



BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

Wednesday, June 19th, 2024

UC Room # 430

5:30 PM

Contents

GSA BOARD MEETING AGENDA	1
MAY 22nd, 2024, BOARD MEETING MINUTES	4
MAY 29th 2024 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES.....	10
PERSONAL STATEMENT OF GD APPOINTMENT	13
UofG FOR PALESTINE PRESENTATION	14
FORMATION OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE	23
DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS	24
Departmental Reports.....	24
Committee Reports	28
EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS	35
<i>President & CEO – Emily Minard</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>VP Internal – Jacob Yates.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam.....</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>VP Finance – Marcellus (Mingze) Li.....</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle.....</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales.....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Activities Coordinator – Manpreet Kaur.....</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Office Manager – Michelle Morris.....</i>	<i>46</i>



GSA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday June 19th, 5:30 p.m.

Please send Regrets to gsa@uoguelph.ca, no later than Tuesday June 18th, 2024, at 12 p.m.

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 June 19th 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of May 22nd 2024 be approved as presented.

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA Special Meeting Minutes of May 29th 2024 be approved as presented.

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

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

5:50 p.m. Personal Statement for GD Appointment: Michael Capperauld, Department of Chemistry
Please refer to the attached personal statement

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. Michael Capperauld be appointed to one of the vacant Department of Chemistry general director positions.

6:00 p.m. UofG for Palestine Presentation
Please see attached materials

6:10 p.m. Formation of Ad-Hoc Committee: Peter Duker, Geography GD
Please see attached materials

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.

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

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.

6:45 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates

6:55 p.m. Question Period

7:05 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports
(Please refer to detailed Reports included in the Board Meeting materials package.)

7:05 p.m. President & CEO: Emily Minard

7:15 p.m. V.P. Internal: Jacob Yates

7:25 p.m. V.P. Academic: M. Manjurul Islam

7:35 p.m. V.P. Financial: Mingze Li

7:45 p.m. V.P. Community Engagement: Rebecca Randle

7:55 p.m. Arising Business

8:10 p.m. In Camera Session

MOTION #6: 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 #7: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting 'In-Camera' session end.

Adjournment

GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 22nd, 2024, 5:30pm

Hybrid Teams Meeting, UC # 441



MAY 22nd, 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
David Bailey	Economics and Finance
Kimber Munford	Environmental Studies Vice President External, CUPE #3913
Alice Hinchliffe	English and Theatre Studies
Alexander Urthiel	Engineering
Dharamdeo Singh	Food Science
Peter Duker	Geography Environment and Geomatics
Riva Lewis	History
Siamoy Stewart	Hospitality Food and Tourism Management
Barbara Hyde-Lay	Human Health and Nutritional Sciences
Annia Lewis	International Students
Elizabeth Manchester	Integrative Biology
Julia Mellary	
Juno McGowan	LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative
Janan Shoja Doost	Pathobiology

Guests	
Ben Bradshaw	Assistant Vice President, Graduate Studies
Staff (Non-voting)	
Michelle Morris	GSA, Office Manager

Regrets with Notification: Yuxin Hu, Food Science; Akiera Binns, Black Student Representatives; Olivia O’Neill, Psychology, Ashley Athier, Sociology and Anthropology

Regrets without Notification

Akshita Akshita, Environmental Studies; Justina Assuah, Food Agriculture and Resource

5:31 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 May 22nd, 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.**

Motioned by E. Minard, seconded by P. Duker. Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. **The GSA Meeting Minutes of April 17th, 2024, be approved as presented.**

Motioned by J. McGowan, seconded by K. Munford. Motion carries.

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

K. Munford shared the following:

- Bargaining ended in April 2024
- Retroactive pay increases starting September
- Plans to work on revamping health plan process and reimbursements over the summer.
- Hoping for the final form to be simpler to apply with items classified as a medical expense under the CRA and be reimbursed to a particular amount.
- Budget to be decided upon.

5:45 p.m. Faculty of Graduate Studies: Dr. Ben Bradshaw, Assistant Vice-President (Graduate Studies)

B. Bradshaw commenced his update by welcoming the new GSA Executive team and returning General Directors. Further stating the GSA is a “critical link between graduate students and the university administration”. Updates shared:

- Looking at a healthy intake in fall 2024
- Working on better funding packages for thesis-based students by adding more to the \$ 1.7 million base and an additional \$ 800,000 one time discretionary.
- Ending the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship awards and setting the doctoral awards to 40.

- University of Toronto operating in its own as a top 20 global institution with the means to assess high tuition for undergrads, especially those coming from the United States and other global sites.
- Guidance on acceptable use of Generative Artificial Intelligence apps such as Chat GBT and other tools.

Question Period

A question was raised on the Universities' stance on potential academic consequences for graduate students participating in protest actions on campus. In response B. Bradshaw was unable to give a definitive answer as he was unaware of any particular action being taken by the University. Further stating the Universities response is to remind students of requirements and expectations. Also, he could contact his senior executives for more feedback on the topic.

Further clarity was sought on the risks associated with participating in such negotiations. In response, it was noted that this would be pursued based on specific actions deemed inconsistent with the university policy.

Reference was made to a previous statement made by the University taking a stance on a divisive political issue, requesting justification on why a different approach was taken. In response it was noted that the rational was uncontroversial to stand in solidarity at the time.

6:00 p.m. Advocacy by Students: Kimber Munford, Environmental Science, General Director

Considering the eruption of student protests across Canada and the current situation in the University of Guelph a discussion was raised by K. Munford delivering 2 draft statements distributed to all GSA General Directors earlier in the week. The statements were put together with feedback from students. Seeking board approval and views on the statement to be released.

Discussion Period

The following views were shared:

- Direct action points are important, making it more about the issue at hand and being specific prevents potential issues.
- The ability for students to express themselves on campus falls within the purview of one of GSA's mission statements, which is to ensure the accessibility of social resources. Also having a conversation with the University Administration prior to releasing a statement was recommended.
- Suggesting the board members be given more time to review the statements and call a special meeting to discuss and decide.

