



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 5:00 PM MT**

Attendees:

James Steele, President
 Kirsten Neprily, VP Academic
 Alex Cameron, VP External
 Masume Akbari, VP Student Life
 Cameron Armstrong, VP Finances & Services
 Hunter Yaworski, AVP Labour
 Kristaps Balodis, Speaker
 Paulina Anaba, Clerk

GRC

Jay	Cavanagh	Sociology Graduate Students' Caucus
Melissa	Glass	History Graduate Students Union
Danielle	Korsrud	Biomedical Technology GSA
Muhammad Tamoor	Akbar	Not a GRC member
Jenny	Lawson	Not a GRC member
Ishaan	Sharma	Civil Engineering Graduate Society
Cheryl	Iwanchuk	Linguistics Graduate Students' Association
Carolyn	Graham	Immunology Graduate Association
McCaide	Wooten	Not a GRC member
David	Park	Political Science Graduate Student Association
Izabella	Almasi	English Department Graduate Association
Brittany	Lindsay	Not a GRC member
Urvashi	Tiwari	School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Don Pubudu	Kapurubandarage	Civil Engineering Graduate Society
Karina	Hincapie	Vox Condiscipulum
Madison	Daniels	Communication Media and Film DGA
Annj	Ridsdale-Weddell	Nursing Graduate Students' Association
Ardavan	Bonyadi Behrouz	Biomedical Technology GSA
Hunter	Yaworski	Geography Graduate Students' Association
Jacob	Amengor	Not a GRC member
Amy	LeBlanc	English Department Graduate Association
Amirhossein	Foroughi	Not a GRC member
Stefan	Van de Mosselaer	Not a GRC member

Blair	Cann	Graduate Association of Geology and Geophysics Students
Sujesh	Padhi	Not a GRC member
Urvash	Ribadia	Not a GRC member
Bethany	Saunders	Medical Science Graduate Student Association
Asim	Ahmed	Medical Science Graduate Student Association
Martin	Guillen	Not a GRC member
Sheel	Bhadra	Not a GRC member
Rita	Eresia-Eke	Not a GRC member
Munmun	Ahlawat	School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Racheal	Steele	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Natali	Shafer	Not a GRC member
Madeline	Ward	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society
Arman	Jahangiri	Not a GRC member
Soroosh	Esmaeilian	Computer Science Graduate Society
Dawn	Moffat McMaster	Political Science Graduate Student Association
Fatemeh	Jalalvand	Not a GRC member
Sakib Mohd	SHAHRIYAR	Not a GRC member
Leanne	Komaromi	Sustainable Energy Development
Taylor	Steelman	Not a GRC member
Egor	Purlats	Not a GRC member
Vikrant	Kumar	Not a GRC member
Justin	Nichol	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association
Suotonyo	Akono	Not a GRC member
Amir	Shani	Not a GRC member
Mojtaba	Ebrahimian Mashhadi	Not a GRC member
Pouya	Moeinifard	Not a GRC member
JIE	WENG	Not a GRC member
Alireza	Shourangizhaghighi	Not a GRC member
Parinaz	Abbasi	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association
Amirhossein	Sotoodehfar	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association
Seyed Arshia	Razavi	Physics & Astronomy Dep Grad Association
Cakpo Koffi		
Xavier	Ahodetor	Vox Condiscipulum
Kathryn	Blair	Computational Media Design
Kelsey	Harkness	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Vincent	Yong	School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Zachary	Bailey	Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization

Chantel	Fortier	Not a GRC member
Bitia	Abdollahi Sanati	Chemistry Graduate Student Association
Parker	Volk	Gastrointestinal Graduate Students Association
Florian	Schwarz	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society
Sophia	Kimiagari	Philosophy Graduate Students' Association
Olayinka	Arimoro	Community Health Sciences Student Executive
Olivia	Sosnowski	Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association
Rida	Mahmood	Council of Foothills
Andres	Zambrano	Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association
Mishty	Ray	Graduate University of Calgary Mathematics Society
Jessica	Revington	Community Health Sciences Student Executive
Soumen	Roy	Not a GRC member
Gia-Huy	Hoang	Not a GRC member
Asal	Rahmani Lahoot	Not a GRC member
Allan	Lyons	Computer Science Graduate Society
Alexandria	Poppendorf	Graduate Programs in Education Students Association

Meeting began – 5:05PM

Online Sign in – 5:05PM

Territorial Acknowledgement [James Steele, President] – 5:05PM

Verbal check in ended at 5:20

Approval of Agenda – 5:07PM

Motioned

Seconded

CARRIED

Approval of past AGM Minutes (Sep 27, 2022)

Moved

Seconded

Discussion N/A

CARRIED

Welcoming Remarks [James Steele, President] – 5:08PM

Welcome by FGS [Tara Beattie] – 5:08PM

- Looking forward to working with the GSA and every registered graduate student is an automatic member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- FGS seeks to provide professional development, student advice, as well as provide awards and scholarships.

