



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 5:30 PM
ST147**

Attendees:

Mohammad Mansouri, President
 Mohamed Abdelsamie, VP Academic
 Marcela Lopes, VP External
 Basem Halawa, VP Student Life
 Mina Iskander, VP Finances & Services
 Leanne Dawson, Speaker
 Kristina Miller, Clerk

Quorum

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA (BMBDGA)	Proxy
	Anthonia Anowai
	Lamees Mohammad
Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association (BGSA)	Joey Lockhart
	Haydee Mesa Galloso
	Lauren McMillan
Biomedical Engineering GSA (BMEG)	
Biomedical Technology GSA	Sydney Toutant
Cardiovascular & Respiratory Students' Association	Loryn Bohne
	Tristan Dorey
Chemical & Petroleum Engineering Graduate Students' Association	Proxy
	Mauricio Bonilla
	Calin Lencar
Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA)	Duncan Brownsey
	Milanpreet Kaur
	Madison Timmons
	James Papatzimas
Civil Engineering Graduate Society (CEGS)	Masoomah Faghihinia
	Rasoul Sheikhmali
	Mihailo Bogoslavov

	M.K
Classics and Religion DGA (CLARE)	Justin Nadeau
	Gregory Ramsey
Communication Media and Film DGA (CMFDGA)	Andrew Thomas
Community Health Sciences Student Executive (CHSSE)	Proxy
Computational Media Design (CDMSA)	Kathryn Blair
Computer Science Graduate Society (CSGS)	Seyeddarshia Hosseinibidi
	Sogand Sadrhaghighi
Council of Foothills (CFD)	Madalynn Thompson
Doctoral Association for Students of Haskayne (DASH)	Philip Piercy
	Zhanna Lyubykh
Economics Graduate Association	Sakib Rahman
	Proxy
Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA (ECEG)	Christine Cao
English Department Graduate Association (EDGA)	Colin Gibbings
	Laura Brooks
Gastrointestinal Graduate Students Association	Holly Szczepanski
	Ramsha Mahmood
Geography Graduate Students' Association (GeoGSA)	Kristina Miller
	Emily Lambert
Geomatics Graduate Group (G^3)	Yizhi Huang
	Bahareh Yekkehkhany
	Sandra Simeonova
Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association (GAASA)	Pamela Narvaez-Torres
	Devin Chen
	Li-Dunn Chen
Graduate Association of Geology and Geophysics Students (GAGGS)	
Graduate Engineering Students Consortium (GESC)	Christine (Sheng Lun) Cao
	Annamaris Olmo-Velazquez
	Kirsten Neprily

Graduate Programs in Education Students Association (GPESA)	Harrison Campbell
	Jordan Kidney
	Alicia Kassian
Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society (GUMS)	Keira Gunn
	Sarath Kumar Jayaraman
Haskayne MBA Society	Mahwash Waqar
History Graduate Students Union (HGSU)	
Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization (HBITO)	Brandon Craig
	Faizan Malik
	Trevor Low
Immunology Graduate Association (IGA)	Robert Clarke
Kinesiology Graduate Students Association (KGSA)	Kyle McCallum
	Lauren Miutz
	Madison Fullerton
Linguistics Graduate Students' Association - A Higher Clause	Merion Hodgson
Master of Management Society (MMS)	Michael Osachoff
	Puncham Judge
Masters of Pathologists' Assistant GSA (MPATH)	Alicia Ussling
Masters of Public Policy Students Association (MPPSA)	
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association (MEGSA)	
Medical Science Graduate Student Association (MDSC-SA)	
Microbiology & Infectious Diseases GSA (MIDGSA)	
Nursing Graduate Students' Association (NGSA)	Karly Jarema
	Genevive Currie
Philosophy Graduate Students' Association	Chloe Stephenson
Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association (PHAS DGA)	Davor Curic
	Carlton Osakwe
Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)	Andrew Kemle
	Rai Lakhan
Psychology Graduate Students Association (PGSA)	Chelsie Hart

	Jaimie Beveridge
School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPLSA)	Diba Mohebzadeh
	Vincent Vong
	Rutvi Gajjar
	Jennifer Herring
School of Creative and Performing Arts Graduate Society	Melike Ceylan
Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus (SGSC)	Chene Rnolwood
	Chanin Seegar
Strategic Studies Students Consortium (S3C)	Roberto Salegio
	Tim Choi
Sustainable Energy Development (SEDV)	Jin Lun Du
	Brendan Cooke
Veterinary Medicine Grad Students Association (VMGSA)	Diego Nobrega
Vox Condiscipulum (French, Italian, Spanish)	Proxy

