

Mohammad Mansouri
President
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October 21-November 12

Strategic Plan Goals

As President, 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 2019-2022 can be found [here](#).

Improving Advocacy

Advocate to secure graduate scholarships (2019-20 Goal)

- Gather the scholarship data (values, sources) from the University administration
- Prepare an advocacy policy
- Set up meetings with government

Update:

- Talked with the Provincial Government regarding the future of graduate scholarships called AGES

Improving Service Delivery

Establish a Professional Development (PD) program for GSA committees (2019-20 Goal)

- Increase efficiency
- Increase the involvements of committee members
- Increase collaboration between GSA committees
- Increase collaboration between GSA committees and external committees

Update:

- The second workshop was organized in the first week of November
- The workshop was focused on professional communication

Quality Money

- The second intake of the Quality Money was on October 15th
- The GSA board reviewed the second intake applications
- The successful and unsuccessful applicants were informed

Monitor the H&D plan transition (2019-20 Goal)

- Monitoring the changes, which applied in the new contract

Update:

- Keep monitoring the changes

Improving Communication

Improving Organization Sustainability

Develop a plan to increase other revenues (2019-20 Goal)

- Review investment performance in GSA
- Perform a Request for Proposal (RFP) for current GSA investment
- Update the investment policy based on the result of this project in collaboration with VPFS

Update:

- Start to meet with various brokers and banks
- Start to prepare the RFP
- Collaboration with the University to prepare the RFP

Other Accomplishments

Collective Agreement

- As President, I usually receive some questions regarding the collective agreement. I try to do my best to answer these questions.

Provincial budget

- As a student leader, I met with the Minister of Advanced Education alongside other student leaders
- There is no more information shared with student leaders.
- I had a few meetings with the University administration
 - There is still no clear answer to how the new budget will impact the graduate students
- We will discuss in the GRC meeting regarding the provincial budget
- Also, please check our website for updated information.

Emergency Bursary

- The GSA board reviewed more than 12 Emergency bursary applications

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS)

- The GSA presented its activities regarding mental health in a Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Panel alongside three other panelists
- Exchange ideas with other associations and FGS Deans across Canada regarding important topics such as the indigenous Inclusion in Graduate Education, Interdisciplinary and Non-Traditional Program in Graduate Education, and Holistic Student Support

Permanent Residency process for international process

- The GSA will host a consultation meeting with Alberta's Minister of Labour and Immigration
- The international students will have a chance to share their experience and barriers toward the permanent residency

FYI & Highlights

Total Hours

Meeting: 84 hours

Others: 42 hours

Total: 126 hours

Average per week: 42 hours

Notes:

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
TFCC	Tuesday	October 22
JWHSC	Tuesday	October 22
One-on-one meeting with Dean of FGS	Tuesday	October 22
Meeting with John Alho	Tuesday	October 22
One-on-one meeting with Richard, Dean of Faculty of Art	Tuesday	October 22
Campus food bank Tour	Wednesday	October 23
Unconscious Bias Training	Thursday	October 24
AGES discussion with FGS	Thursday	October 24
FGSC Executive Meeting	Thursday	October 24
Meeting with MLA Yaseen	Friday	October 25
GRC Slides review	Friday	October 25
One-on-one meeting with Provost	Friday	October 25
Meeting with Chris, ab-GPAC's ED	Friday	October 25
Board meeting	Monday	October 28
One-on-one meeting with SU President	Monday	October 28
TFCC Meeting	Tuesday	October 29
GRC meeting	Tuesday	October 29
Tuition Consultation	Wednesday	October 30
Advocacy group meeting	Wednesday	October 30

UCalgary Advisory Group - Carnegie Community Engagement Classification Pilot	Thursday	October 31
A lunch with two Prime Minister	Thursday	October 31
Mental Health and wellness presentation	Friday	November 1
Family house meeting	Friday	November 1
Federal Policy Committee meeting	Friday	November 1
Board meeting	Monday	November 4
Alberta leaders meeting with Minister of Advanced Education	Monday	November 4
Discussion on Diversity Days 2020	Tuesday	November 5
SU-GSA-AUPE	Tuesday	November 5
CAGS	Wednesday	November 6
CAGS	Thursday	November 7
CAGS	Thursday	November 8

Mohamed Abdelsamie
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October 22 to November 12, 2019

Strategic Plan Pillars

As Vice President Academic, I am committed to ensuring that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's strategic plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan (2019-2022) can be found [here](#).

