



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, April 30, 2019, 5:30 PM
KNES 132**

Attendees:

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

Quorum

DGA	Name
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA (BMBDGA)	Laura Mak
Biological Sciences Graduate Students Association (BGSA)	Claudia Ladisa
	Nicolas Fournier
	Kyle McDade
Biomedical Engineering (BMEG)	Kara Sidhu
Biomedical Technology GSA	Kaitlyn Reilly Baggs
Cardiovascular & Respiratory Science Student Association	Loryn Bohne
Chemical & Petroleum Engineering Graduate Students Association	Jose Duran
	Dominic Omusi
Chemistry Graduate Students Association	Duncan Brownsey
	Natasha Garner
	Thomas Welsh
Civil Engineering Graduate Society (CEGS)	Hiva Jalilzadeh
	Lauretta Pearse
	Mohammadmahdi Ershad

Classics and Religion DGA (CLARE)	Brittany DeMone
Communication Film & Media DGA (CMFDGA)	
Community Health Sciences Student Executives (CHSSE)	Bria Mele
	Sophie Hu
Computer Science	
Council of Foothills (CFD)	Katie Greene
Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne (DASH)	Steven Granger
	Ke Wang
Economics Graduate Association	Abraham Sucedo Cepeda
	Mohammad Hossein Rezaei
Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA (ECEG)	
English Department Graduate Association (EDGA)	Ben Groh
	Hong Nguyen-Sears
Environmental Design Students Association (EVDSSA)	Rosemary Joseph
Gastrointestinal Graduate Students Association	Fernando Vicentini
Geography Graduate Students Association (GeoGSA)	Sarah St. Germain
	Kristina Miller
Geomatics Graduate Group (G ³)	Sandra Simeonova
	Rodrigo Silva
Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Students Association (GAASA)	Ally King
Graduate Association of Geology & Geophysics (GAGGS)	
Graduate Engineering Students Consortium (GESC)	Hiva Jalilzadeh
	Annamaris Olmo-Velazquez
Graduate Programs in Education Students Association (GPESA)	Harrison Campbell
Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society (GUMS)	Keira Gunn
	Ryan Morril

Haskayne MBA Society	
History Graduate Students Union (HGSU)	Shawn Brackett
Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization (HBITO)	Brandon Craig
	William Wilson
	Trever Low
Immunology Graduate Association (IGA)	Amanda Zucoloto
Kinesiology Graduate Students Association (KGSA)	Emily Macphail
	Simon Barrick
	Kimberley Befus
Linguistics Graduate Students Association - A Higher Clause	Merion Hodgson
Masters of Pathologists' Assistant GSA (MPATH)	Megan Maitland
Masters of Public Policy Students Association (MPPSA)	
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students Association (MEGSA)	Annamaris Olmo-Velazquez
Medical Science Graduate Students Association (MDSC-SA)	Chidera Nwaroh
Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA (MIDGSA)	Leah Hohman
	Keith Lau
Nursing Graduate Students Association (NGSA)	Mia Ortiz
Philosophy Graduate Students Association	TJ Perkins
	Lara Roth
Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association (PHAS DGA)	Svetlana Kuznetsova
Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)	Taruneek Kapoor
Psychology Graduate Students Association (PGSA)	Brooke Russell
	Chelsea Fitzpatrick
School of Creative and Performing Arts Graduate Society	Melike Ceylan
Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus (SGSC)	Lindsay Kokaritis
	Alex Van Olm

Strategic Studies Students Consortium (S3C)	Timothy Choi
Sustainable Energy Development (SEDV)	
Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association (VMGSA)	
Vox Condiscipulum (French, Italian, Spanish)	Caitlin Ryan

GRC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Began 17:35

Roll Call 17:35

Approval of Agenda 17:39

Motioned/seconded

Discussion:

Amendment: Insert a report from FSC by Vice-Chair of FSC (VPFS) before other reports

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

Approval of March 2019 GRC Minutes 17:40

Motioned/seconded

Opposed:0

Abstained:1

CARRIED

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (Marcela Lopez, VPExt) 17:43

- Summary on CASA
 - What is Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)?
 - Not-for-profit consisting of 23 student governments representing over 280,000 students (350,000 including partnership with Quebec)
 - Democratic, member-driven organization that promotes affordable, accessible, innovative post-secondary education of the highest quality
 - CASA Membership – Student Driven
 - 2 delegates per student association to CASA (typically 4 meetings per year)
 - For UCalgary GSA: VPExt and Pres