Bearing in mind, this is a time sensitive issue, rationale was sought on the lack of discussion with University Administration considering the encampment has been ongoing for weeks.

In response it was confirmed the lack of knowledge and no actionable situations happening prior to the current protests. The current concern of oppression of student expression falls under the purview of the GSA now taking a stand in the matter.

Concern was raised about the possible outcome after releasing a statement. Further reiterating the suggestion of a prior meeting with the University Administration to provide proper guidance and a clearer perspective on the matter.

A question was raised regarding financial ramifications, In the event the University chooses to divest. In response it was confirmed this would be part of the discussion with the university.

Following a continued discussion on the choice of statements, a motion was called.

MOTION 3 # B.I.R.T Does anyone oppose to continuing the discussion on Advocacy by Students statement
A vote was called. All in favor of continuing the discussion.

A break was called for the GSA Executive to put together a Motion to be tabled for a special meeting. The following motion was released.

MOTION 4 # B.I.R.T. the GSA Board of Directors table the discussion on Advocacy by Students until a Special Meeting is scheduled by the Executive Committee for the fourth week of May.
Moted by O. Ozoemena, seconded by J. Shoja Doost. Motion carries.

The procedures involved in a Motion as per the GSA By-laws were discussed, referencing the following statement present in the by-laws. *“Meetings of the GSA shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's rules of order and the bylaws meeting procedures stipulated by these bylaws shall override any stipulation made in Robert's rules of order”.*

MOTION #5 B.I.R.T. the GSA release a statement on ongoing student protests, to be posted on the GSA website and social media platforms. The text of this statement will be as follows: "The University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association (GSA) recognizes the right of graduate students to advocate for themselves and others through protest. Student protests have a long history in Canada, but recent student protests have been met with unprecedented repression by university administrations across the country. In light of these occurrences at other universities, we urge the University of Guelph to uphold the rights of students to express their beliefs through protest."

Moted by K. Munford, seconded by P. Duker. Motion carries.

Opinions were shared on the above statement being uncontroversial and can be released independent of the current happenings.

A vote was called on the above motion. Did not pass, since it did not meet the 2/3rd majority vote required for a motion presented 3 days prior to a board meeting.
The discussion and decision to be tabled at the special board meeting. Date and Time TBA.

A question was raised directly to the GSA executives seeking their verbal confirmation of their commitment to holding a special meeting. The executives individually confirmed their acceptance.

7:20 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates
There were no updates discussed

7:20 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports

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

E. Minard started by giving an update on the executive team and the new additions.

- Working with VP Academic and VP Internal through the transition process.
- Introducing new events:
 - GSA/CUPE Transition Lunch
 - GSA/CSA Transition Lunches with key university administrators
 - Meeting with Jen Durst of student services along with GSA VP Academic
- Tasting of Summer Menu at the Lookout with M. Calvert and B. Crease of UC Services.
- Meeting with B. Bradshaw from OGPS
- VPSA Meeting with Melinda Scott.

7:30 p.m. VP Internal – Jacob Yates

J. Yates shared the following updates:

- Getting familiar with some of the different administrative at the university
- How to work or meet the CSA because we work closely with them
- Looking into making GSA bylaws adherent with ONCA, which takes effect this October.

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

M. Manjurul Islam provided the following update:

- Meeting with Assistance VP Graduate Studies
 - Discussion on governments commitment for allocation of Tri-Scholarships and how it would work with the existing funding policy of the university.
- Exploring the Academic Dispute and Resolution Policy. Relevant guidance and generative AI are available for students.
- Recent trends indicate an increase in international student enrollment and slight decrease in domestic student enrollment in graduate studies.
- University Long term enrollment plans indicate 4000 graduate students to be enrolled by 2028.

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

Update provided in meeting materials package.

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

R. Randle shared the following:

- Inquiries from students regarding summer bus pass opt-ins
 - Looking at options to offer summer bus passes through the CSA
 - Meeting with CSA and Guelph Transit
 - Looking at offering opt-in passes by the first week of June

7:45 p.m. Question Period

There were no questions at the time.

7:45 p.m. Arising Business

There were no topics of Arising Business to discuss.

7:45 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 O. Ozoemena, Seconded by P. Duker. Motion carries.

There was no discussion at the in-camera session.

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

Motioned by J. Yates, Seconded by P. Duker. Motion carries.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned, and the next GSA Board meeting scheduled for June 19th, 2024. Please send your regrets no later than June 18th at 12 p.m.

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

GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 29th, 2024, 5:30pm

Virtual Teams Meeting



MAY 29th 2024 SPECIAL 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	Vicer President Academic
David Said	Chair
General Directors	
Akierah Binns	Black Student Representatives
Mavis Opoku	
Kimber Munford	Environmental Studies
Okoroike Ozoemena	Chemistry
Alice Hinchliffe	English and Theatre Studies
Dharamdeo Singh	Food Science
Peter Duker	Geography Environment and Geomatics
Barbara Hyde-Lay	Human Health and Nutritional Sciences
Juno McGowan	LGBTQ2SIA+Student Representative
Janan Shoja Doost	Pathobiology

Absent

David Bahrami, Biomedical Science; David Bailey, Economics and Finance; Alexander Urthiel, Engineering; Akshita Akshita, Environmental Studies; Justina Assuah, Food, Agriculture and Resource Elizabeth Manchester, Julia Mellary, Integrative Biology; Siamoy Stewart, Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management; Annia Lewis, International Studies; Yuxin Hu, Food Science; Riva Lewis, James Rubino, History; Olivia O'Neill, Psychology; Ashley Ethier, Sociology and Anthropology.

