

## Message from the President

September 2, 2024

My Fellow Graduate Students,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2024/2025 academic year on behalf of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). Whether you are an incoming or returning student, know that you are joining a diverse, vibrant, and committed community that offers countless opportunities for personal and professional growth. I hope you find the space to flourish and thrive within our university and graduate student community.

As a graduate student at the University of Calgary, you are automatically a member of the GSA. The GSA represents the collective interests of all graduate students, ensuring our voices are heard and acted upon. We are committed to advocating for a university community free of all forms of intolerance and discrimination. I encourage you to engage with the GSA, your Department Graduate Association, and Graduate Student Groups. Together, we can strengthen the GSA as a representative voice for all graduate students. Looking ahead to the Fall term, here are some internal key advocacy priorities:

### **Tuition and Fees Consultation Process**

The Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act requires the University of Calgary to consult meaningfully with the GSA on proposals to increase tuition and fees. Over the past three years, we have worked closely with the SU and the University to establish guidelines for these consultations. This year's consultation process is set to begin in October. I encourage all of you to participate actively.

### **Minimum Guaranteed Funding**

Since last year, we have been in discussions with the Faculty of Graduate Studies about increasing minimum guaranteed funding in response to the rising cost of living. It is important that we all share how the current funding policy impacts us. Remember, the GSA is a member-driven and member-focused association, and GRC meetings are an important platform to engage on these critical issues.

### **Governance and Committees**

Our committees are being reorganized, and bylaws and policies are up for their annual review. I strongly encourage you to consider joining at least one committee.

Thank you all, and I wish you a great semester ahead.

Best regards,

*Saaka Sulemana Saaka*

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President

The Graduate Students' Association

University of Calgary