



LEADING WITH PURPOSE

GSA Town Hall & Networking Session
June 2, 2025



EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

- 
- President Strategic Priorities
 - VP Academic Strategic Priorities
 - VP Student Life Strategic Priorities
 - VP Finance & Services Strategic Priorities
 - VP External Strategic Priorities

MEET THE GSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



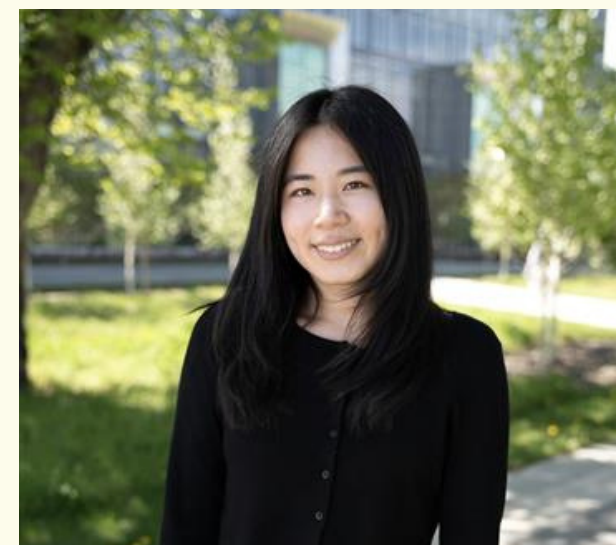
Irtaza Sohail
President



Jacob Amengor
Vice President Academic



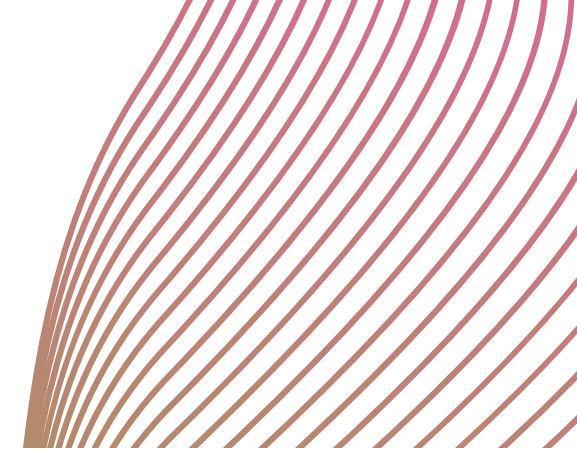
Dooshinee Indurjeet
Vice President Student Life