5:34 p.m. Call to Order: D. Said, Chair

E. Minard thanked everyone for their presence and made a quick acknowledgement on the topic of screen recording meetings from personal devices and sharing on social media. Despite the fact, there are no current

stipulations in the GSA by laws, this act is discouraged as it creates an environment where open dialogue amongst GSA board members and Graduate Students can be disincentivized which is a crucial part of board meeting productivity.

5:30pm – 6:00pm: Presentation of outcome from VPSA meeting

E. Minard summarised the following on her meeting with M. Scott, Vice-Provost, Student Affairs

- Discussion on the University’s stance on students' rights and boundaries/penalties that might be implemented involving the current encampment situation.
- Plans for divestment from weapon manufacturers.
- Feedback received from university:
 - Understanding of student's self-expression and protests on campus provided they remain within the health and safety guidelines set by the University.
 - No change to health and safety policies since last year.
 - Management receiving emails from students regarding safety concerns.
 - Concerned with the accessibility aspect of the section of campus that the encampment is located on.

Discussion on steps required to address the encampment:

- Currently only verbal exchanges from campus safety officers.
- No direct plans for major penalties which however is dependent on individual behavior.
- Goal to find peaceful resolution through dialogue with protestors.
- Board of governors sub-committee to address topic of divestments in the month of June.

Question Period

No questions were raised on the above.

6:00pm – 7pm: Discussion of statement supporting graduate students’ rights of expression

E. Minard shared a brief explanation on the reasoning behind the wording of the statement

- Inspiration from statements released by other Universities.
- Ensuring the wording appeals and relates to the GSA’s mission statement representing all graduate students.
- Including the first line of reference that “students should not only have the right to express themselves but also have the right to express themselves without fear of being able to express themselves”.
- Acknowledging the unprecedented oppression students have faced across the country regarding protests, quoting the University of wealth statement of expression to further hold the university accountable for the promises that they themselves have made, and acknowledging that the university has previously divested away from fossil fuels.
- Confirming the statement is by the GSA General Directors outlining the procedure of approval.

Discussion Period

1. Clarification was sought on the absence of an explicit statement of support for the call for divestment or the other aspects of the six demands by the encampment.

In response it was confirmed that the statement was made based on the GSA mission statement supporting the graduate student body. Also bearing in mind the optical standpoint of the GSA taking a political stance on the matter and how this would be received by the graduate student population. Maintaining an open dialogue and focusing on positive change in terms of divestment was vital.

2. Further discussion on the six aspects being uncontroversial was addressed.
In conclusion it was summarised that the statement was based on the fact of graduate students having the right to self-expression and the overall discussions at the board meeting. Taking into consideration this topic is time sensitive and appreciating the time and personal commitments of those involved.
3. Recommendations on calling a vote on the current statement and having a separate discussion on the divestment statement was shared.
4. Potential to meet with Palestinian students currently in encampment was discussed.
The GSA confirmed they were open to the fact and the students were welcome to join GSA board meetings to present their views. GSA executives to convene to confirm the way forward.

A quorum of 15 attendees was confirmed and the motion was released to vote.

MOTION #1: B.I.R.T. **The GSA Board of Directors** approve the release of the proposed statement provided in the meeting materials for the special board meeting on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024. This statement is to be posted to the GSA website and social media pages.

Motioned by J. McGowan, seconded by A. Hinchliffe

A vote was called. Motion passes.

There was no further discussion or closing remarks.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:	Minutes Approved by:	
<hr/> Michelle Morris GSA – Office Manager	<hr/> Jacob Yates GSA Vice President - Internal	<hr/> David Said Chair

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF GD APPOINTMENT

Michael Capperauld - Department of Chemistry

To the Board Members of the Graduate Student Association of the University of Guelph, I am writing this personal statement in the hopes of becoming the chemistry GD for the GSA.

My name is Michael, and I am a new graduate student completing my master's.

The experience I acquired with university organizations began in my undergrad as a member of the student run emergency first response team. While on TUEFRT, I earned the position of shift leader which carried the responsibilities of training new recruits, leading other responders while on calls, and deescalating situations as they arose on shift. What made me a valuable member to this organization was my commitment to professionalism and contributions in regards to areas where I saw improvement for the team. The lessons I took away from this experience positively affected both my academic and personal life.

The ability to stay open-minded and rational in tense situations allowed me to excel in this position. These traits, in addition to my insight for improvement, will allow me to excel as a valuable member of the GSA.

Sincerely,

Michael Capperauld

UofG FOR PALESTINE PRESENTATION

Executive Summary

Dear Graduate Students Association (GSA),

We are a collective of students at the University of Guelph mobilizing in solidarity to demand an end to the brutal 76 years of occupation in Palestine. We believe, as do many experts, that this campaign of violence is a genocide against the Palestinian people. We believe in the Palestinian people's right to return. We condemn the targeting and killing of Palestinian academics, intellectuals, and writers along with the destruction of educational institutions in Gaza. We condemn the bombing of all 12 universities and 13 libraries in Gaza and recognize such acts as scholasticide — a term coined by Palestinian professor Karma Nabulsi to describe the systematic destruction and demolition of Palestinian schools and universities, assassination of academics and intellectuals, and total annihilation of all knowledge forms and systems. We recognize that scholasticide is extended into the imperial core as our universities and academics remain not only silent and complacent but profit off the genocide of Palestinians. We recognize the role the University of Guelph has in the military-industrial complex of the imperial core in destabilizing entire regions in the Global South, including in this genocide, through its direct investments in genocidal war-profiteering companies and arms manufacturers. This document includes demands and their associated rationale to outline the purpose of the University of Guelph (UofG) encampment. Members of the encampment have compiled UofG's investments through the Endowment Fund via a freedom of information request. After reading this summary, we suggest reading our [latest analysis of UofG's investments in the ongoing genocide of Palestinians](#).

Background

The Israeli-Palestinian issue goes back nearly a century to when Britain, during World War I, pledged to establish a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine under the [Balfour Declaration](#). British troops took control of the territory from the Ottoman Empire at the end of October 1917.