AGM Meeting Minutes

Meeting Began 17:30

Territorial Acknowledgement 17:31

Roll Call 17:35

Approval of the Agenda 5:40

Motioned/seconded

Discussion:

- Amendments:
 - 1) Presentation of GRC101 will be presented by Mohamed Abdelsamie
 - 2) Adding a discussion after presentation of GRC101 about provincial budget

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

CARRIED

Approval of the May 2019 Minutes 5:41

Motioned/seconded

Discussion: N/A
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Leadership (Deborah Yedlin, U of C Chancellor) 5:42

- Deborah Yedlin talked about the importance of leadership at U of C, particularly collective leadership
 - The University's academic plan focuses on leadership
 - Canadian Centre for Advanced Leadership in Business (CCAL) was established in 2012
 - Graduate school provides opportunities to develop leadership skills. Campus resources include My GradSkills, Graduate Leaders Circle (mentorship), SAGE at UCalgary for indigenous students, WElab for female students (entrepreneurship and mentorship program at Hunter Hub)
- Deborah Yedlin shared her experience learning about leadership
- Encouragement to link with other leaders and peers – can be partnered with a Senator at the University → receive help navigating research or life post grad school
- Deborah's leadership was inspired and influenced by:
 - Deborah's Mother was the 8th woman to receive tenure at U of A in 1975 – great leader
 - 1997 Deborah interviewed Dick Haskayne as a journalist – sees him as a mentor
 - Kathy Sendall – woman in energy sector, interviewed by Deborah
- Leadership comes in many forms – collaboration, feedback, courage to try again after failing
- Leadership is about motivating people, building consensus, working toward common goal, taking people with you on journey to success
- You choose the kind of leader you are, listen to others' perspectives, allow them to push your boundaries
- How you lead is unique to who you are as a person

- **Questions:**
 - **Are there cuts to the budget?**
 - A: Yes, there are cuts. Some universities are impacted more than others. Numbers will be under review. Board of Governors and President will be making decisions for adapting to budget changes.
 - **Tell us more about the opportunities to volunteer with Senators?**

- A: Those are mentorship opportunities. Senators are willing to mentor students. Get in touch with Office of the Chancellor and Senate; tell what you're looking for to be mentored in; there are 62 senators you can be matched with depending on your area of interest. Contact: senate@ucalgary.ca

Leadership (David Werklund, CEO and Founder, Werklund Foundation) 5:55

- Leanne introduced David w/ bio
- **What business or leadership experience in life had the greatest impact on career?**
 - A: be a self-learner, be willing to learn, be self-aware of your missed opportunities. Father taught that the most important thing in life is having integrity. Integrity builds trust and trustworthiness – that's the foundation for being great at your job.
- **What do you attribute your success to?**
 - A: Started out fairly naïve, made some large mistakes, and would attribute learning from mistakes to his greatest successes, not blaming others, and accepting the responsibility.
- **If you could go back in time, what advice would you offer to your younger self?**
 - A: Would seek to understand better and find other people in business who would share their experience and knowledge of where they can learn and trust; find other people you can trust who can give advice on where you can go and how you can build your business.
- **Why is important to give back to the community?**
 - A: Giving back to the community is a bit selfish b/c he benefitted from helping others. A servant leader is someone who helps those beyond their subordinates/employees, it's helping those in the community. Even when David couldn't afford it, they sponsored sports events, and it was personally rewarding. The learning was that it was an important step for building trust. Giving back to community created pride in employees as they were willing to participate together in community development; it was a social time doing things for others.
- **How did the foundation come to be, what was the first project, and why?**
 - A: Foundation was set up in 2007. They were just corporate sponsors from the time David left Shell in 1970. When funds were available, they were giving back to the community. Foundation was set up to manage the structure - to set up policies and procedures for operation. The foundation was set up to help youth, community, and those that sought education.

- **Given current thoughts and concerns for environment, how do you see the growth of the energy sector? (Balance between energy sector growth and conserving the environment?)**
 - A: Main purpose is to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the ground we walk on. Do this by reducing the carbon footprint, handling oil field waste in way to protect the environment. Protect the air by having all tanks sealed so they don't emit gas from facilities. Today, looking to find ways to remediate contaminated soil.
- **Is there a community project that stands out in your memory for your foundation?**
 - A: The University of Calgary. Foundation invests seriously with the teachers. Teachers give back to the community, educate about importance of energy sector and how carbon footprint is reduced. This ties into Foundation's commitment to the community.
- **How can we find, as leaders, common ground with people we might have disagreements with?**
 - A: Industry needs to get out and educate people on what it means. Need to understand importance of taking emissions seriously – taking on project now to reduce carbon emissions by 75%. Flywheel effect: we all start with a small flywheel, and if everyone does their part on pushing the flywheel to meet the objectives, that's what will make a difference. We need to think about things that we can do to reduce a carbon footprint, ex. biking instead of driving, not allowing car to idle.