Michelle Hua
Vice President Finance & Services



Sarah Kromm
Vice President External



PRESIDENT STRATEGIC GOALS



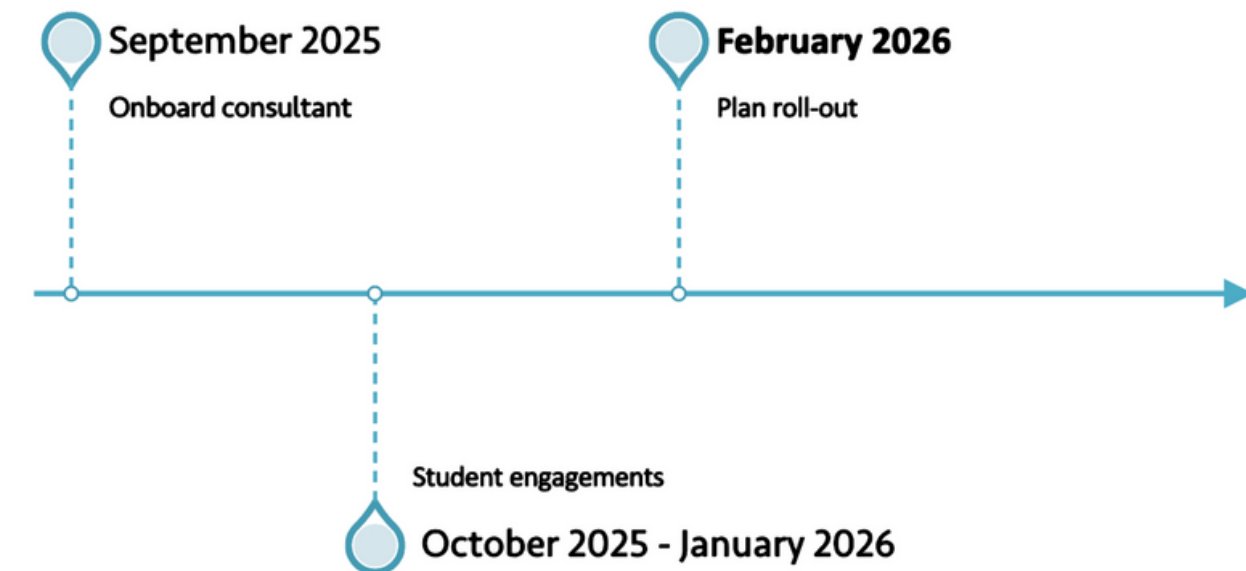
Enhancing Graduate Student Support

This year's goals focus on more opportunities and funding for graduate students, and GSA sustainability so it continues to support graduate students in years to come.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Focus Area: GSA Strategic Plan 2026–2029

- Develop a student-centric strategic plan built through community engagement.
- Align with the university's "Ahead of Tomorrow" institutional direction.
- Position the GSA for long-term relevance and impact.



GOVERNANCE MODERNIZATION

Focus Area: New GSA Bylaws

- Introduce bylaws that are fully compliant with the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) and Labour Relations Code (LRC).
- Transparent and student-focused built through consultation and engagement with graduate students.





FAIR GRADUATE FUNDING

Focus Area: Minimum Funding Standards

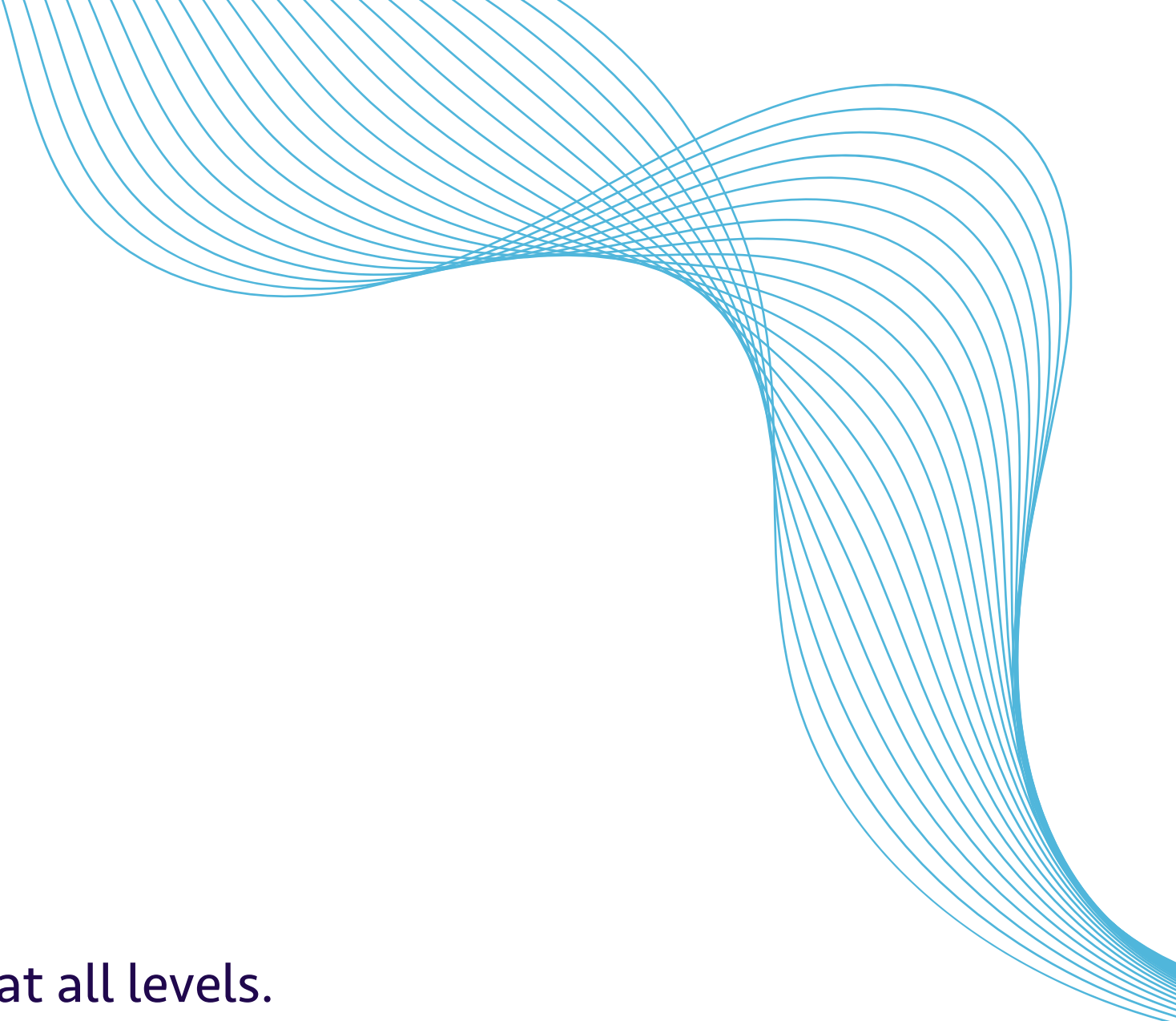
- Advocate for stronger, clearer minimum funding benchmarks for graduate students.
- Ensure funding packages improve upon current norms and cost-of-living realities.
- Elevate equity in funding models across departments and programs.

PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Focus Area: Increasing Graduate Enrollment

- Prepare the GSA to serve a significantly larger graduate student population.
- Align internal operations, staffing, and support systems with projected university growth.
- Ensure graduate students continue receiving quality services and representation.

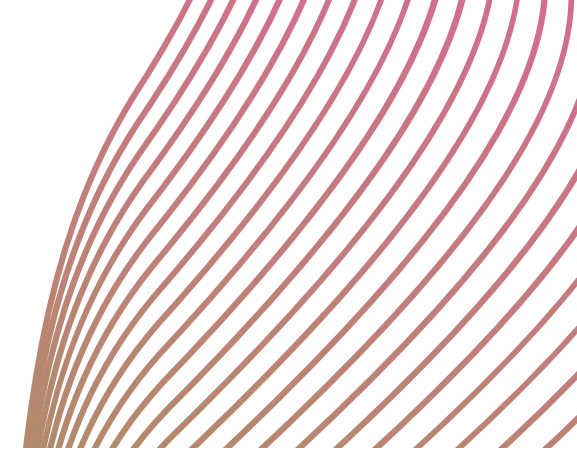




STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY

Focus Area: Relationships & Student Voice

- Improve and sustain relationships with key stakeholders at all levels.
- Prioritize:
 - Support for international students.
 - Solutions to housing affordability challenges.



VP ACADEMIC ANNUAL GOALS 2025 - 2026



Enhancing Graduate Student Academic Support

This year's goals focus on academic support access, professional development, and engagement—creating a more supportive, inclusive academic experience for all graduate students.



ADDRESS CRITICAL BARRIERS TO THRIVING

Focus Area: Grants Administration

- Review bursary adjudication processes to improve clarity and fairness.
- Ensure bursaries are accessible to students with demonstrated financial need.
- Transition the application platform to a more user-friendly system.
- Develop instructional resources to support applicants through the process.