Leading up to Israel's creation in 1948, more than 750,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from their homes by Zionist militias. This mass exodus came to be known as the [Nakba](#) or catastrophe. At this time, tens of thousands of refugees were corralled into the Gaza Strip, an area half the size of the city of Toronto, bordering Egypt. Over time, the state of Israel has claimed an increasing proportion of Palestinian land, expelling homeowners and landowners through violent occupation. Palestinians have been expelled from Gaza in the tens of thousands across numerous conflicts, often unable to ever return.

With 1 in 25 Gazans now dead, many Palestinians identify current violence in their territory as [another Nakba](#). These are not isolated events, but instead part of a broader campaign of terror against Palestinians. Current UN estimates say that at least 35, 000 Palestinians are dead, most of which are women and children. These estimates do not include humans stuck under rubble, or bodies that cannot be identified. Thus, this is likely a large underestimate, as numbers are difficult to obtain on-the-ground, particularly as the Israeli state has been targeting and killing journalists and doctors, the two primary groups who would document such tragedies.



Figure 1: Map of the Gaza Strip

Recently, Israel launched a siege on Rafah, the southernmost tip of Gaza (Figure 1), an area that many Gazans were corralled to and were told would be safe. The Israeli state is preventing aid from reaching Rafah, prompting the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\) to rule that Israel must stop its offensive in Rafah](#). The Israeli government has been condemned in 45 resolutions by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), **representing 45.9% of all country-specific resolutions passed by this agency**).

While we've provided you with a brief summary, we encourage board members to do their own research, to learn about the history of Palestine, and to understand the violence of occupation, particularly the experience of a typical Palestinian both before and during this current genocidal onslaught. We suggest reading the following texts, available from our campus library or your local bookshop:

- The Hundred Years' War on Palestine by Rashid Khalidi
- The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine by Ilan Pappé

This encampment is born of a deep love for and solidarity with Palestinians. It is born out of a desire for peace and justice in this world. Our demands won't just help Palestinians, but all peoples impacted by the systematic funding of the military-industrial complex by Canadian universities.

Our Demands

From our updated knowledge on the institution's investments, UoGforPalestine demands that the University of Guelph immediately divest from any and all companies tied to the Israeli occupation and genocide in Palestine.

1. We demand that the University of Guelph give **COMPLETE DISCLOSURE OF ALL ITS INVESTMENTS AND HOW MANY SHARES IT HAS IN EACH COMPANY IN ITS ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO**
2. We demand that the University of Guelph divest from **ALL ARMS, DEFENSE, AND MILITARY CONTRACTORS** – including but not limited to the 21 on this list:

BAE SYSTEMS	DEFENSE
BOEING CO	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
CATERPILLAR INC	AUTOMOTIVE & ARMS
FORD MOTOR CO	AUTOMOTIVE & ARMS
GENERAL DYNAMICS	DEFENSE
GENERAL ELECTRIC	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
GENERAL MOTORS	AUTOMOTIVE & ARMS
HANWHA AEROSPACE CO LTD	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
HONEYWELL	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
LEIDOS HOLDINGS INC	DEFENSE
LEONARDO SPA	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
LOCKHEED MARTIN	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
L3HARRIS	DEFENSE
MEGGITT PLC	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
NORTHROP GRUMMAN	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
QINETIQ GROUP PLC	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
RTX CORP (RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES)	DEFENSE
RHEINMETALL AG	AUTOMOTIVE & ARMS
SAFRAN SA	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
TEXTRON INC	DEFENSE
TRANSDIGM GROUP INC	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE

3. We demand that the University of Guelph divest from **ALL COMPANIES DIRECTLY COMPLICIT IN THE GENOCIDE AND SUBSIDIZATION EFFORTS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION** – including but not limited to the 61 on this list:

ALPHABET INC	TECH CONGLOMERATE
AIRBNB	TRAVEL & PROPERTY
AMAZON	TECH CONGLOMERATE
ANSYS	SOFTWARE
APPLE	TECHNOLOGY
ASSECO POLAND SA	SOFTWARE
ARISTA NETWORKS INC	TECH & DATA NETWORKING
AXA SA	INSURANCE
BANK HAPOALIM B.M FINANCIAL	BANKING
BARCLAYS PLC FINANCIAL	BANKING
BOOKING HOLDINGS INC	TRAVEL & TECHNOLOGY
BURGER KING (RESTURANT BRANDS INTL INC)	FOOD
CADENCE DESIGN SYSTEMS	TECHNOLOGY

CANON INC ----- IMAGING TECHNOLOGY
 CARREFOUR SA ----- RETAIL
 CEMEX SAB DE CV -----CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
 CHEVRON -----OIL & GAS
 CISCO SYSTEMS INC -----COMMUNICATIONS
 CNH INDUSTRIAL NV ----- HEAVY MACHINERY
 COSTCO -----RETAIL
 DELTA ELECTRONICS -----ELECTRONICS
 DESCARTES SYSTEMS ----- SOFTWARE
 DOMINO'S PIZZA INC ----- FOOD
 DOOSAN BOBCAT INC -----HEAVY MACHINERY CONGLOMERATE
 EXPEDIA GROUP INC -----TRAVEL
 EXXON MOBIL CORP -----OIL & GAS
 F5 INC ----- TECHNOLOGY
 FIRST SOLAR INC ----- ENERGY
 GENERAL MILLS -----FOOD
 HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE ----- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 HOWMET AEROSPACE INC -----AEROSPACE
 HP INC ----- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 INTEL CORP -----TECHNOLOGY
 IBM -----INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 INTUIT INC ----- SOFTWARE
 JUNIPER NETWORKS ----- TECHNOLOGY
 KINAXIS INC ----- SOFTWARE
 LULULEMON ATHLETICA INC -----RETAIL
 MAGNA INTL INC ----- AUTOMOTIVE
 MANULIFE FINANCIAL CORP ----- INSURANCE
 MCDONALDS ----- FOOD
 META PLATFORMS INC ----- TECH CONGLOMERATE
 MICROSOFT ----- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 MINERALS TECHNOLOGIES INC -----MINERALS
 MITSUBISHI HC CAPITAL INC ----- FINANCE
 MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC -----TECHNOLOGY
 OPEN TEXT CORP ----- SOFTWARE
 PAYPAL ----- FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY
 PEPSICO INC ----- FOOD & BEVERAGE
 PIZZA HUT (YUM! BRANDS INC) ----- FOOD
 PROCTER & GAMBLE CO -----CONSUMER GOODS
 PTC INC -----SOFTWARE
 RBC ----- BANKING
 SALESFORCE INC -----SOFTWARE
 TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LTD ----- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 TEVA PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY -----PHARMACEUTICALS
 VALERO ENERGY CORP -----OIL & GAS
 VOLKSWAGEN AG -----AUTOMOTIVE
 VOLVO AB ----- AUTOMOTIVE
 WALT DISNEY CO/THE -----MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT
 WSP GLOBAL INC ----- ENGINEERING