Advocacy

Advocate to secure graduate scholarships

- Ongoing discussions with FGS. GAC 2019 awards are currently being disbursed. FGS has sent out an announcement with updates in their newsletter.

Service Delivery

GSA Awards

- GSA Graduate Citizenship Award results will be announced soon
- PDG and GSA Bursary are under review

Online Awards Applications Platform

- The project includes a platform to replace the PDF application forms, and migrating the GSA website to a better server that can handle the increasing number of awards applicants
- Quality Money application has been approved and work will start soon

Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium

- This year the symposium will be 3 days, with multiple options for presentation (oral presentation, poster presentation, speed talks, art displays)
- Four workshops are secured: Qualtrics, Online Research ID, Research Integrity, and Presentation Skills.
- Innovation @UCalgary will also facilitate a panel/workshop about entrepreneurship.
- Attendance will be by registration (free of charge)

Academic Workshops

- Workshop in November about applying for academic jobs for the three tri-council areas
- Academic Support Committee currently planning the Winter workshop

GSA Graduate Student Handbook

- This name is temporary, the Academic Support Committee is working on that initiative

- The handbook will generally be a document (printed and/or online) that briefly outlines the services and opportunities offered by the GSA and by the university. It will also include the proper channels students need to go through for different things like conflicts, appeals, awards, etc... just short descriptions and references to what they need to know
- Initial format will be a handout with a QR code that links to an online page with all the content

FYI & Highlights

- Peer Beyond is an excellent opportunity to get feedback on your research. It is also a good venue to practice your presentation skills. There will be faculty members assessing the presentations/posters/art for awards at the end of the symposium. Please spread the word and encourage your departments to submit abstracts.

Total Hours

Meetings: 36

Events: 3

Other: 32

Total: 71

Average per week: 24

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
GFC Research and Scholarship Committee	Tuesday	October 22
Learning Technology Advisory Committee	Wednesday	October 23
GFC Executive Committee	Wednesday	October 23
Awards Gala Planning Meeting	Thursday	October 24
AGES Discussion with FGS	Thursday	October 24
GFC Teaching and Learning Committee	Thursday	October 24
Meeting with NISS Vice Chair	Thursday	October 24
Board of Directors Meeting	Monday	October 28
Meeting with Math students 6	Monday	October 28
GRC	Tuesday	October 29
Student Activities Fund (SAF) review meeting	Wednesday	October 30
Insights Evaluator Session	Thursday	October 31
NISS Awards Workshop	Friday	November 1
SLT Meeting	Monday	November 4

Board of Directors Meeting	Monday	November 4
Executives Social	Tuesday	November 5
Meeting with Leslie Reid	Wednesday	November 6
USRI Working Group	Wednesday	November 6
Meeting with Robin Yates	Wednesday	November 6
Qualtrics Meeting	Thursday	November 7
General Faculties Council	Thursday	November 7
Tuition Fees Discussion	Tuesday	November 12
Meeting with the Minister of Immigration	Tuesday	November 12

Marcela Lopes
Vice President External
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October 21st, 2019 – November 8th, 2019

Strategic Plan Pillars

As Vice President External, I am committed to ensuring that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's strategic plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan (2019-2022) can be found [here](#).