- Delegates elect BoD and oversee ED
 - Delegates have full control over student organization
 - National campaigns, media engagement, partnerships, consultations, meetings and research
 - Structure of CASA
 - BoD (5 members)
 - 2 Advisory Groups
 - Graduate Advocacy
 - Trades and Tech Advocacy
 - Committees
 - National Advocacy
 - Federal Policy
 - Membership Relations
 - Governance and Internal Review
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Why Advocate Federally?
 - Provincial versus Federal
 - Although post-secondary education is purview of the provinces, Federal government invests almost \$20 billion to post-secondary education each year
 - Federal government also regulates areas important to post-secondary students
 - Employment and Social Development
 - Student loans, grants, transfer
 - Finance
 - Tax policy and Federal budgets
 - Global Affairs
 - International student visas and study abroad
 - Citizenship and Immigration Canada
 - Residence visas and Permanent Residency
 - Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
 - NSERC, SSHRC, copyright, SIF
 - Health
 - Mental health and CIHR
- 2019 [Federal] Budget Wins
 - We assisted with research and advocacy (with CASA)
 - Supporting Student Research
 - Across Canada \$114 million over 5 years to create 500 new master's and doctoral scholarship awards for student researchers
 - \$37.4 parental leave expansion (up to 18 mo, 12 mo of payment; was previously 6 mo)

- Creating Applied Learning and Work Opportunities
 - \$631.2 million over 5 years to expand the Student Work Placement Program (across all fields, particularly non-STEM fields)
 - \$167 million over 4 years to foster partnerships between government and innovative business, with the goal of creating more work-integrated learning opportunities for students
- Investing in Indigenous Education
 - \$327.5 million over 5 years invested in Post-Secondary Student Support Program, which provides financial aid for First Nations students
 - \$362 million over 10 years to develop a Métis Nation-led post-secondary strategy and financial assistance
 - \$125.5 million over 10 years to develop an Inuit-led post-secondary education strategy
- Supporting Students with Disabilities
 - Financial support to cover the cost of necessary equipment or services for students with disabilities is increasing from \$8,000 to \$20,000 a year
 - Eligibility for the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit is expanding so that more students who need it can qualify for loan forgiveness
- You already approved the increase on the advocacy levy (\$3)
 - If we decide to join CASA, the fee is slightly more than \$3/student
 - Compared with other federal lobby organizations, is much less
- Motion

BIRT: The Graduate Representative Council recommends that the UCalgary Graduate Students Association join the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) as a Full Member.

Motion/Seconded

Discussion:

VPExt: We vote to join CASA, but then we wait to for CASA to approve us as members, they will vote in May.

Q: Last year, we joined one association [Provincial Group?], how will this group be different, how are we benefitting, in that group didn't one of the other student groups pull out, how does this tie into that organization?

A (Pres): abGPAC was joined a few years ago, was the UofA, UofC, UofL, Athabasca. UofL pulled out, Concordia just joined. Membership flows. UofL is a small university, they didn't feel that they were represented, abGPAC is focused

on research-intensive universities. We have had a lot of gains with abGPAC, including a provincial tuition framework from the government closely aligned with the abGPACs asks. This year there was an increase number of meetings with politicians (zero to over 15). We are seeing great gains in the provincial climate, but now we need to do the same federally.

Q: How long have they been around? How effective?

A (VPEExt): Unsure how long have been around.

Q: How effective?

A (Pres): During advocacy week, 50+ meetings with politicians; on their website, they have all of their wins from their past years.

A (VPEExt): 1995

A (Pres): They have a full staff team, including ED, other officers. They have the infrastructure that supports how they get these gains.

Q: Other than costs, what are the concerns?

A (VPEExt): Membership and conference costs. Concerns include how they will act on behalf of grad students. The only way we can get things up for graduate students is if we have graduate students there.

Q: Breakdown is \$3.20, would that be split among full time/part-time? Among academically employed students? etc.. How is this split per student?

A (Pres): Nothing to do with your employment. As of next year, [2019-2020] fees for full-time students are \$ \$176.84 and part-time students are \$147. The advocacy levy increase was included in this.