4. We demand that the University of Guelph END ANY AND ALL EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS WITH ISRAELI UNIVERSITIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND COMPANIES and commit to an ACADEMIC BOYCOTT

5. We demand that the University of Guelph **END ITS BLATANT DISREGARD FOR STUDENTS BEING TARGETED BY ANTI-PALESTINIAN RACISM, ANTI-ARAB RACISM, AND ISLAMOPHOBIA** and to adopt the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association’s (ACLA) definition of anti-Palestinian racism within its institutional framework

6. We demand that the University of Guelph reject and **END ALL SUPPRESSION** of pro-Palestinian activities on campus – among students, staff, and faculty – **INCLUDING AMNESTY FOR THE STUDENTS AT THE PEOPLE’S PLAZA FOR PALESTINE**

Brief overview of the University of Guelph’s investments in Palestinian genocide- 2024

According to the 2024 endowment portfolio, the UofG currently holds \$5,468,201.77 worth of investments in 21 arms manufacturers that are directly manufacturing arms and/or weapons to the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) (Figure 2; Table 1). This number of arms manufacturers is up from 10 in 2019.

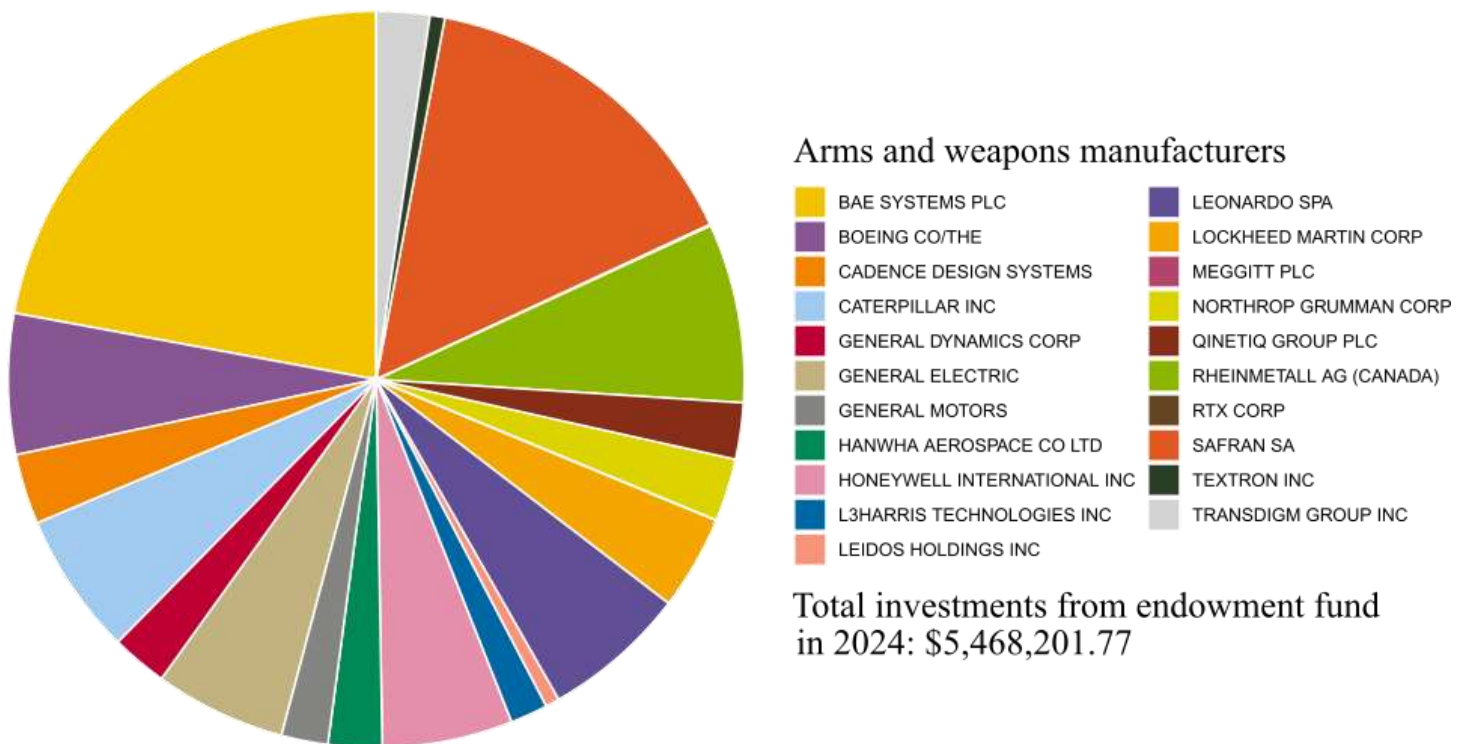


Figure 2: Pie chart of the University of Guelph’s investments in 21 arms and weapons manufacturers organized by company. Investment proportions are based on the 2024 Endowment Fund report.
 Table 1: Brief description on the role of each arms and/or weapons manufacturer in the current Israeli military operations in Gaza.

