean FGS Robin Yates	Monday	February 25
GRC Slide Review	Monday	February 25
Meeting re: LRC Honorarium proposal	Monday	February 25
APPC	Monday	February 25
BOG EHS&S Committee	Tuesday	February 26
Phone call with Janet re: ED search	Tuesday	February 26
1 on 1 VP University Relations Diane Kenyon	Tuesday	February 26
President's Award for Excellence in Student Leadership Pre-Meeting	Tuesday	February 26
All Candidates Forum	Tuesday	February 26
GRC	Tuesday	February 26
CRC Research Presentation	Wednesday	February 27
FSC Meeting	Wednesday	February 27
CRC Interview	Wednesday	February 27
CRC Teaching Demonstration	Wednesday	February 27
CRC Meeting	Wednesday	February 27
BOD Meeting	Thursday	February 28
FGS Council	Thursday	February 28
Graduate College Dinner	Thursday	February 28
CRC Research Presentation	Friday	March 1
ED Search Update	Friday	March 1
CRC Interview	Friday	March 1
CRC Teaching Demonstration	Friday	March 1
Travel to Red Deer	Saturday	March 2
ab-GPAC AGM	Saturday	March 2

Travel back to Calgary	Saturday	March 2
BOG Finance & Property Committee	Monday	March 4
CRC Decision Meeting	Monday	March 4
GSA Strategic Plan Committee	Monday	March 4
FGS photo competition	Monday	March 4
West Campus Board Meeting	Tuesday	March 5
BOD Meeting	Thursday	March 7
GSA Strategic Plan Committee	Thursday	March 7
Exec Lunch with FGS Deans	Friday	March 8
TFCC	Monday	March 11
Code of Conduct Briefing with Jenny Hawkins	Monday	March 11
APPC	Monday	March 11
Meeting w/ Varsity Courts Students	Tuesday	March 12
Elections Results Party	Wednesday	March 13
Dinner with Linda, Shane, and Mohammad	Wednesday	March 13
Meeting with Linda, Shane, Mohammad and Varsity Courts Residents	Wednesday	March 13
BOD Meeting	Thursday	March 14
TI Teaching Scholars Adjudication	Thursday	March 14
1 on 1 Robin Yates	Thursday	March 14
GSA Strategic Plan Committee	Thursday	March 14
ED Search Committee	Friday	March 15
Meeting with Student re concurrent work	Friday	March 15
Travel to CASA	Sunday	March 17

Elena Favaro
Vice President Academic
vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca
20 February- 20 March 2019

--Apologies for being absent for this GRC. Please feel free to send any questions about my report to vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca--

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)

Awards Committee

- Awards Gala will be held the 4th April in EEEL. Here, we will announce winners for the following awards: IDEA*, GSA Sustainability Award, Excellence Awards, Emerging Leader and Leadership Award, and the Graduate Representative Council Initiative Award.
 - *Innovation, Development, and Entrepreneurship Award (IDEA) Pitch Competition has been canceled due to low application intake.
 - Application submission has been declining over the past three years, and the GSA is considering working in partnership with other actors on campus instead of holding this event ourselves.
- Last semester, we funded 20 Professional Development Grants (PDGs) for a total of 14,774.18\$ and 15 Bursaries for a total of 22,785.00\$. This semester we funded 75 PDGs for a total of 53,207.12\$ and 12 Bursaries for 17,037\$.
- I successfully lobbied for increased funding for PDGs and Bursaries, which allowed us to fund more applications than previously anticipated.

Improving Student Engagement

GSA Elections

- A by-election will be called for the VPA position (and the VPSL). Please keep an eye on your inbox for information from the Chief Returning Officer.

Improving Student Representation (Organizational Learning)

USRI Working Group

- Attended a half-day retreat to discuss, among other things, how to structure campus consultations and conversations around USRIs. As the sole Grad student on this working group, I have advocated on behalf of the graduate student as a student enrolled in a course and as a TA in a lab/tutorial.

Other Accomplishments

FYI & Highlights

Total Hours

Meetings: 35

Other: 25

Total: 60

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Lunch with Post-Doc association	Wednesday	20 February
GAPS	Wednesday	20 February
Board Meeting	Thursday	21 February
FGS Policy Meeting	Thursday	21 February
Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium	Friday	22 February
Slide Review	Monday	25 February
Elections Forum	Tuesday	26 February
GRC	Tuesday	26 February
Board Meeting	Thursday	28 February
GFC	Thursday	28 February
Task Force on Relationships	Friday	1 March
Bystander Intervention Training (Pre-Meeting meeting)	Tuesday	5 March
Awards Oversight Committee	Wednesday	6 March
Board Meeting	Thursday	7 March
Awards Gala Planning Meeting	Thursday	7 March

Meeting with Student Leaders from Social Work	Thursday	7 March
Meeting with Leslie Reid	Tuesday	12 March
FGS Appeal	Tuesday	12 March
Awards Committee Meeting – Awards Gala	Thursday	14 March
USRI Working Group Retreat	Wednesday	20 March

Marcela Lopes
GSA VP External
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February 18th, 2019 to March 19th, 2019

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:

We keep moving forward with our exposure to other associations.