Advocacy

Decrease number of complaints after university decisions

- Develop framework to consult students affected by decisions
- Introduce a new residence consultation committee for both Varsity Courts and Crowsnest Hall to consult prior to university decisions related to residence
 - The ToRs have been approved by the board.
 - The call for volunteers was advertised in the last three weeks.
 - We don't have enough volunteers to run the committee yet.

Have advocacy policies adopted by all levels of government and university

- Develop Advocacy policies and research to be adopted by stakeholders:
 - The scholarship policy is at the final stage (ab-GPAC)
 - There is still work to be done for the Permanent Residency and Professional development policies (ab-GPAC)
 - The deadline for ab-GPAC's policies is December 1st.
- Present policies and priorities to government and university:
 - The last few weeks have been busy in terms of meetings with both the government and university administration after the provincial budget was released. Please see more details below.

Increase number of invitations to university and external events each year

- Increasing this number means that we are well-connected as stakeholders.
- We are invited to all university big events (i.e.: community report, town halls, senate events, dinners, etc.).
- As ab-GPAC chair I went to the Legislature on Budget day to talk to the media and key stakeholders.

Increase number of politicians and university administrators knowing executive and staff on a first name basis

- The first meetings we have with politicians are to develop relationships and introduce the GSA. We will have follow up meetings to strengthen these relationships.

- We already can see progress when attending events – politicians do recognize us from meetings.

Service Delivery

None this time.

Communication

None this time.

Organizational Sustainability

None this time.

FYI & Highlights

Alberta Provincial Budget October, 2019

- ab-GPAC has been involved in multiple actions as reflection of the budget released on October 24th.
 - Information on how the budget affects UCalgary graduate students are [here](#).
 - Right after the budget was announced, the Minister of Advanced Education had a call with all student associations in Alberta. There he explained how the budget affect students.
 - We had multiple meetings with our counterparts from undergraduate and college students (CAUS and ASEC), as well as independent associations.
 - We have released a joint statement on behalf of 260,000 students in Alberta, which you can find [here](#).
 - The government has responded to the release immediately through individual calls with the chief of staff of the Ministry of Advanced Education.
- On November 4th, all Student associations were invited to a meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education.
 - ab-GPAC had 10 minutes to talk about our concerns, and there was time for Q/A where Mohammad was able to speak as well. The most relevant concerns that were brought up are:
 - Tuition: the proposal from one group of students was tuition increase caps for the first, second and third year being 7%, 6%, and 5%, respectively. This cap would compensate for the 5-year freeze and bring tuition back to the rate it should be. Minister advised students to advocate internally with universities.
 - Graduate Scholarships: There will be no cuts on the AGES funding for the next three years. The minister will keep an open eye in which regards internal scholarships.
 - Infrastructure Maintenance: This funding was only cut for this year. Next year the funding should be in place again.

- Universities Operating Grant: Students were concerned how the ministry is planning to guarantee that cuts won't affect student experience. Minister responded that cuts should be focused on administrative costs and service duplication / efficiency. Cuts won't be directed at mental health services, student financial aid, and student frontline services.
- International student tuition: There is no cap to international student tuition. The only piece on Bill 19 that impacts international students is predictability. The minister did not guarantee any benefits for international students.
- Student consultation: there is no framework on how students will be consulted at this time.
- The GSA has been meeting with the Provost, Dru Marshall, and advocating along with the Student Union.
 - We are sharing our concerns and suggestions.
 - At our request, the provost will be meet graduate students.
 - We will keep advocating for the best outcome for students.

Most important, **together we are stronger**.