Integrity (Sarah Elaine Eaton, Educational Leader in Residence, Academic Integrity) 6:17

- Issues for grad students with respect to integrity: Understanding supervisor expectations, lack of clarity around self-plagiarism, teaching assistant roles, where to go for help?
- Student Success Centre has programs for online or blended programs
- As of July 1st, there are new policies and procedures around academic misconduct
 - Integrity, six fundamental values: courage, fairness, honesty, respect, trust, responsibility
 - Shift in policies: language shift outlining responsibilities for students, supervisors, and administrators → shared responsibility
 - Grad Student-Supervisor checklist touches on those policies
 - NEW resource for teaching assistants: U Have Integrity
 - Collective agreement should have integrity as part of it
 - Can access this resources at: <https://prism.ucalgary.ca/bitstream/handle/1880/111012/U%20Have%20Integrity%20->

[%20Teaching%20Assistant%20Handout%202019-09.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](#)

- Can have confidential conversation with Sarah, contact her at: seaton@ucalgary.ca

GRC 101 (Mohammad Abdelsamie, VPA) 6:24

- GRC definition
 - Group of grad students representing their department, offer advice to the GSA Executive Board, and relay information from GRC to departments and grad students
- GSA Bylaws
 - 9.18 – responsibility of GRC reps to attend meetings and relay info to DGA
 - 9.10 – bylaw outlining number of GRC representatives based on number of students in the department
 - Can access GSA bylaws here: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/about-the-gsa/bylaws/>
- DGA Policy
 - DGA Exec have to fill position of GRC reps – volunteer position, same reps have to attend the meetings to ensure continuity
 - Send names of representatives to Crystal at governance.gsa@ucalgary.ca
 - All reps have to be in attendance at GRC – event funding is based on attendance
 - Can send proxy, must inform Crystal (governance.gsa@ucalgary.ca) 48 hours before GRC if you plan to send a proxy
 - We need 1 rep from each DGA to form quorum
- Meeting structure was outlined
 - During DGA Period discuss items related to your DGA
 - Announcement Period is for announcing anything outside of your DGA
- **Questions:**
 - Our DGA sent the change of info form, but haven't heard back.
 - A: Talk to Crystal after the meeting
 - Are executive reports somewhere?
 - A: Yes, in the meeting package that was sent out by email. Attachment is titled Executive Reports.

Provincial Budget Update (Mohammad Mansouri, President) 6:33

- Conservative Government released annual budget last week – more efficiency, reduce budget, particularly in post-secondary education

- 5% reduction compared to last year in post-secondary education → based on surplus in various institutions during 2013-2018 cycle; next year the institution budget will be based on performance: accountability, service delivery, job creation
- U of C cut was 6.9% compared to previous year = \$32 million in operational budget; 35% of U of C budget comes from the Province and the rest comes from tuitions
- IMP is suspended this year
- Cuts in other ministries connected to U of C, ex. Agri and Forestry, economic development trade, tourism; we don't know how that will impact our institution
- Tuition freeze will be ended and university can raise up to 7% in total and 10% in individual programs, no cap for international student tuition
- University will provide impact statement by December 2, 2019, which will include:
 - How university will implement the new budget
 - How it will impact student experience
 - Want to make sure impact on students is minimal
 - How consultation with students will look is uncertain
- GSA is meeting with government on Monday (November 4th)
- Check GSA website and share feedback/concerns: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/contact/>
- Ab-GPAC statement
 - Impact of increased tuition on students
 - Affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education
 - Temporary employment program (STEP) initiative that provided 12,000 positions for students is now gone and government won't support it
 - Provincial infrastructure investment is suspended
- Questions:
 - **Does the 6-10% increase in tuition include undergrad and grad?**
 - A: That's what government allows individually for both undergrad and grad, no cap for international students
 - **Is market modifier coming back for tuition freeze?**
 - A: We don't know.
 - **Will data statement be shared?**
 - A: Yes.
 - **Will you support students if tuition goes up?**
 - A: This question will be asked on Monday; everything will be updated on the GSA website: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>
 - **When will we know what will happen?**
 - A: Will meet on Monday to ask questions, will meet with university administration Wednesday (October 30th). Nobody knows anything right now.

