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# BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

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Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

UC Room # 441

5:30 PM

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## GSA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.

Please send Regrets to [gsa@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsa@uoguelph.ca), no later than Tuesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 12 p.m.

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5:30 p.m. Call to Order: David Said, Chair

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

*We acknowledge that the University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississauga's of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships with them.*

*Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we learn and work.*

### Approval of Agenda:

**MOTION #1: B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.**

### Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be approved as presented.**

5:35 p.m. CUPE #3913: Kimber Munford, Vice-President External

5:45 p.m. Mike Calvert: 2023-24 Year-End Financial Statement and Operational Planning Brief  
\*\*See supplementary materials\*\*

6:05 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates

6:10 p.m. Question Period

6:20 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports

(Please refer to detailed Reports included in the Board Meeting materials package.)

6:20 p.m. President & CEO: Emily Minard

6:30 p.m. V.P. Internal: Jacob Yates

6:40 p.m. V.P. Academic: M. Manjurul Islam

6:50 p.m. V.P. Financial: Mingze Li

7:00 p.m. V.P. Community Engagement: Rebecca Randle

7:15 p.m. Arising Business

7:25 p.m. In Camera Session

**MOTION 3#: B.I.R.T. the Meeting move 'In-Camera' for discussion.**

(Under the direction of the Chair - Staff, Members-at-Large, and Guests will be asked to leave the Meeting.)

**MOTION 4#: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting 'In-Camera' session end.**

Adjournment

## GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 5:30pm

Hybrid Teams Meeting, UC # 441



## JUNE 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### ATTENDEES PRESENT

GSA Executives	
Emily Minard	President and CEO
Jacob Yates	Vice President Internal
Mingze Li (Marcellus)	Vice President Finance
Rebecca Randle	Vice President Community Engagement
M. Manjurul Islam	Vice President, Academic
David Said	Chair
General Directors	
Akierah Binns	Black Student Representatives
Mavis Opoku	
David Bahrami	Biomedical Science
Okoroike Ozoemena	Chemistry
Kimber Munford	Environmental Studies Vice President External, CUPE #3913
Alice Hinchliffe	English and Theatre Studies
Alexander Urthiel	Engineering
Yuxin Hu	Food Science
Peter Duker	Geography Environment and Geomatics
Riva Lewis	History
Julia Mellary	Integrative Biology
Juno McGowan	LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative
Janan Shoja Doost	Pathobiology
Olivia O'Neill	Psychology
Ashley Athier	Sociology and Anthropology
Guests	
Michael Capperauld	Department of Chemistry
Speaker 1 and 2	Students presenting on UofG for Palestine
Staff (Non-voting)	
Michelle Morris	GSA, Office Manager

**Regrets with Notification:** Elizabeth Manchester, Integrative Biology.

**Regrets without Notification:** Akshita Akshita, Environmental Studies; Justina Assuah, Food Agriculture and Resource; David Bailey, Economics and Finance; James Rubino, History; Barbara Hyde-Lay, Human Health and Nutritional Science; Annia Lewis, International Students; Siamoy Stewart, Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management; Dharamdeo Singh, Food Science.

5:38 p.m. Call to Order: D. Said, Chair

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

The personal land acknowledgement statement was shared by the Chair.

### Approval of Agenda:

**MOTION #1: B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.**

Motioned by E. Minard, seconded by K. Munford. Motion carries.

### Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. The GSA Meeting Minutes of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, be approved as presented.**

Motioned by E. Minard, seconded by O. O'Neill. Motion carries.

**MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. The GSA Special Meeting Minutes of May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, be approved as presented.**

Motioned by K. Munford, seconded by E. Minard. Motion carries.

5:35 p.m. Message from the GSA President: Emily Minard, GSA President/CEO

E. Minard shared her thoughts and stressed on the importance of a comfortable environment during all GSA Board Meetings which fosters open and transparent dialogue for efficient operations.

Referencing an incident from the May 2024 Board meeting, where a conversation was screen recorded and shared on social media in a negative light.

Further sharing the departure of the current Chair, D. Said and acknowledging his contributions over the years.