Opposed:0

Abstained:2

CARRIED

GSA Strategic Plan 2019-2022 (Brit Paris, President) 18:01

- Not set in stone, not static, should respond to students' needs
- Process
 - Consultation (members, staff, Board)
 - Committee
 - Staff (Office and LDL)
 - SLT
 - Board members
 - Multiple meetings (over 3 months)
 - Every time we had a decision, brought to board, to staff, and others (we brought goals to GRC last month)
- GSA Strategic Plan 2019-2022
 - Vision

- Same as previous strategic plan, “To be recognized as the leader in graduate student advocacy and service delivery by our members, stakeholders, and external organizations across Canada.”
 - What does the vision mean? It was the same vision, but how can we articulate this better?
 - Mission
 - The GSA serves all UCalgary graduate students through responsive programs and initiatives to support their success during and after their academic endeavors.
 - For students who are here now and moving into the future
- Goals
 - Brought to GRC last meeting, haven’t changed since then because there were no comments
 - Advocacy
 - Engage in meaningful consultation, research, and policy development in order to relentlessly advocate for the changing needs of UCalgary graduate students to the university and all levels of government
 - Service Delivery
 - Maximize the impact of our services with the available resources through collaboration and consultation to support the success of all graduate students
 - Communication
 - Foster direct and constructive communication between the GSA members, staff, and board to promote transparency, trust, and inclusion
 - Between organization and members
 - Within organization (Staff and BoD)
 - Organizational Sustainability
 - Foster a nurturing, professional, and productive environment that empowers innovation and risk taking, while maximizing efficiency and impact
 - We have been around for a long time and want to be around for years to come
- Objectives (NEW)
 - We don’t just have goals, we have trackable objectives
 - New BoD will be doing action planning to meet these objectives
 - Advocacy
 - Decrease number of complaints after university decisions (10:1)
 - Have advocacy policies adopted by all levels of government (30%)

- Increase number of invitations to university and external events each year (10 per year)
 - Increase the number of politicians knowing executive and staff on a first name basis (up to 30 people)
 - Service Delivery
 - Decrease number of Health & Dental complaints elevated to StudentCare (36 to 6)
 - Have at least 3 candidates per elected position
 - Have survey respondents rate service satisfaction at moderately satisfied or higher (84 % to 100 %)
 - Retain committee members each academic year (10 % to 80 %)
 - Communication
 - Have 100% of staff and board report that they feel connected and aware of one another's' activities
 - Have 100 % of survey respondents indicate awareness of the GSA and its services (87 % to 100 %)
 - Increase comments from LDL customers (20 %)
 - Increase open rate of news and views (65 % to 85 %)
 - Increase total social media engagement, year over year (150%)
 - Increase voter turnout (7% to 20 %)
 - Organizational Sustainability
 - Have 100 % of staff and board report that feel connected and aware of one another's activities
 - Improve LDL sustainability audits year over year (25 %)
 - Increase internal year end survey score (25 %)
 - Increase number of employees staying with the GSA 5 years or more before moving on (3 to 6)
 - Increase operating revenue from sources other than student fees (5 %)
 - We do want to be less dependent on student dollars, want to increase operating revenues from other than student fees. It will take some time.
- Accountability
 - We have invested in some software, which allows us to track our objectives towards plan.
 - BoD, staff will be using to track goals and will check in periodically
 - Allows us not just to have goals, but to have trackable actions

Q: Does this one have a name?

A (Pres): No. What was the name of the last one? Peer Beyond. How many knew this? About a dozen? If you have any fantastic ideas for a name, please let us know.

Q: What's the name of the software?

A (Pres): Cascade

Q: How much per year

A (VPFS): \$10,000. Also using to track staff.

Q: Coming from GSA budget?

A (Pres): Your fees were not increased to do this. It came from reserve.

Q: In terms of goals, they seem reasonable, but some are 100 %, a lot is to do with satisfaction, but is there any concern about, say if one staff member isn't happy in the 3-year period.

A (Pres): We are a small staff group. If one person has a bad experience, we want that to not happen. Everyone is helping each other out and supporting each other. We don't have a measure to track this (except for exit interview). We need to develop and implement an internal survey.

Q: What happens when you don't meet your goals?

A (VPA): We reassess and adjust based on feedback.