ADDRESS CRITICAL **BARRIERS TO THRIVING**

Focus Area: Professional Development Support

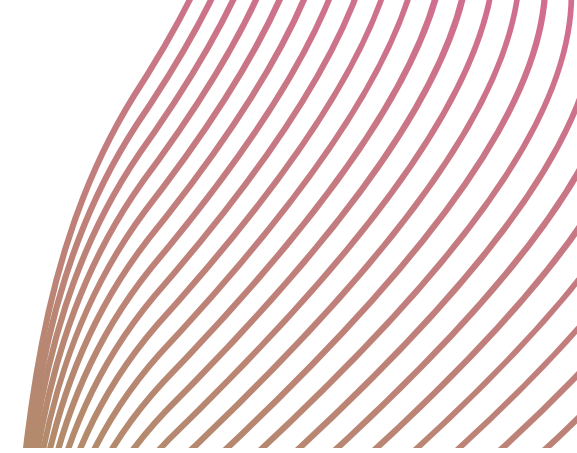
- Explore opportunities to introduce a career fair focused on startups.
- Negotiate student discounts with providers of professional development courses.
- Advocate for quality improvements in graduate-level teaching and learning.



BROADEN AND DEEPEN STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Focus Area: Academic Support & Events

- Increase participation in the Peer Beyond Graduate Research Conference (PBGRC).
- Offer workshops to prepare students for submitting abstracts and presenting.
- Highlight graduate student research and entrepreneurship through digital storytelling.
- Improve academic advisory resources and faculty–student communication.



VP STUDENT LIFE ANNUAL GOALS 2025 - 2026



Fostering Connection, Advocacy & Wellbeing
for Graduate Students

This year's goals focus on inclusive events,
international student support, mental wellness,
equity, and collaboration—building a stronger,
more connected graduate community.





EVENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Focus Area: Inclusive Events & Programming

- Deliver inclusive, high-impact events such as Orientation, Halloween Party, Winter Mixer, Trips, and Graduate Gala.
- Reach over 600 graduate students across all events.
- Achieve at least 85% satisfaction on post-event surveys.
- Foster interdepartmental, intercultural, and interyear engagement.
- Collaborate with partners like ISS, Cultural Clubs, and Student Wellness Services.



NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Focus Area: New International Student Support (NISS)

- Host pre-arrival and arrival events for 150+ international students.
- Match at least 80% of interested students with peer mentors.
- Translate and distribute onboarding materials in key languages.
- Advocate for stronger institutional support for international students.



MENTAL HEALTH & **WELLNESS SUPPORT**

Focus Area: Mental Health & Financial Literacy

- Offer monthly wellness and financial literacy sessions with 30+ participants.
- Launch a user-friendly academic accommodation guide for 50+ students.
- Collaborate with SWS and EDIA to deliver inclusive wellness programming.
- Reduce stigma by promoting mental health storytelling and peer support.



GRADUATE STUDENT **ADVOCACY & EXPRESSION**

Focus Area: Advocacy & Identity-Based Programming (GSA²)

- Host at least two major events that celebrate diverse student identities.
- Increase visibility of LGBTQ+ and other equity-seeking communities.
- Collaborate with EDIA and Events teams for intersectional programming.
- Empower students through creative outlets like art, dialogue, and performance.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

Focus Area: EDIA Integration

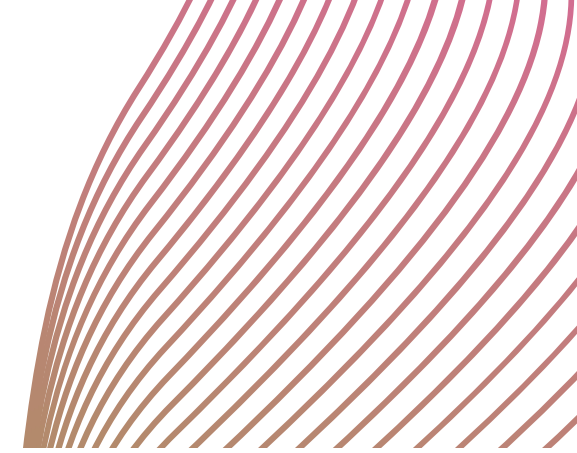
- Complete a policy audit and implement at least three EDIA-driven changes.
- Standardize accessibility practices across all GSA events.
- Deliver four training workshops (anti-racism, bystander intervention, accessibility).
- Support affinity groups and heritage month celebrations through partnerships.