5:40 p.m. CUPE #3913: Kimber Munford, Vice-President External

K. Munford shared the following:

- Launch of automatic funds transfer for Benefits and Emergency Financial Assistance Fund.
- CUPE VP Internal, K. Nolan shared information on the Slogan Contest
  - An appealing short slogan comprising of 3 – 5 words
  - Submission link available on Instagram

5:50 p.m. Personal Statement of General Director Appointment: Michael Capperault, Department of Chemistry.

M. Capperault shared information on his academics and experience working with university organizations. Further expressing how his professional commitments and contributions could add value to the GSA. There were no concerns or discussions.

**MOTION 3 # B.I.R.T Michael Capperault be appointed to one of the vacant Department of**

### **Chemistry general director positions.**

Motioned by K. Munford, seconded by E. Minard. Motion carries.

A vote was called. All in favor. M. Capperault appointed as General Director for the Department of Chemistry.

### **6:00 p.m., UofG Palestine Presentation: Speaker 1 and 2**

Speaker 1 and 2 representing the People's Plaza for Palestine/UoG for Palestine shared demands and their associated rationale to outline the purpose of the University of Guelph (UofG) encampment. Giving a brief on the Israeli-Palestinian background and an overview of the University of Guelph's investments. Highlighting some fast facts below:

- students at the University of Guelph mobilizing in solidarity to demand an end to the brutal 76 years of occupation in Palestine
- condemning the bombing of all 12 universities and 13 libraries in Gaza
- Texts available with indept information in campus library and other bookstores:
  - The Hundred Years' War on Palestine by Rashid Khalidi
  - The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine by Ilan Pappé
- Demands:
  - Complete disclosure of investments.
  - Divestment from Arms, Defense and Military Contractors
  - Divestment from companies complacent to genocide and subsidization efforts from the Israeli Occupation.
  - Commit to Academic Boycott from partnerships with Israeli Universities and Institutions.
  - End disregard for students targeted by Anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia.
  - Reject and end all suppression including amnesty for the students at the people's plaza for Palestine.

### **Discussion Period:**

A question was raised in relation to the update on negotiations with the University Administration. In response it was confirmed that they have received disclosure without compromising other demands. With a timeline of 6 months for divestment following a voting process with the Finance Committee and Board of Governors. Further confirming the Fire safety issue is now resolved.

The Board and Executives:

- Commended their efforts in recognizing the fact of a working committee not leading to actionable outcomes.
- Confirmed that the School of English and Theatre studies shared a statement in support of the encampment.
- GSA statement to be updated on the new website when it is functional.

There was a discussion on the placement of construction fencing, being a major health and safety and accessibility issue.

### **6:10 p.m. Formation of Ad-Hoc Committee: Peter Duker, Geography General Director**

P. Duker shared the purpose was to establish an equity ad hoc committee to address ongoing equity issues impacting students on and off campus. Creation of a standing equity committee at the GSA 2025 AGM.

Committee Goals:

- Oversee social justice and equity issues.
- Issues of LGBTQ plus, black and indigenous students' rights.
- Serve as a precursor to the establishment of a permanent equity focused standing committee after the 2025 annual general meeting,
- Liaise with relevant communities and update the board on equity issues on campus while making appropriate recommendations

Responsibilities:

- Provide monthly reports to the board
- Engage with campus communities interested in committees
- Collection of up-to-date information.
- Resource center for GSA members interested in Palestinian Equity.

Discussion Period:

E. Minard shared her thoughts in agreement to establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee. Identifying a procedural note regarding the responsibility of ensuring the creation of the standing equity committee at the GSA 2025 AGM. Stating, this cannot be the case since this will need to be passed through the by-laws committee and then to the board in February. Once approved by the board, it then moves to the AGM in March. Further recommending a responsibility could state drafting a proposal for by laws amendment to be recommended to the by-laws committee.

**MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board of Directors approve the creation of the proposed Equity Ad-Hoc Committee provided in the meeting materials for the board meeting on Wednesday, June 19th, 2024. This ad-hoc committee will be active from June 20th, 2024 until April 1st , 2025**

Motioned by J McGowan, seconded by P. Duker. Motion carries.

A vote was called. All in favor.