Share your comments and concerns about the budget and the future of Alberta's post-secondary sector with us [here](#), and we will bring everything to the table.

ab●GPAC

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

- Your Graduate Student Voice in Alberta
- Advocates to the provincial government



Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

- National voice for Canada's post-secondary students
- Advocates to the federal government

Ongoing roles and activities 2019/2020

- Chair of ab-GPAC
- Governance Committee at CASA
- Member of the Calgary Student Alliance
- Graduate student representation at university committees and Senate

Total Hours

Meetings: 47 hours

Other: 45 hours (Including Travel and Events)

Total: 92 hours

Average per week: 30.6 hours

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee	Tuesday	October 22
Advocacy Meeting with Mo and Nancy	Tuesday	October 22
Meeting with John Alho, Mo and Nancy	Tuesday	October 22
Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee	Thursday	October 24
Calls with Nancy (GSA), Sadyia (SU), and Chris (ab-GPAC) preparing for the budget release	Thursday	October 24
AGES discussion with FGS	Thursday	October 24
Meeting with the minister of advanced Ed and student leaders	Thursday	October 24
Meeting ASEC, CAUS, ab-GPAC on coordinating budget messages	Thursday	October 24
Meeting with MLA Youssen	Friday	October 25
GRC Slide Review	Friday	October 25
Joint press release meeting with ASEC /CAUS and independent SUs	Friday	October 25
College Oversight committee meeting	Friday	October 25
Joint press release with ASEC /CAUS	Friday	October 25
ab-GPAC one-on-one with Chris	Friday	October 25
Call with Jesse (Chief of staff of Ministry of Advanced Education) on budget	Friday	October 25
Board meetings	Monday	October 28
Meeting with Danielle, Tara and Stephanie on professional development initiatives from MyGRADSkills and Career Services	Monday	October 28
Task Force on Relationships	Monday	October 28
Advocacy meeting with Nancy and Mo	Monday	October 28
Tuition discussion with Dru / SU / GSA / Robin Yates	Wednesday	October 30
Meeting with Adelina - Advocacy website page	Wednesday	October 30
ab-GPAC one-on-one with Chris	Wednesday	October 30
Advocacy meeting with Nancy and Mo	Wednesday	October 30
CASA phone meeting with Emma – on CASA's priorities and upcoming conference	Friday	November 1

ab-GPAC one-on-one with Chris	Friday	November 1
Tuition meeting with the SU	Friday	November 1
Meeting with Robin Yates	Friday	November 1
ab-GPAC Meeting with Concordia University of Edmonton GSA	Monday	November 4
Chris	Monday	November 4
Meeting with the Minister of advanced Ed and student leaders on budget feedback and Q/A	Monday	November 4
ab-GPAC board meeting	Thursday	November 7
VPR Search	Friday	November 8

Basem Halawa
Vice President Student Life
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21st of October, 2019 to 8th of November, 2019

Strategic Plan Goals

As Vice President Student Life, I am committed to ensuring that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's Strategic Plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan 2019-2022 can be found [here](#).

Improving Advocacy

N/A

Improving Service Delivery

Introduce a new service to graduate students to be responsive to student's needs.

- We started working on a GSA sponsorship package to diversify GSA's source of funding, and to start contacting potential partners.
- GSA's Halloween party had much higher participation compared to previous years. Between 150 and 200 students showed up, and we received mainly positive feedback.
- Dance crew program is returning back to be on weekly basis instead of biweekly basis.

Improving Communication

Establish Building Bridges as a core GSA program to increase awareness about GSA activities and increase the diversity of the students attending GSA events: Reaching 700 students through our booths by the end of winter 2020

- Halloween candy give away was a success. They changed the format to giveaway the candies in pouch bags.
- We started advertising Empower me through a Building bridges booth and through SLT.

Improving Organization Sustainability

- The newly introduced \$100 grant to support events insurance coverage for DGAs and GSGs is covering most of insurance expenses for events except few cases (Ping pong tournament); therefore I am considering increasing this grant according to the budget.
- Still working on updating Com/media agreement with better terms. Com/media are slow in their response.
- Working on a GSA – Active Living annual agreement to help plan all GSA physical related activities for the year at discounted prices. (I reached an initial understanding with the Active Living director)

Other Accomplishments

NA

FYI & Highlights

- If you have any ideas about discounted tickets or events, please contact me personally.
- GSA's Soccer tournament is happening on November 30th. GSA's volleyball and curling tournaments will follow in winter semester.
- GSA's De-stress is occurring between 9th and 13th December. It is going to be a week full of GSA's events.