CROSS-COMMITTEE COLLABORATION

Focus Area: Cross-Committee Integration

- Host at least two co-led initiatives across VPSL subcommittees.
- Coordinate volunteer recruitment and training.
- Use a shared calendar and conduct an annual needs assessment.
- Hold quarterly leadership meetings to align strategies and track progress.

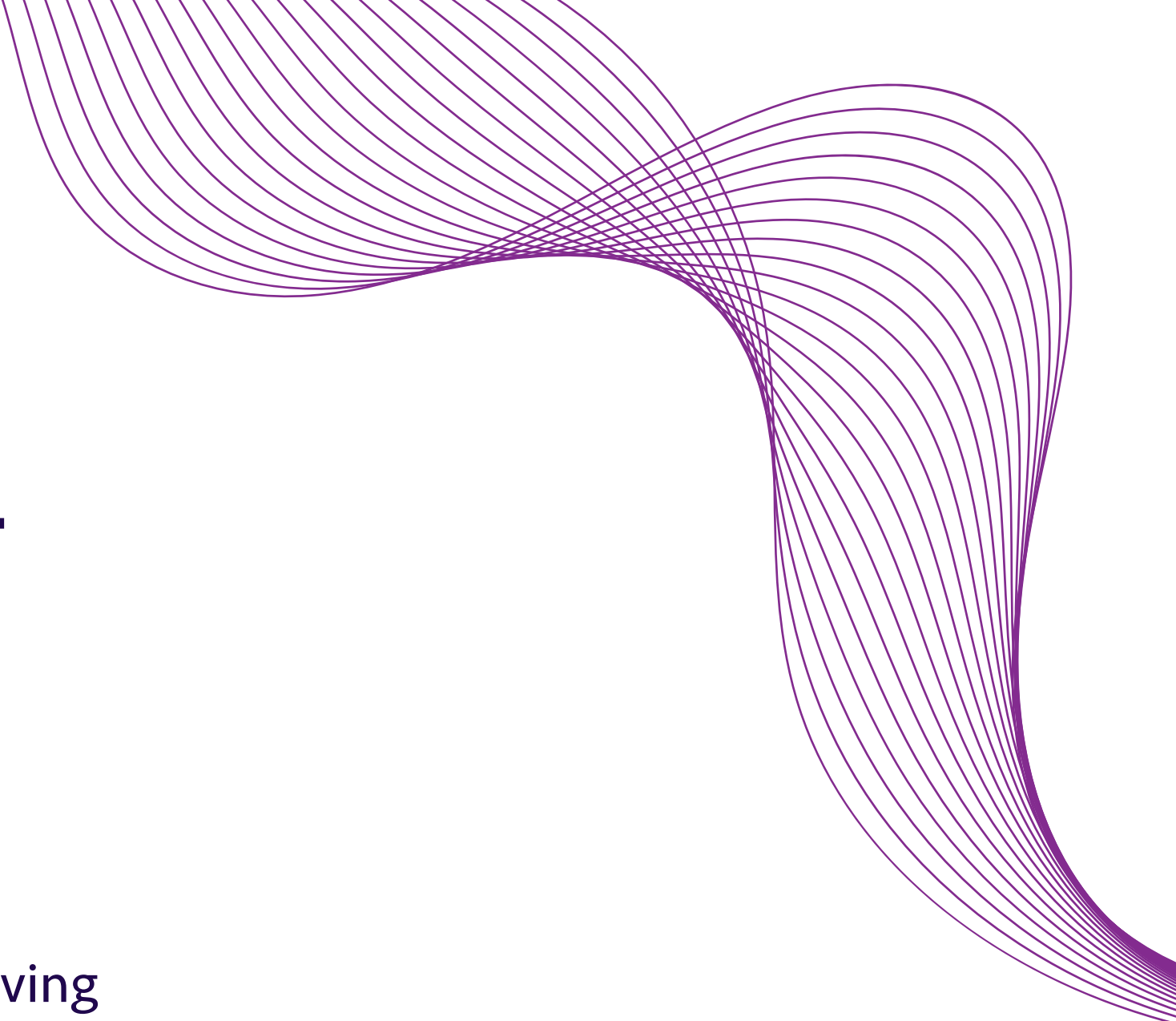