- **Will you share a report after Monday meeting?**
 - A: Everything that can be shared will be shared on the GSA website
- **Will there be concrete actions from GSA – petition/protest?**
 - A: All options are on the table right now but first we need to know what will happen to make a wise decision
- **Since we're union, can we strike?**
 - A: All options are on the table now, let's wait for the information to come in.
- **What's the earliest date for tuition hikes?**
 - A: Don't know
- **If grad students are on a payment plan, that will reflect the tuition hike?**
 - A: Will ask this at meeting with Administration
- **How much of GSA's operation budget comes from University?**
 - A: GSA is not impacted by the university budget. Quality Money comes from tuition, but we don't know what will happen to it at this time.

Election of Judicial Board (Leanne Dawson, Speaker) 6:49

- Group responsible for mediating disputes between parties in the Association
- If the board are called to meet, 7 members from the board are needed
- Question: **How many hours are associated?**
 - A: 0 if board isn't called. The board was called twice in the past 4 years and never called for 10 years prior to that.
 - A: Average time commitment would be less than 10 hours, but in a short time span. Have to respond within 48 hours, and disputes must be resolved within 1 business week.

Question Period 6:55

- **Are we doing anything to support the other parts of university to be cut?**
 - A (Mina): Some parts of university have declared that they need help, otherwise, we will wait to see what's happening and we will see how we can help
- **We only have one sexual violence advocate and worried about budget cuts in that sector.**
 - A (Mohamed): they are restructuring the staff in the office to target sexual harassment cases, have hired someone to work with students
- **Graduate scholarships: No changes since last year?**
 - A (Mohamed): This year scholarship situation is complicated, because budget was delayed for the university, many awards were not dispersed to grad students. Applications that were submitted for 2019 GAC

competition are still in progress and should be dispersing the rest of the money before the year is over. There have been changes of how money should be spent, eligibility criteria were changed which is causing a delay right now. A bunch of awards were combined to AGES award (government funding) which previously was only accessible to citizens, up to 25% can now be accessed by international students; now they have to use new criteria using old applications – have to sort through related issues. In the new year GAC applications might open while they are still dispersing old awards from 2019.

- **Was denied a travel bursary in June because of funding freeze. Is that still the case?**
 - A (Mohamed): Yes, still suspended, don't know what will happen yet. Alberta Innovates Technology is still suspended, but Alberta Innovates Health is ongoing.
- **When will quality money results be out?**
 - A (Mina): ASAP.
- **Are you working with new budget?**
 - A (Mina): our funding is largely from student fees; working on enhancing this to start looking at other sources of revenues to be independent regardless of what happens to the university and not depend on fluctuations in politics. Majority of funding is from student fees; Quality Money is unknown what will happen with it.

DGA Period 7:04

- Classics and Religion - Haunted House on Thursday to raise money for United Way on 5th floor of SS 11:30 am-3:30 pm
- Sociology Student Caucus – Grad Student Research Symposium, March 5-6, 2020. Call for abstracts will open mid-November
- Werklund School of Education – Research Symposium on February 20-21, 2020. Call for abstracts is now open, posters are coming soon, looking for abstracts in education
- Linguistics – Celebration of Indigenous Languages in Alberta, on Saturday, November 2nd, at Craigie Hall, 1-5 pm. Includes a film screening and panel discussion, reception and showcase.

Announcements 7:06

- Mina: Campus Food Bank
 - In Mac Hall, 2nd floor (251 MSC)
 - Depending on family, can get food for 1 week from the food bank
 - Majority of users are graduate students

- GSA has a sponsorship budget, GSA donated \$4000 to food bank on campus (not SU food bank)
- If you need the service, you can call (403-220-8599), will do phone interview and will give support; can go in person though
- Everything is confidential; if you know someone encourage them to go
- If you can support, please donate: food, money, toiletries, non perishable items; *money* helps with purchasing fresh foods
- Mohamed: GSA Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium on January 28-30, 2020 at Rozsa Centre, Call for Abstracts opened October 18, November 18 deadline
 - Information here: <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/events/peerbeyondsymposium/>
 - Multidisciplinary symposium; Presentation options: oral, poster, 5 minute talks, art exhibits
 - Will have 4 workshops; Sarah Eaton on Integrity, 3MT from Tara Christie, Research online ID Workshop, workshop on survey tool
- Mohamed: Academic support committee is running academic job search 3:30-5:30 pm at EDC255 by Stephanie Werner from Career Services
- Mohamed: university is developing experiential learning plan for the student body (undergrads and grads), will receive draft soon, will have guest at GRC regarding the document for consultation
- Basem: GSA Halloween party on October 31st 6-10 pm at LDL, will be free entry, candy bars, DJ, costume competition

Other Business 7:15

- Draw for prizes

Adjournment of Open Session 7:16

Moved/seconded

Opposed:

Abstained:

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:16