A (Pres): We are going to be measuring often, so with feedback we can adjust. In 3 years, we create a new strategic plan.

Q: Satisfaction goals from students, looking to increase participation surveys, how will that increase satisfaction?

A (Pres): One has to do with increasing response rates, one to do with increase satisfaction. We know that students that participate in the survey are engaged and either really happy or angry with services. Increasing the survey response rate will give us a more balanced response rate.

Roles Elected by GRC (Speaker) 18:17

- Term May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020
- Speaker
 - Chairs GRC, AGM and any SGMs, following Robert's Rules of Order
 - Serves as Chair of the Judicial Review Board
 - Liaison between the Board and GRC
- Clerk
 - Records all minutes of GRC, AGM and SGM meetings
 - Provides content for "GRC Digest" within 2 weeks of GRC
- Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
 - Responsible for electoral process, with support from the ED
 - Administer the general election, by-elections and any referenda
- Chair, Finance Standing Committee
 - Schedule FSC meetings, record and file meeting minutes
 - Prepare FSC agenda
 - Make a minimum of two oral reports to GRC every year on the financial state of the Association
- All

- Participate in the Senior Leadership Team
 - Monthly meetings and additional consultations

Q: Time commitment?

A (Speaker): Approximately 5 hours per month, depending on if JRB gets called.

A (Clerk): Same, about 5 hours.

A (DRO): CRO is very busy around elections, but less other times of year.

Q: Any compensation?

A (Pres): For Speaker and Clerk it is \$100 per meeting. CRO receives an honorarium.

- Speaker
 - **Leanne Dawson (Acclaimed)**
- Clerk
 - **Kristina Miller (Acclaimed)**
- CRO
 - Haydee Mesa Galloso
 - **Sandra Simeonova**
- Finance Standing Committee
 - Hailey Dass
 - **Emily MacPhail**

Finance Standing Committee (Mohammad Mansouri, VPFS) 18:34

- FSC Highlights
 - Updated ToRs
 - Held Finance and Investment 101 training sessions for committee members
 - Reviewed monthly financial statements of GSA and LDL
 - Approved LRC Honoraria
 - Reviewed 2019-2020 GSA annual budget
 - Reviewed GSA Investment Policy changes
- Operating Budget
 - Predicted (\$987)
 - Revenue was more than predicted
 - Expenses was less
 - This may change a little based on invoices
 - Net Income after consolidation
 - \$186,667 will go to reserve
 - May change a little
- LDL
 - Loss was less than expected
 - Some issues happened this year and this led to greater losses (so perhaps without these accidents we would have broken even)

- Net amount (\$25,353)

President's Report (Brit Paris) 18:39

- I came up with a list of everything I've been able to be done in the last two years in the GSA (report has full)
 - THAT GRAD SPACE (took two years of negotiation)
 - Got GSGs off the ground
 - Formed Calgary student alliance with all other student organization in the city
 - Thanks to undergrads at SAIT and Mount Royal
 - New strategic plan
 - New ED!
 - Danielle Abbott
 - Really good connections
 - Start thinking about running for next year!
- THANK YOU!! Without all of you, nothing would get done!

Vice-President (Academic) Report (Elena Favaro) 18:43

- Increase in Awareness of Awards
 - Increase in PDG applications
 - Bursaries
 - Maybe less students needed bursaries
 - EB means can't receive GSA Bursary
- Policies on behalf of all of you
 - 60 +++++
 - I'm very grateful to have been your voice on committees
- Moving Forward
 - Nominations are open for Awards Chair and Vice-Chair!
- Awards Gala!
- Thanks for making this academic year as successful as it was!

Vice-President (External) Report (Marcela Lopez) 18:48

- Report Highlights
 - Goals for 2018-2019
 - Increase Advocacy Efforts
 - Provincially: 15 meetings (from zero)
 - Tuition framework, capped at CPI and international students know what theirs will be for the duration of their degree
 - Federally: 8 meetings (from zero)
 - Increase our own understanding of issues

- UCalgary consultation
 - Our thoughts were reflected on university policies
 - Research/Policies
 - 2 with abGPAC
 - Increase federally
 - Event with the Prime Minister
 - CASA conference (especially during advocacy week)
 - Event with minister of finance
 - Increase GSA exposure to other associations
 - Exposure over 33 associations
- Retrospective
 - I will bring back External Advocacy Committee (new chair), call for committee members soon
 - GSA strategic planning
 - University Senate strategic planning
 - Chair of abGPAC for upcoming year
 - Part of ED search
 - Search for new University VP Research

