

Wylie Pietsch



For **Vice
President**
of GSA

An Opportunity to Build a Stronger GSA

Over the past few years, the GSA has gone through significant changes. Turnover, shifting governance processes, and moments where graduate students were not consistently present in advocacy and decision-making. Many students have felt that uncertainty.

I believe we can build something stronger.

We can create more consistent advocacy, clearer systems, and structures that genuinely work for graduate students. As Vice President, I want to turn recent transitions into long-term improvements and ensure graduate students are represented early, clearly, and consistently. Not just when challenges arise.

**Build a Clear and Safe Path for
Graduate Students to Raise Concerns**

When systems are unclear, students are left to navigate difficult situations alone

**Advocacy for Every Graduate
Student**

When advocacy is reactive, decisions are made before graduate student voices are heard

**Ensure Graduate Students
Are Represented at
Every Level**

When we are not present in decision making spaces, graduate student concerns are not prioritized

Experience & Commitment to Our Campus

I am a thesis-based Master's student in Water Resources Engineering and have been part of the University of Calgary community since 2017. I completed my undergraduate degree here, have worked as a research associate, and have spent seven years navigating UCalgary's academic, research, and governance systems.

I understand how decisions move through this institution and where graduate student voices need to be stronger.

For the past two years, I have served as Chair of the GSA's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA²). In that role, I have led advocacy initiatives, engaged in policy discussions with the University, and built working relationships with the Office of Institutional Commitments. I have seen firsthand where clearer systems and stronger structures could better support students.

Wylie Pietsch



For Vice President

Key Priorities: Building a Stronger GSA

Build a Clear Path for Graduate Students to Raise Concerns

Graduate students deserve clarity when navigating difficult situations. I will:

- Develop a centralized guide mapping reporting pathways across the university (supervisory issues, harassment, discrimination, academic concerns)
- Implement a standardized internal process within the GSA for receiving and tracking student concerns
- Establish defined roles and follow-up timelines so students are not left without answers
- Position the GSA as both an entry point and an advocate throughout the process

Advocacy for Every Graduate Student

Advocacy must reflect the lived realities of all graduate students. I will:

- Champion priorities that impact all graduate students, including tuition, labour conditions, research funding, and affordability
- Ensure marginalized communities (including international, queer, Indigenous, and neurodiverse students) are meaningfully supported and represented
- Embed advocacy into existing GSA committees, events, and initiatives
- Develop an advocacy team rooted in the principle of “nothing about us without us,” empowering graduate students to lead within their own communities

Ensure Graduate Students Are Represented at Every Level

Graduate students must be present wherever decisions are being made at the University, municipal, provincial, and federal levels. I will:

- Establish recurring touchpoints with university leadership to raise graduate priorities before key decisions are finalized
- Coordinate with campus partners to present unified positions where interests align
- Advocate in a principled and professional manner. Challenging decisions when necessary while maintaining relationships that allow us to keep pushing for change
- Provide consistent updates through email, social media, and reports so graduate students know what was discussed, what was promised, and what comes next