As members of the Calgary Student Alliance, and the Alberta Graduate Advocacy Council, we attend to monthly board meetings and committee meetings.

We are also attending Canadian Alliance of Student Association Annual General Meeting in March, as observer members.

Continue improving our relationship with UCalgary Senate

No update.

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: The Annual General Meeting occurred on March 2nd. The board approved changes on bylaws and policies. From those changes, now the council will be open for any graduate student association from Alberta, instead of having it open for only Comprehensive academic and research universities. Ab-GPAC transition will take place mid-April.

Calgary Student Alliance (CSA)

Update: During the last meeting there was a presentation from Friends of Public Transit. The group is developing a research with non-profit organizations to discuss priorities and challenges with Public Transit. The goal of the research is to develop a report and share it with all organizations involved in the program. It was decided that each student association will share they priorities with the non-profit organization, and then the CSA will analyze the common priorities for the group. Also, if you read this, e-mail me by March 26th 4.30pm to get a prize (vpext.gsa@ucalgary.ca).

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

Update: The Annual General Meeting this year will take place in Halifax, starting on March 20th.

This GRC we will have a presentation from the Chair and a board member from CASA. I encourage you to ask questions and challenge them on graduate student priorities!

Other Accomplishments

Ongoing Committees

- Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee
- Senate Engagement Committee
 - Mentorship working group
 - Lecture of a lifetime working group
- Senate Strategic Plan Working Group
 - Create a new Strategic Plan for UCalgary Senate
- ab-GPAC governance committee
- CASA graduate committee
- GSA Strategic Planning
- GSA Executive Director Search

Total Hours

Meetings: 49 hours

Other: 48 hours (including events and travel)

Total: 97 hours

Average per week: 24 hours

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
UCalgary vice president research PR Search	Wednesday	February 20
Board meeting	Thursday	February 21
Ab-GPAC Board meeting	Thursday	February 21
GSA Strategic Planning	Monday	February 25
GRC Slide Review	Monday	February 25
UCalgary vice president research PR Search	Monday	February 25
Multiple one-on-ones w/ Brit	Tuesday	February 26
GRC	Tuesday	February 26
Calgary Student Alliance Meeting	Wednesday	February 27
Board meeting	Thursday	February 28
Faculty of Graduate Studies Council	Thursday	February 28
Ab-GPAC Annual General Meeting	Saturday	March 2
Board meeting	Thursday	March 7
GSA Strategic Planning	Thursday	March 7
Lunch w/ Faculty of Graduate Studies deans and associate deans	Friday	March 8
Meeting with University Relations on Go out to vote campaign and debate	Friday	March 8
Tuition and fees consultation committee	Monday	March 11
Consultation w/ Family housing representatives	Tuesday	March 12
Transition meeting with Mohammad and Brit	Tuesday	March 12
UCalgary vice president research PR search	Tuesday	March 12
GSA Strategic Planning	Thursday	March 14
GSA Strategic Planning	Thursday	March 14
GSA Executive Director Search	Friday	March 15
Task Force on Relationships	Friday	March 15

Mina Iskander
Vice President Student Life
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February 19 to March 19, 2019

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.
- Waiting for a few signatures on the com/media agreement to happen this month and the agreement will hopefully be ready soon.
- I informed higher management of IT about the delay in processing this agreement and they are looking into it

Update:

- We have the Com/media agreement signed and it is available online. Finally!

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.

Update:

- We have the first working group formed to organize events on Diversity Days and Pluralism week.
- The working group has done a great job on Diversity Days.

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 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.

Update:

- Stay tuned for the Easter chocolate event by Building Bridges. They will knock on your office door so if your office is not visible and you want your chocolate please email me @ vpsl.gsa@ucalgary.ca and I will let them know!

That Grad Space

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

Update:

- We have had a welcome event for incoming students in That Grad Space to get them comfortable with the space.

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.

Update:

- We had a social event on Alberta Children's Hospital on February 13
- We had a social event on Downtown Campus on Jan. 29
- We are working on another Downtown activity to happen before the end of this semester.

Organizational Learning

None this time.

Other Accomplishments

- Regarding Family housing, I communicated the residents' requests of having free internet like every other residence on campus to the university Vice-President Finance and Services. Her team is working on it currently and waiting for some responses from internet providers.

Update:

- Parking fees won't be active until September so everyone can have a chance to arrange another place if they are not happy with paying the parking fees.