6:25 p.m. Addressing Food Security at UofG: Emily Minard, GSA President/CEO

E. Minard highlighted that food insecure students also experience mental and physical health problems.

Food insecurity within the graduate student community:

- Lack of financial assistance from families
- Dependents such as spouse and children
- Larger ratio of international students facing food insecurity
- Lack of summer job opportunities
- Proposing - to spend \$100,000 from GSA reserves.
- Allocation – increase allotments from \$ 25 to \$ 35 per week.
- Funding to be spread over 3 years comprising \$ 33,000 per year.
- Ability to serve 110 graduate students in 3 years.
- 37 students per year, each receiving \$910 for food and groceries.

Food prescription programs are known to increase intake of fruits and vegetables, while reducing health issues such as Type 2 diabetes. Outcome was determined from survey and student feedback.

Prescription Options

1. Seed Program



- Online grocery store delivery to campus once a week
  - Students receive \$35 per week for food expenses
2. Presidents' Choice Gift Cards
    - Students receive \$35 a week to spend at PC Locations (Loblaws, No Frills etc)
  3. Campus Food Market Credit
    - Students receive \$35 per week to spend on fresh food produce at the University Centre.

#### Collaborators

- Cost of extra staffing to be covered by Student Wellness
- Partnering with Seed to secure extra funding
- Alumni affairs are working on securing funding through the highest priority fund.

#### Discussion Period

There was a discussion confirming GSA's annual funding OF \$7,500 to the food bank and ongoing issues of storage and infrastructure that makes the process less efficient.

The possibility of increasing the number of students as opposed to the amount was raised. In response it was confirmed considering the high volume of students facing food insecurity, focusing on students facing a higher issue of food insecurity and helping them out of their problem seems to be the priority at this point.

L O'Reilly from Student Health Services shared her thoughts on the tradeoff between supporting more students with a lesser amount or potentially having a greater impact for fewer students clarifying those enrolled in the program also include dependents, The household amount would be per person in the household, not just for the student.

Discussion on increasing student awareness and impact was emphasized. Also, the likelihood of the GSA advocating with the UC Board to reduce the cost of food on campus was discussed. A follow-up on stipends and advocating on the provincial level was deliberated.

Lastly it was highlighted that the GSA approving this amount in funding helps the GSA to advocate for these issues.

**MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board of Directors allocate \$100,000 towards the Food Prescription program, and that this funding is used as presented.**

Motioned by O. Ozoemena, seconded by K. Munford. Motion carries.

A question was raised on the long-term prospects of the project. E, Minard responded stating the long-term goals of the GSA is to always advocate for students' issues related to finance. This topic must be revisited at the 3-year mark. Food insecurity, however, is a major issue that currently needs to be addressed right away. L. O' Reilly added, this is a multifactorial issue that requires continued advocacy for a more sustainable long-term solution.

A vote was called. All in favor.

7:20 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates

A. Hinchliffe shared that the English Department has released a statement in support of the encampment and looking for assistance from the GSA to circulate the same to the student population. there was a discussion on how to get other departments involved in the process.

7:20 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports

7:20 p.m. GSA President Report – Emily Minard

E, Minard shared the following:

- Working with executives and board to release statement of the encampment
- Working with web developer along with M. Morris and R. Randle for updates to new website.
- Meeting with B. Bradshaw and GSA VP Academic, highlighting the incident of B. Bradshaw’s discussion from the May board meeting being shared on social media not in a good light.
- Going forward meetings to be held with GSA President and Academic as opposed to the board meetings.
- Meeting with VPSA regarding the high influx of 7000 graduate students for the new academic year leading to more housing crisis.
- Conversation on increased graduate student workload and appropriate compensation

7:30 p.m. VP Internal – Jacob Yates

J. Yates shared the following updates:

- Working on agendas for June board meeting and June special board meeting
- Ensuring all relevant documentation and presentations are collated. Relevant motions are in place and adhere to GSA By laws.
- Process of switching constitution and bylaws to adhere with new government legislation.