VP FINANCE & SERVICES ANNUAL GOALS 2025 - 2026



Building Financial Clarity, Access & Impact for Graduate Students

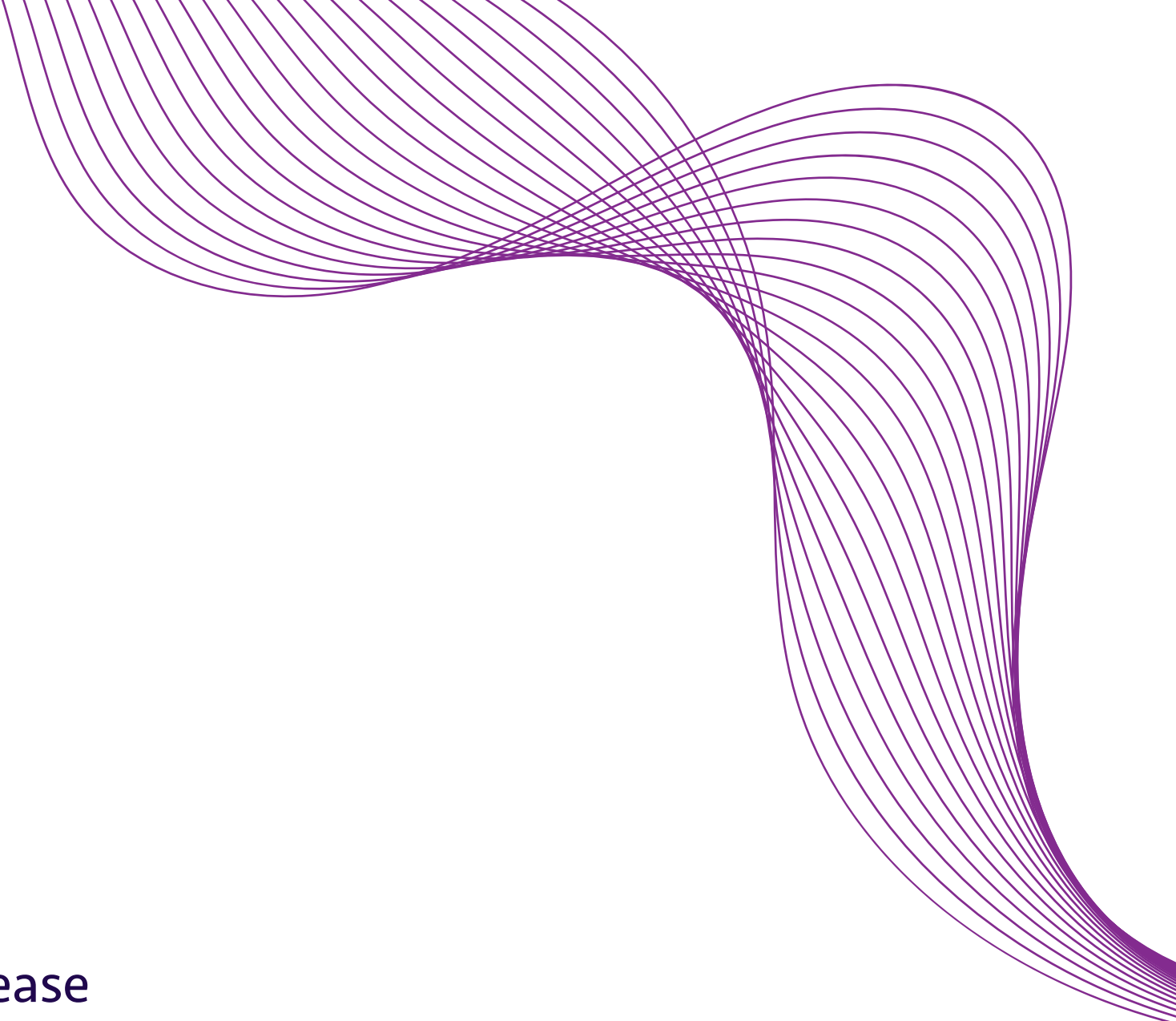
This year's goals focus on transparency, strategic funding, and accessible student services—maximizing the GSA's resources to better support and empower our graduate community.