Vice-President (Student Life) Report (Mina Iskander) 18:52

- Report Highlights
 - DGA support
 - With Brit and Thao, got agreements with comm/media and room bookings to provide support to DGAs
 - Make new events
 - Some were from annual survey or one-on-one feedback
 - Dance crew
 - Tickets, Drumheller, West Edmonton Mall
 - Let new VPSL know what you want
 - Attendance at events (we the GSA, not committees)
 - Fall (59 events, 2368 attendees)
 - Winter (74 events, 3245 attendees)
 - Summer are already booked thanks to our great events staff!
 - Lake Louise, Canoeing, Mountain Biking, Pool Party
 - Discounted Tickets
 - How we get discounts
 - Memberships, number, student discounts, research that our events coordinators do
 - Ongoing
 - Coffee weekly at That Grad Space
 - Chair and Vice Chairs
 - Student Experience and Events Committee (SEEC)

- [GSA]2
- Newcomers and International Students
- Mental Health
- Events and Community Engagement
- Thank you!!

Vice-President (Finances and Services) Report (Mohammad Mansouri) 18:58

- Report Highlight
 - Health & Dental
 - Decrease the fee
 - Increase the coverage (details coming soon)
 - Maximal dental, maximal psychology, change in psychology
 - Big achievement for GSA
 - Sustainability committee
 - Three workshops
 - Body butter workshop was highest-scoring sustainable event in 2018-2019
 - LDL Finances
- THANK YOU!

Question Period 19:03

Q: Can you say where That Grad Space is?

A (Pres): Crowsnest Hall (across the street from KNSE), on main floor, all grad students have access 8-8 M-F (use washrooms in Starbucks).

Q: Moving from Tower to Earth Sciences. Isn't that tower is almost done? How will this affect the GSA?

A (Pres): It is still called McKimmie Tower, we will move into the main floor. We won't move until the block is finished (will maybe be called the Hunter Hub). Maybe Fall 2020. We refused to move without getting costs covered. Anything we can't take with us is all paid off.

Q: In general, we reduced operating loss at LDL, so what is next? How do we get an operating gain?

A (VPFS): Next VPFS, but yes, there are things we can do. One negative about LDL, is that most bars make a lot of money on the weekend, and the LDL is closed on the weekend.

A (Pres): Renovations (will enhance revenue; floor space; increase capacity). Treating LDL like a business, looking at labour costs, costs of good served, balancing how much does it cost to stay open versus how much is earned.

A (VPA): We now have mini-donuts!

DGA Period 19:08

- Linguistics (A Higher Clause)
 - New [website](#), made with QM
 - Wanted to thank the GSA
 - We feature academic blog posts by grad students, language revitalization efforts, etc...
 - We are willing to consult with any other DGAs looking to do a similar project higherclause@ucalgary.ca

- UofC Annual Symposium on Sustainability Research (May 14)
 - Supervisors got email (faculty engagement in sustainability research)
 - Check with supervisor if interested

Announcements 19:11

- Call for [Committee](#) Chairs! May 6, 2019 4:30 pm
 - Governance Committee
 - Sustainability Committee
 - Awards Committee
 - Academic Standing Committee
 - Student Experience and Events Committee
 - Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee
 - Newcomer and International Student Subcommittee
 - Gender and Sexuality Alliance Subcommittee
 - Community Engagement and Events Subcommittee

- [Rising Leaders Forum](#)
 - May 9, 2019, 2:30-3:50 (refreshments at 2), ICT 102

- [Lecture of a Lifetime](#)
 - Dr. Glenda MacQueen
 - May 2, 2019

Other Business 19:14

Next Month 19:15

NOT LAST TUESDAY, it's on MAY 21!
 May 21, 2019, ST 147

Election Results (CRO) 19:33

These results are uncertified. CRO has two weeks to ratify the results of the election.

- VPA—Mohamed Abdelsamie
- VPSL—Basem Halawa

Swearing in of New Executive (President, VPEExt, VPFS) 19:35

Adjournment of Open Session 19:37

Moved/seconded

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 19:37