7:35 p.m. VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam

M. Islam provided the following update:

- Attended Senate Meeting where the additional English requirement for graduate student admission (Oxford English Language level test ELT) was approved effective immediately.
- Meeting with GSA Events Coordinator to discuss upcoming events and social gatherings for Fall 2024. Potential of having a development workshop for graduate students.
- Meeting with Leadership, Education and Development Advisor from Student Experience, mainly discussing the club accreditation process

7:40 p.m. VP Finance - Mingze Li

M. Li’s was attending a conference. Update provided via the meeting materials package.

7:40 p.m. VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle

R. Randle shared the following:

- Summer opt-in bus passes now available for graduate students
- Attended housing affordability event along with GSA President and GSA VP Finance, listening to goals and draft actions. GSA feedback provided at the event.

7:45 p.m. Question Period

There were no questions at the time.

7:55 p.m. Arising Business

There were no topics of Arising Business to discuss.

D. Said shared his appreciation to the GSA Team for their continuous support throughout his tenure as chair. The GSA, having played a very important role in his life over the years, has helped shape him professionally and academically.

8:10 p.m. In Camera Session

**MOTION #10: B.I.R.T. the Meeting move ‘In-Camera’ for discussion.**

(Under the direction of the Chair - Staff, Members-at-Large, and Guests will be asked to leave the Meeting.)

Motioned by A. Hinchliffe, Seconded by E. Minard. Motion carries.

There was a discussion on the chair’s resignation and the absence of B. Bradshaw at the meeting.

**MOTION #11: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting ‘In-Camera’ session end.**

Motioned by K. Munford, Seconded by O. O’Neill. Motion carries.

**Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m., and the next GSA Board meeting scheduled for July 24th, 2024. Please send your regrets no later than July 23rd at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:	Minutes Approved by:	
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michelle Morris</b> GSA – Office Manager</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jacob Yates</b> GSA Vice President - Internal</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>David Said</b> Chair</p>

# 2023-24 Year-End Financial Statement and Operational Planning Brief

Mike Calvert, University Centre Services

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To be shared prior to meeting.

## DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Departmental Reports

#### Animal Bioscience

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Biomedical Science

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Black Student Representatives

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Business Administration/Management

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Chemistry

**Report:** The CEPS clubs had its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July regarding the actionable items related to organizing the CEPS Career Day 2024. The next meeting is on July 23.

**Report by:** Okoroike C. Ozoemena

#### Clinical Studies

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Computing & Information (Computer Science)

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Economics and Finance

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Engineering

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### English & Theatre Studies

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Environmental Design & Rural Development

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Environmental Science

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Family Relations & Applied Nutrition

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Fine Arts & Music

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Food Science

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Food, Agriculture & Resource Economics

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Geography

**Report:**

**Report by:**

History

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Hospitality, Food & Tourism

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Human Health & Nutritional Science (HHNS)

**Report:** The HHNS had its seminar contest at the beginning of July to showcase graduate work being done in the department! A few students have also started a company selling bouillon cubes (@boostedbouillon).

**Report by:** Barbara Hyde-Lay

## Indigenous Student Representatives

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Integrative Biology

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## International Student Representatives

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Languages & Literature

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representatives

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Marketing & Consumer Studies

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Mathematics & Statistics

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Molecular & Cellular Biology

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Pathobiology

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Philosophy

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Physics

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Plant Agriculture

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Political Science

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Population Medicine

**Report:**

**Report by:**

Psychology

**Report:** no updates

**Report by:** Olivia O'Neill

Sociology & Anthropology

**Report:** no updates

**Report by:** Ashley Ethier

PhD in Social Practice and Transformational Change (SOPR)

**Report:**

**Report by:**



## Committee Reports

### Admissions & Progress Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health & Wellness

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Academic Policies & Procedures

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Alcohol & Substance Abuse Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Animal Care Committee

**Meeting date:** July 12 2024

**Report:** No major updates to report

**Next Meeting:** August 9 2024

### Athletics Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Board of Graduate Studies

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### By-Laws & Constitution Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Co-Curricular Experiential Learning Integrity Committee (CELIC)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Code of Ethical Conduct Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Compulsory Fees Committee (CFC)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Energy Conservation Working Group