Total Hours

Meeting: 43
Others: 21
Total: 64
Average per week: 21.6

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Active Living and Athletics committee	Monday	October 21 st
Board meeting	Monday	October 21 st
SEEC	Monday	October 21 st
Weekly meeting with Events coordinator	Wednesday	October 23 rd

NISS Chair	Wednesday	October 23 rd
GRC slide review	Friday	October 25 th
NISS Vice chair	Friday	October 25 th
Active Living director	Friday	October 25 th
Board meeting	Monday	October 28 th
Tara from FGS	Monday	October 28 th
Chris Insights review	Monday	October 28 th
Substance Use Advisory group	Tuesday	October 29 th
Weekly meeting with Events coordinator	Wednesday	October 30 th
Prime ministers lunch (How Canada should move forward after elections?)	Thursday	October 31 st
GSA Halloween party	Thursday	October 31 st
NISS Scholarships workshop	Friday	November 1 st
Jennifer (GSA representative for mental health conference)	Friday	November 1 st
Board meeting	Monday	November 4 th
Senior leadership team meeting	Monday	November 4 th
NISS transition meeting	Tuesday	November 5 th
Board Retreat	Tuesday	November 5 th
Weekly meeting with Events coordinator	Wednesday	November 6 th
General Faculties Council	Thursday	November 7 th
Dance crew updates	Friday	November 8 th

Mina Iskander
Vice President Finance & Services
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October 21 to November 11, 2019

Strategic Plan Pillars

As Vice President Finance & Services, I am committed to ensuring that all aspects of my portfolio are in alignment with the GSA's strategic plan. The GSA's 3-year strategic plan (2019-2022) can be found [here](#).

Advocacy

None this time.

Service Delivery

Decrease number of Health & Dental complaints elevated to StudentCare by 30th Apr 2022

- This year, in collaboration with the GSA president, I will create a mechanism to monitor the effectiveness of the new health and dental plan. Using the data obtained from this mechanism we will be able to address issues as they arise and this will help with minimizing the complaints elevated to StudentCare.

Communication

Have 100% of survey respondents indicate awareness of the GSA and its services: 87% to 100% by 30th Apr 2022

- I have an action plan under this goal, which is to implement financial literacy workshops to support students in new ways. I will be communicating with financial institutions on campus to have two workshops by the end of this calendar year. Please stay tuned.

Organizational Sustainability

Increase operating revenues from sources other than student fees: 5% by 30th Apr 2022

- I will be working with the president of the GSA and the Executive Director on reviewing the current investment policy in collaboration with the Finance Standing Committee. Please if you have thoughts and ideas about other sources of revenue talk to me.

FYI & Highlights

- None this time

Total Hours

Meetings: 28
Events: 6
Other: 20
Total: 54
Average per week: 18

Meetings Attended

Meeting name	Day of the Week	Date
Board Meeting	Monday	October 21
Campus and Facilities and Development GFC subcommittee	Tuesday	October 22
FSC chair meeting with ED	Thursday	October 24
GRC slide review	Friday	October 25
QM review meeting – Board meeting	Monday	October 28
Empower Me communication meeting	Monday	October 28
GRC meeting	Tuesday	October 29
Investment Advisor meeting	Wednesday	October 30
Panel Discussion with Former Prime Ministers Stephen Harper and Jean Chrétien	Thursday	October 31
Board Meeting	Monday	November 4
GSA Executive team dinner night	Tuesday	November 5
Sustainability committee chairs monthly meeting	Wednesday	November 6
Finance Standing Committee Monthly meeting	Wednesday	November 6
General Faculties Council	Thursday	November 7
Sustainability Committee monthly meeting	Friday	November 8