COMPANY	What they do
BAE SYSTEMS PLC	Manufactures weapons and parts for Israel's F-15, F-16, and F35 fighter jets, Protector drones, and M401 cannon artillery.
BOEING CO	Manufactures the F-15 fighter jet, the Chinook and Apache helicopters, and the V-22 and KC-46 military aircraft, as well as the GBU-39 and GBU-31 bombs and the Hellfire and Harpoon missile systems.
CATERPILLAR INC	Manufactures the D9 armored bulldozer, the 349E excavator, and other heavy machinery used in demolition of Palestinian homes and illegal settlement construction.
FORD MOTOR CO	Manufactures trucks for the Israeli military and border police, used as personnel carriers and unmanned combat vehicles.
GENERAL DYNAMICS	Manufactures the BLU-112, BLU-109, MK-82 and MK-84 bombs, as well as weapons systems for the F-15, F-16, and F-35 fighter jets, as well as the GD 883 V12 engine for the Merkava IV tank.
GENERAL ELECTRIC	Manufactures F110-GE-129 engines for F-15 and F-16 fighter jets, T700-GE-701C engines for Apache and Black Hawk combat helicopters, and LM2500 turbines for Sa'ar 5 warships.
GENERAL MOTORS	Manufactures the Chevrolet Grumman van used in Israeli military checkpoints.
HANWHA AEROSPACE CO LTD	Manufactures HW70 and HW50 155mm ammunition for BAE Systems, and partners with Israel Aerospace Industries to market Israeli naval armaments in Asia.
HONEYWELL	Manufactures engines and components for F-35 fighter jets.
LEIDOS HOLDINGS INC	Manufactures the SafeView body scanner machine used in Israeli checkpoints.
LEONARDO SPA	Manufactures the OTO Melara 76/62 Supar Rapid 72mm naval gun installed on Sa'ar 4.5, 5, and 6 warships, as well as the Aermacchi M-346 and AW119Kx Koala military training aircraft.

LOCKHEED MARTIN	Manufactures the F-16 and F-35 fighter jets, the AGM-114L missile, the M-270 rocket launching system, and sensors for the Apache helicopter.
L3HARRIS	Manufactures components for the JDAM bomb guidance kit, the F-35 fighter jet, and the Sa'ar 5 and 6 warships.
MEGGITT PLC	Manufactures data systems for the Apache helicopter.
NORTHROP GRUMMAN	Manufactures the Sa'ar 5 warship, the AN/APG-78 missile control system for the Apache helicopter, and components for the F-16 fighter jet, the F-35 fighter jet, and the M-345 military training aircraft.
QINETIQ GROUP PLC	Participated in developing the Watchkeeper drone.
RTX CORP (RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES)	Manufactures the GBU-28 and Paveway bombs, the AGM-65, AIM-9X, AIM-120, and TOW missiles, parts for the F-15, F-16, and F-35 fighter jets, engines for the Eitan and Shoval drones, and Phalanx weapon systems for Sa'ar 4.5 and 5 warships.
RHEINMETALL AG	Manufactures 120mm precision ammunition for Israeli tanks.
SAFRAN SA	Manufactures the Moskito Ti targeting system.
TEXTRON INC	Manufactures the Beechcraft King Air, Queen Air, RC12-D Guardrail, Bonanza A-36, and AH-1 Cobra military aircraft.
TRANSDIGM GROUP INC	Manufactures parts for Apache helicopters.

UofG also holds extensive investments in a plethora of companies directly complicit in the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. According to UofG for Palestine's analysis of the 2024 Endowment Portfolio Report, UofG holds approximately \$43.5 million in complicit companies. Similar to arms manufacturers, many complicit companies directly profit off of the military operations occurring in places like Gaza. One particular group of immediate concern is tech conglomerates, which include surveillance companies that are actively selling technology to the IOF in order to hyper-surveil Palestinians. Surveillance of Palestinians has occurred far before October 7th, 2023, as it is a means of heavily controlling the actions and movement of Palestinians, even while in their households. [This list can be found in our latest analysis of UofG's investments.](#)

UofG's Board of Governors, who are responsible for decisions on investments, [has signed the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment \(UNPRI\)](#). The [UNPRI directly states:](#)

"GP shall endeavour not to invest in portfolio companies that (i) deliberately and repeatedly violate national laws and certain ILO conventions, and (ii) manufacture or service armaments or firearms that

deliberately fail to comply with the United Nations Global Compact or that are in countries subject to trade embargoes imposed by the UN or EU”

Further, this board has specific by-laws that require them to follow these principles of responsible investment, particularly to avoid social injury. These principles were established in 2015 due to ongoing pressure from the Fossil Free Guelph campaign. The Board of Governors 2015 working group was tasked with researching the main components of responsible investing. In this research, the working group admits that concepts of responsible investments originate in part from divestment campaigns surrounding weapons firms. **We ask, what role does a public institution like a university have in investing with weapons manufacturers? How can UofG remain “apolitical” when directly investing and profiting with companies like [Lockheed Martin that take direct political stances in support of the ongoing Israeli military operations.](#)**

FORMATION OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Equity Ad-hoc Committee

In recognition of the GSA's mandate to responsibly articulate the interest of graduate students to appropriate persons and organizations, we are seeking to establish an Equity Ad-Hoc Committee to address ongoing equity issues impacting students on and off campus.