FYI & Highlights

- Volunteer appreciation night is on March 30th at the LDL starting at 6 pm. Please make sure to respond to Lina's email (that was sent few weeks ago) if you are a volunteer with the GSA and you want to attend.
- New discounted tickets have been purchased over the past few weeks and more to come soon. Please stay tuned as some are available for the first time on the GSA discounted tickets like West Edmonton Mall and Calgary Expo.
- We are arranging with the Outdoor Centre multiple water activities for the summer like rafting, canoeing, stand-up paddle so make sure you check our newsletter frequently as these sell so fast. In the mean time we have tickets for the paddle station (rafting) for you to purchase and arrange it on your own.

Total Hours

Meetings: 38

Events: 12

Other: 24

Total: 74

Average per week: 18.5

Notes: This month I spent a lot of time reviewing some of the awards applications, quality money projects and photo competition so my other time is higher than my average. We also had lots of communications with multiple students that needed some time to respond and address all their needs.

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
SEEC monthly meeting	Tuesday	February 19
Post Doc lunch	Wednesday	February 20
Board Meeting	Thursday	February 21
Meeting with residents of Family Housing (Business school)	Thursday	February 21
GRC Slide Review	Monday	February 25
Events weekly meeting	Monday	February 25
Photo Competition Meeting with FGS	Tuesday	February 26
GSA Election Forum	Tuesday	February 26
GRC	Tuesday	February 26
Building Bridges booth	Wednesday	February 27
Board Meeting	Thursday	February 28
Execs Lunch	Thursday	February 28
FGS council	Thursday	February 28
Events weekly meeting	Monday	March 4
FGS/GSA Photo Competition Ceremony	Monday	March 4
Board Meeting	Thursday	March 7
Lunch with Deans of FGS	Friday	March 8
Photo Competition debrief	Monday	March 11
Immigration and Citizenship ceremony	Wednesday	March 13
Election results party	Wednesday	March 13
Board Meeting	Thursday	March 14
SEEC monthly meeting	Monday	March 18

Mohammad Mansouri
Vice President Finance and Services
vpfs.gsa@ucalgary.ca
February 18, 2019 to March 17, 2019

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.

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:

- I presented the complete report of the request for proposal (RFP) process and 2019/20 H&D plan fee recommendation in this GRC meeting.
- The great news is that health and dental plan fee will decrease \$10 in the following year, and the services will be enhanced too.
- The enhancements items for H&D plan coverage were presented to the GSA board.
- I am negotiating H&D plan coverage enhancements

Finance Standing Committee

- The committee had a monthly meeting to review the income statement of GSA & LDL.
- The committee determined Labor Relationship Committee honorarium (LRC).

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:

- The sustainability committee is planning a storage audit in the LDL.
- The January net income of LDL was great in comparison with the previous year.

Improving Student Engagement

Sustainability Committee

- The committee is planning to organize the third event, which will hold on March 21, 2018.
- The workshop will teach to make toothpaste in a sustainable way. A licensed coach will guide this workshop.
- The committee is collaborating with LDL to implement sustainable performance.

Health and Dental Advisory Committee

- The committee had a meeting on March 11 to review potential enhancement in H&D coverage.
- The committee made recommendation to the GSA board regarding the potential enhancement in H&D coverage.

Improving Student Representation (Organizational Learning)

None at this time

Other Accomplishments

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: 50

Others: 45

Total: 95 hours

Average per week: 23.75hours

Notes:

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day	Date
Sustainability meeting with LDL	Tuesday	February 19
Board meeting	Thursday	February 21
FGSC Policy Committee	Thursday	February 20
Review slides For H&D, budget, and Fee	Thursday	February 20
Presentation in Geo day event	Sunday	February 24
GSA Strategic Planning Committee	Monday	February 25
GRC Slides Review	Monday	February 25
LRC Honorarium Discussion	Monday	February 25
SAF February Decision Committee meeting	Tuesday	February 26
Election Forum	Tuesday	February 26
Pizza with Ucalgary President	Tuesday	February 26
FSC	Wednesday	February 27
Board Meeting	Thursday	February 28
FGS Council	Thursday	February 28
ED Search-Update Meeting	Friday	March 1
Phone call meeting with Mercer	Friday	March 1
Sustainability Committee	Friday	March 1
H&D adjustment meeting	Wednesday	March 6
Board Meeting	Thursday	March 7
GSA strategic planning	Thursday	March 7
Phone call meeting with Student VIP	Friday	March 8
GSA Exec and FGS Deans Lunch	Friday	March 8
Phone call meeting with Gallivan	Monday	March 11
H&D Advisory Committee meeting	Monday	March 11
Meeting regarding varsity courts parking	Tuesday	March 12
Transition meeting	Tuesday	March 12
Board meeting	Thursday	March 14
GSA Strategic Planning	Thursday	March 14
ED search-Candidate presentation and shortlisting	Friday	March 15