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Equity Committee

**Meeting date:** N/A

**Report:** Recruiting GDs to participate in this committee.

**Next Meeting:** Prior to the end of July.

## Experiential Learning Committee

**Meeting date:** N/A

**Report:** N/A

**Next Meeting:** May 28<sup>th</sup>

## Student Learning Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Finance Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Graduate Student Learning Initiative Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Graduate Student Mental Health Curriculum Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## GSA Restructuring Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Hate Activity Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Health & Dental Plan

**Meeting date:** N/A

**Report:** Okoroike Ozoemena

**Next Meeting:** N/A

## Homecoming Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Hospitality Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

**Meeting date:**

**Reports:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Human Rights Advisory Group

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Information Technology Student Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## Judicial Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## Late Appeals Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## OUTline Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next meeting:**

## Positive Space Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## SHINE Mental Well-Being Week Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## Special Grants & Speakers' Fund Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## Student Assessment Committee

**Meeting date:**  
**Report:**  
**Next Meeting:**

## Student Budget Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Executive Council

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Food Security Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Leaders and Administration Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Life Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Life Award Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Life Enhancement Fund (SLEF)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Organization Policy Steering Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Rights & Responsibilities Committee

**Date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Transit Committee (GSA/CSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Teaching and Learning Network

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Town and Gown

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Experience

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Wellness Advisory Group (SWAG)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## University Centre Board

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## UC Digital Signage Content Review Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Volunteer Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

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*President & CEO – Emily Minard*

Hi everyone,

Hope you have all been enjoying the summer weather and have been having a nice break before the semester begins! Below you will find a summary of my activities since our last board meeting in June. Please note that there will not be a board meeting in August as summer is slower for the GSA and we could all use a nice break from three hour-long evening meetings! Wishing you all a great rest of your summer, and see you again in September.

### **City Housing Event**

Rebecca, Marcellus, and I attended a Housing Event with the city on June 13<sup>th</sup>. This event was put on by the City's Housing Affordability Strategy Focus Group and highlighted the group's goals and priorities for addressing Guelph housing affordability. Rebecca is the primary person attending these meetings and provided a thorough description of these goals in her June board meeting report in which you can refer to. However, to sum things here, the group's goals were incredibly broad and did not seem to have specific goals that could be pursued actionably. Rebecca, Marcellus, and I provided thorough feedback to the organizers of the event about our concerns around this.

### **GSA x CUPE Meeting**

Rebecca and I met with CUPE on June 20<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we discussed concerns regarding the university's influx of undergraduate students in both the upcoming year and in the previous two years. We discussed the various ways in which graduate students would be affected by this, and how we can better support graduate students handling the impacts of this (ie. GTA and instructor expectations, cost-of-living, etc.). In these conversations we agreed we should do more collective outreach together. CUPE offered for GSA to attend their tabling sessions and upcoming events. I also connected CUPE with START International so CUPE could attend their events as well to be more connected with international students.

### **Meeting with Ben Bradshaw**

Manjurul and I met with Ben on June 24<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting I addressed concerns to Ben regarding the impacts of the massive undergraduate student influx on graduate students. As well, I asked about graduate student enrollment and whether we should expect to see increases here too. We were told there will be more graduate student enrollment in the upcoming semester than in the past (acceptances so far: 691 – course-based masters; PhD and masters – 550), with a rough total of 1300 graduate students in the F24 semester. Ben said that the university's goal is to have 4000 graduate students by 2028. When this goal was mentioned I advised Ben that graduate students need to be incentivized to choose this university, and that the influx of undergraduate students will not help with this for the following reasons:

- Cost of living increasing
  - Housing affordability and accessibility
- Expectations of instructors (ie. More students, less GTAs = more work for instructors)
- Faculty expected to teach more = less time for advising graduate students

### **GSA Photoshoot**

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the executives and Michelle had a small photoshoot session with Josh, our communications coordinator. The photos Josh took will be used on our social media and website.

**GSA Alternate Trivia Host Hiring**

I facilitated a hiring session for the position of GSA Alternate Trivia Host. With Manpreet and Manjurul, I conducted several interviews for the position. While we were impressed by all of the candidates, we decided to move forward with Nicole and Ashley as our co-hosts. Nicole and Ashley are co-hosts and work collaboratively to run trivia, they have also stepped in previously to host one of our trivia nights. Welcome Nicole and Ashley!