Purpose

Currently, the GSA does not have a standing committee with a mandate to oversee social justice or equity issues of interest to graduate students. This ad-hoc committee is needed in light of mounting students' concerns regarding issues such as the encampment on campus and the ensuing dialogue with university administrators. In addition, the committee will also oversee issues including but not limited to LGBTQ+, Black, and Indigenous students' rights. Establishing this community allows the Board to move in-depth conversations on these issues from regular boards meetings to a dedicated space. This ad-hoc committee will also serve as a precursor to the establishment of a permanent equity-focused standing committee after the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Mandate

The Equity Ad-hoc Committee will liaise with relevant communities to update the Board about equity issues on campus including the encampment and negotiations with the university and make recommendations to the Board of Directors when relevant.

Responsibilities:

This committee will work to:

- Provide monthly reports to the Board regarding the actions of the committee and related groups on campus.
- Engage with campus communities interested in equity issues.
- Make recommendation to the board regarding statements or actions that advance equity issues on and off campus.
- Be an information hub by collecting information and staying up to date on issues including the GSA's official position and negotiations between members of encampment and the university.
- Be a resource center for GSA members interested in Palestinian equity.
- Ensure the creation of a standing Equity Committee at the 2025 GSA AGM.
- Perform additional duties delegated by the Board.

DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 Graduate Club Executives' monthly meeting was held the 11th of June 2024. One of the agenda items was the plan by the office of CEPS to organize a college-wide graduate career (half-)day, scheduled for the second half of August. We welcome your thoughts, questions, and suggestions on the topics of most interest to fellow graduate students and the mode of delivery (e.g., talk vs. Q&A format). Please feel free to share your questions and suggestions! Next meeting is 9th Of July 2024.

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: June 13th HHNS is having a lunch: “Prem’s Positivity Project” to raise awareness and money for the Shelldale Family Gateway.

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: We are hosting an ice cream day on June 19 at 2PM, facilitating a networking session between faculty, staff and students and sending donations to United Way.

Report by: Janan Shoja Doost

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:

Report by:

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: June 7th

Report: All as usual for the ACC

Next Meeting: July 12th 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:

Experiential Learning Committee

Meeting date: N/A

Report: N/A

Next Meeting: May 28th

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:

Report:

Next Meeting:

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: June 4, 2024

Report: Guelph Pride is happening June 6-16, and the OVC Pride VMC will be marching at Toronto Pride on June 30! Pre-vet students are welcome to volunteer and march along 😊

Next meeting: TBD

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

President & CEO – Emily Minard

Hi everyone!

Hope you've all had a chance to enjoy the warm weather and take a nice restful break. Below you will find my updates of activities I've been working on over the past month since our last board meeting on May 22nd.

Board of Graduate Studies

The last committee meeting was held on May 22nd. In this meeting we reviewed and voted on changes proposed to miscellaneous departments and courses to then be reviewed at Senate.

GSA Statement on the Encampment

Following our May GSA board meeting, I scheduled a meeting between the GSA executives and VPSA the next day to discuss the administrations' efforts to address the demands of the encampment and to ensure student voices are being heard. Updates from this meeting were provided in the materials sent out for the Special Meeting that was held the following Wednesday, May 29th. A statement was then released that evening and was posted to our social media. The statement will also be included on our website once the website has been fully developed and finalized.

GSA x CSA x VPSA & Provost and Vice-President Academic

The GSA and CSA executives met with Melinda Scott, VPSA, and Gwen Chapman, former Provost and Vice-President Academic, at The Lookout on May 23rd. Here, the executives were able to mingle and broadly speak to the goals of our student organizations. I spent some time discussing the issues revolving around funding, food and housing insecurity, mental health supports and general well-being. The CSA executives spoke a lot to issues pertaining to international students. We also said our goodbyes to Gwen at this meeting as she has officially retired!

Website Review

On May 29th Rebecca, Michelle, and I met with Dave Steele to look at all the major revisions being made to the new website. The new website, while still in the drafting stage, looks great so far. We're now focused on adding and updating information to it and will bring Dave in to teach our Communications Coordinator how to make edits to the website moving forward.

Student Food Security Working Group

I met with this working group on May 29th. Here, we were given a rundown of all the food insecurity initiatives that the previous PepsiCo grant funded. The Grocery Bus initiative I worked on was included within this summary.

Meeting with Ben Bradshaw

Manjurul and I met with Ben on June 10th and May 28th. At the meeting in May, Ben brought to my attention the concern of filming at our GSA Board Meetings and the social media posts. At our meeting in June, I proposed he not attend our regularly scheduled board meetings and, instead, provide updates through Manjurul and I. This would follow the same expectations of our lines of communication that we maintain with the VPSA. Ben agreed to this solution and expressed willingness to answer any questions from the board that are brought to Manjurul and I which can be communicated back. Other than this, we discussed individual academic dispute cases with Ben and how they would procedurally be handled.

Executive Committee Meeting

The executives met on June 7th. We each provided our own portfolio updates; to find more details on this please see the attached executive meeting minutes (bottom of materials package)! After our updates though, the executives talked about scheduling a photoshoot with Josh, our Communications Coordinator, for the executives and Michelle to include on our website and social media. The goal of doing this would be to improve engagement and familiarity between the GSA and graduate students. We also spent time talking about the idea of establishing an ad-hoc Equity Committee this year that would be concerned with social issues relating to areas including, but not limited to, LGBTQ2SIA+ students, Black students, Indigenous students, international students, etc. Depending on the productivity and activity of this potential ad-hoc committee, we could recommend that the Bylaws Committee write it as a standing GSA committee.

Meeting with Teaching and Learning Network Chair

I met with Christie Stewart on June 10th so she can introduce me to the Teaching and Learning Network committee. I learned about the mission and ongoing projects of this committee and will likely be joining the committee's membership in replace of our previous GSA President.

Meeting with Jen Durst, Student Experience

Manjurul and I met with Jen Durst from Student Experience on June 12th to talk more about drafting up the governing documents for a GSA Clubs Accreditation system. From our conversations, we learned a lot about the need to consider areas such as insurance, membership of the graduate councils, requests of councils to run events, and more. The three of us agreed to running more

regularly scheduled meetings to ensure consistent communications as Manjurul and I work through the drafting of these documents.