INCREASE FINANCIAL **TRANSPARENCY**

Focus Area: Student-Facing Financial Tools

- Launch an interactive tool outlining full program costs, living expenses, and tuition.
- Publish program-specific cost breakdowns and funding details by department.
- Clearly display GSA fee allocations on the GSA website.
- Feature Quality Money-funded projects to highlight student-led impact stories.



EXPAND FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Focus Area: Workshops & Resources

- Deliver 10 interactive, virtual financial workshops to increase accessibility.
- Create short videos explaining health, dental, and opt-out options.
- Explore new ways for students to verify eligibility or enrollment when accessing services.



OPTIMIZE GSA FUNDING PROGRAMS

Focus Area: Quality Money Process

- Refine the Quality Money adjudication process to improve clarity and impact.
- Implement a revised application form and evaluation rubric.
- Develop a comprehensive Quality Money handbook with updated guidelines.



IMPROVE STUDENT- CENTERED **SERVICES**

Focus Area: Campus Services & Access

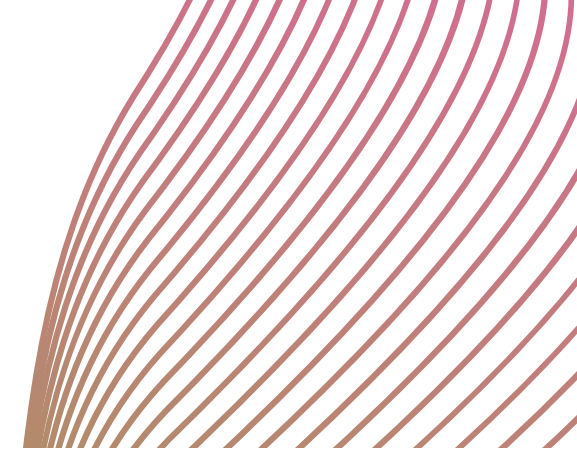
- Support Foothills campus students by piloting an opt-in gym membership alternative.
- Work with VP External to improve U-Pass safety and transit access.
- Collaborate with insurance providers to explore customizable health/dental coverage options.



ADVANCE SUSTAINABILITY & AFFORDABILITY

Focus Area: Student Food Security

- Partner with Oddbunch to launch a “pay-what-you-can” fresh produce fridge.
- Collaborate with vendors to reduce food waste through “Too Good To Go” discounted meal options.



VP EXTERNAL ANNUAL GOALS 2025 - 2026



Amplifying Graduate Student Advocacy & Representation

This year's goals focus on evidence-based advocacy, support for international students, and collaboration with all levels of government and community—ensuring graduate student voices are heard and acted upon across every platform.

GET TO KNOW ME

- MBA student at Haskayne School of Business.
- Lifelong Calgarian, proud mom, and passionate volunteer.
- 12 years of experience in post-secondary administration at SALT.
- Deep knowledge of scholarship systems, union dynamics, and community advocacy.
- Former VP of a community association; experienced in municipal policy, grant funding, and public engagement.





STRENGTHEN FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Focus Area: National Graduate Policy

- Advocate for improved immigration, funding, and support for international students.
- Partner with organizations like CASA to amplify student voices at the federal level.



ADVANCE PROVINCIAL **REPRESENTATION**

Focus Area: Student Loans & Funding

- Push for lower student loan interest rates in Alberta.
- Advocate for increased graduate student funding and scholarship access.



BUILD LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Focus Area: Municipal Engagement

- Advocate for more affordable housing options for graduate students and families.
- Build partnerships with local associations, the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, and Calgary Economic Development to address student needs.



BUILDING A STRONGER GRADUATE COMMUNITY

We're here to support you, represent your needs,
and create positive change.

GET IN TOUCH |

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