**GSA x VPSA Meeting**

The executives met with Melinda, VPSA, on July 10<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for this meeting, I asked Melinda to invite Byron Sheldrick, Associate Vice President Academic, and Lisa Latif, the registrar. In this meeting Rebecca, Marcellus, and I discussed our concerns regarding the influx of undergraduate students and spoke to how we anticipate this to affect graduate students. We were told that they did not anticipate so many undergraduate students to accept their admission offers; however, they also confirmed that more admission offers were sent out in the past few years compared to previous years.

We asked about whether the university has been in communications with the city regarding their plans to increase student enrollment and they confirmed that they have been. However, Mayor Cam Guthrie made a statement in mid-June that he had not been previously informed that many undergraduate students would not be given first-year residence. It was thus unclear to me from this meeting whether administrators had transparently been in communications with the city about this.

**Meeting with University of Waterloo's General Manager**

We met with the General Manager of UW's GSA, Julian. Julian asked to meet with us to discuss how we compensate our staff and board so they could better gauge what rates they should be paying their staff and board members.

**GSA Executive Committee Meetings**

The executives met on June 21<sup>st</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information on what we discussed, please see the meeting minutes attached to the materials package!

That's all from me this month! Thank you all again so much for your attendance and participation at our board meetings. As always, please reach out if you have any questions about my report. Enjoy the rest of your summer and I will see you all in September!

**Emily**

GSA President & CEO ([gsapres@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsapres@uoguelph.ca))



VP Internal – Jacob Yates

Hi Everyone!

I hope you have all been enjoying your summer! Please find a summary of my activities below.

- Establishment of the new Equity Ad-hoc committee
- Continued to complete required training modules
- Making slow progress on transitioning existing bylaws into ONCA compliant Bylaws & Policies

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out ([gsavpint@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsavpint@uoguelph.ca))! I look forward to working with the various members of the GSA over the rest of the year!

Thanks,  
**Jake**

Please see below update:

- The Memorial Tree Ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Arboretum Centre. This year's theme is "Forever in Our Hearts and Never Truly Gone."
  - Planning has been completed in coordination with the CSA VP Academic. We have already prepared the invitation letter and RSVP, which will be sent out this month.
  - Additionally, a visit to the Arboretum is planned to check the possible arrangements.
  - It is required that the GSA prepare a speech for the memorial tree ceremony.
- The preparation of the GSA club accreditation policy and procedures is currently in progress. By the end of this month, it will be shared with the GSA executives and the Advisor for Student Experience for comments and input.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me via email at [gsavpaca@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsavpaca@uoguelph.ca).

Thank you.

**M Manjurul Islam**  
VP – Academic, GSA

VP Finance – Marcellus (Mingze) Li

Dear folks,

I hope you're doing well. I would like to provide you with an update on the recent meetings and progress made this month:

**Graduate Student Consultation:**

Throughout this month, I have been actively assisting graduate students with their applications for travel grants and childcare grants. I have been closely collaborating with them, offering guidance, and addressing any queries they may have.

**Finance Committee Meeting:**

The Finance Committee convened to deliberate on matters pertaining to travel grants, childcare grants, and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) grants. The majority of applications were approved, while some were conditionally approved.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at [gsavpfin@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsavpfin@uoguelph.ca).

Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Best regards,

**Marcellus (Mingze) Li**  
GSA VP Finance

VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle

To be shared prior to the meeting.

Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales

Josh is currently away, with no major updates to report. An update will be provided in the September 2024 board meeting.

Activities Coordinator – Manpreet Kaur

To be shared prior to the meeting.

Office Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

Hope your summer is going well.

- July has been a steady month, not too busy. Many graduate students are completing their Defense and collecting their Defense Mugs.
- Our annual Audit has commenced, and I have been working with our Auditors, supporting with relevant requested documentation.
- Work continues with our web developer for the new GSA website.

**A reminder that there will be no Board Meeting in the month of August. We will meet again on September 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Please reach out if you need any assistance.

Have a good rest of your summer ☀️

Best,  
**Michelle**