- The FGS is made up of a robust team that seeks to assist students academically or non-academically if only they are willing to reach out for help from the team. The team is there to help students navigate through any challenges they might encounter.
- Students were encouraged to reach out to any of the GSA Executives for help or to be connected to the right people for assistance.

Question (5:16PM):

- How do you want to sympathise with students?

Answer:

- The FGS would want to understand funding models where it comes from and help faculties by understanding what is happening. We are also interested in looking at the average amount received across board because it is likely not all funding is equal.

GSA 101 Presentation [GSA Board of Directors] – 5:19PM

- The President, James Steele made a presentation on what the GSA does
- A 2023-2026 strategic plan where highly engaged and thriving graduate students are used.
- The mission is to ensure that the needed services, communities, advocacy and growth opportunities are available to all UCalgary graduate students.
- Priorities envisaged is to address critical barriers by fighting for students, growing organisational capacities and strengthening organisational infrastructure to benefit UCalgary graduate student community.
- The organisational structure is made up of the GRC and the Board of Directors.
- With reporting and feedback, there is an annual report, an annual general meeting, GRC, annual survey and adhoc surveys.
- GRC dates given included October 31, November 28, January 30, February 27, March 26, April 30, and May 28.

GSA Executive Introductions – 5:25PM

President:

- Public representative of the association
- Oversees all governance and serves as the spokesperson of the association.
- Graduate student advocacy.
- Graduate student representative of the board of governors.

VP Academic:

- Student advocacy as well as overseeing awards committee for awards and bursaries.
- In charge of professional development opportunities and academic events
- Provides student support and leads academic workshops.

VP External:

- Handles government relations, advocacy, and stakeholder relations.
- Engages in advocacy with on-campus groups and research-based advocacy.
- Oversees food, housing, and security.
- Oversees provincial advocacy and the national Indigenous advocacy committee.

VP Student Life:

- In charge of student engagement.
- Advocacy includes EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)
- In charge of ensuring students are oriented and get discounted tickets.

VP Finance and Services:

- Manages health and dental services, including student case tracking.
- In charge of finance and the Finance Standing Committee.
- Conducts monthly board financial reviews.
- Responsible for committee creation.
- Manages sustainability initiatives through the sustainability committee.

GSA 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements [Finance Standing Committee Chair]-5:39

- Communication and timely presentation of documentation to auditors
- The LDL incurred a loss of 45,217 for March 31, 2023 and this was due to inflation, increasing cost of goods sold, unavoidable costs or amortisation, etc. This has had no impact on internal reserves.

Question:

- What happens to the 200,000?

Answer:

- Reserves are added to the investment portfolio

Motion to maintain the current GSA Bylaws [James Steele, President] – 5:49PM**Motion seconded and open for discussion**

- Current GSA By-laws since 2021
- Next year, there will be a new set of by-laws

Question:

- How does the by-law make GSA effective in fighting for our rights with 80% being administrative staff and when fees are to be increased to 10% for international students and 2% for domestic students?

Answer: I will inform you more on the By-laws later and how it functions.

Motion Passed – 5:57PM**Graduate Labour Union – 5:58**

- The GSA as a trade union monitors, advise, advocates, educates and protects labour relations between academically employed graduate students and the university.
- Educate graduate students on their rights as employees.
- Have an office that will be set up pretty soon.

Question period – Speaker 6:03 PM:

- Suggestion: Academic reps should be trained since they are student leaders.
- Question to the FGS: How are you going to increase the advocacy?
 - We would do so by capitalizing on the people we can partner with as well as people actively involved who are willing to tell their story to the public of what they do and why it is critical. We are also happy to listen to ideas proposed by students.

Announcements – Speaker 6:07 PM:

- LDL owned and operated by GSA.
- 25% discount to host by booking.
- Check online for discounted tickets for TELUS, Calgary Zoo.
- Upcoming events include trivia night and October 13, wine night.
- GRC prize draw was not done.

GRC Adjournment Speaker

**Motion to adjourn September 2023 GRC meeting at 6:11PM
Meeting adjourned – 6:11PM**

Seconded
PASSES