Meeting with Melinda Scott, VPSA

The Executives met with the VPSA on June 12th. In this meeting we were cautioned of the major influx of undergraduate students coming in this upcoming September. I asked about how the university anticipates how this may impact teaching assistants and instructors and I was explained that the primary goal is to increase the number of class sections which may provide additional opportunities for graduate students to TA or instruct. However, I expressed that housing insecurity may become an issue as first year students are not guaranteed residence.

Food Prescription Program

I met with Sam Laban on June 12th to discuss final thoughts on the presentation of the Food Prescription program funding request from the GSA Board of Directors.

That's all from me, folks! As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,

Emily
GSA President & CEO (gsapres@uoguelph.ca)

VP Internal – Jacob Yates

Hello Graduate Students!

The month of June has been another busy one so far! I've summarized the things I have been up to recently below!

- Worked with Communications coordinator on some videos for social media to help explain the GSA monthly board meetings.
- Worked with various GDs to answer bylaw related questions.
- Identified a course of action for addressing ONCA compliance with our existing bylaws.
- Researched and prepared materials for May special meeting.
- Continuing to complete the required training as outlined in the bylaws

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like more information (gsavpint@uoguelph.ca). I look forward to continuing to work with our graduate students!

Thanks,

Jake
GSA VP Internal

Monthly Update: June 2024

Senate Meeting:

- On June 3, 2024, a Senate meeting was held where several new decisions were made. The Senate approved the proposed addition of the Oxford English Language Level Test (ELLT) to the Graduate Regulations. The use of the ELLT as an acceptable measure of English proficiency for admission to graduate programs is effective immediately. Additionally, the Senate approved major modifications to several master's programs. These modifications include related course additions, changes, and deletions for the Master of Engineering program, the Master of Arts in Integrated Humanities program, and the Master of Science in Capacity Development and Extension program.
- Each year, the University of Guelph awards the Forster Medals to recognize academic achievement, motivation, leadership, and citizenship. Two medals are awarded annually: one at the master's level and one at the doctoral level. This year's recipient at the master's level is Zoe Sherar, who graduated from the Lang School of Business and Economics with an M.Sc. in Tourism and Hospitality. At the doctoral level, this year's recipient is Emily Duncan, who graduated from the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences with a PhD in Geography. For academic achievement at the graduate level, this year's two Gold Medal recipients are:
 - Massimo Nardone, PhD in Cardiovascular Physiology, recognized for outstanding research output.
 - Ryan Curry, Master of Science in Physics, recognized for academic excellence.

GSA Events

- A meeting was held with the GSA Events Coordinator to discuss upcoming events and social gatherings for graduate students. We are tentatively planning a social gathering for Fall 2024, as this is when the majority of students will be on campus. Additionally, we discussed potential professional development workshops and events for graduate students. We will explore the needs of the students and aim to accommodate professional development events within the scope of the GSA. We also addressed the functional aspects of the Volunteer Committee and explored ways to enhance its effectiveness in the coming months.

Club Accreditation

- A meeting was held with the Leadership Education and Development Advisor from Student Experience to discuss the club accreditation process and potential areas of work. We had a detailed discussion regarding current club accreditation practices. It was determined that we need to develop a graduate students council policy and procedures for the club accreditation process. The next goal is to initiate this work to ensure the accreditation process is more formal and effective.

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

Thank you.

Best Regards

M Manjurul Islam

VP – Academic, GSA

gsavpaca@uoguelph.ca

VP Finance – Marcellus (Mingze) Li

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

Graduate Student Consultation:

This month, I have been assisting graduate students with their travel grants. I have been working closely with them, providing guidance, and clarifying any doubts they may have.

Finance Committee Meeting:

The Finance Committee held a meeting to discuss and made decisions on travel grants we received in the past few weeks.

RBC Meeting:

Considering the transaction fees on our checking account and our sustainability goals, we had a meeting with an RBC advisor to discuss ways to avoid these fees and better plan our financial settings.

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

Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Best regards,

Marcellus(Mingze) Li

GSA VP Finance

Hello all,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer! Please find below a summary of my responsibilities since the June board meeting:

Transit

We officially have opt-in summer bus passes for grad students! I worked with the CSA and Guelph Transit this month to get this set up. The link to the form is on our Instagram page.

Students just have to send in proof of enrollment for the winter semester then I can sign their form and they can purchase their pass through the CSA's front office. The CSA was kindly willing to distribute passes as they already have the system/means to sell and distribute passes to students as well as the staff. I am hopeful that this can be continued next summer.

Web Site Development

Michelle, Emily and I met with our web developer, Dave, on May 29th to review the first draft of the website. We recommend colour contrast and heading changes (difficult to find complementary colours to our fuchsia pink primary organization colour) that Dave is working on implementing. He is also working on adding a calendar to our homepage where we can add important deadlines, events, and other important information. We are also working on updating the list of committees that the GSA is involved in given the extent of the changes to our bylaws at the March AGM.

Guelph Housing Affordability Event

Marcellus, Emily and I attended an event hosted by the city's housing affordability and development departments on May 13th. We spoke with city representatives and offered our feedback on the draft vision and goals for Guelph's Housing Affordability Strategy, offered suggestions on how they should track the progress of these goals, voted on which draft actions should be prioritized, and offered our thoughts as to how the current housing continuum could be reimagined. Generally, a lot of our feedback focused on how vague a lot of the goals and actions are (e.g. Goal: "close the housing affordability gap" great goal, how do they plan on achieving this? Through what steps/actions? "Provide affordable, safe, and adequate rental stock." Again, great goal, how do they plan to achieve this? etc. this was the case for most of the goals). They also asked how they should measure progress on these goals to which we stated that they need to develop appropriate metrics, but it is difficult to do that until they can define these terms and goals more specifically. We also offered feedback on the city's current housing continuum which is currently structured linearly from emergency shelter on one end to home ownership on the other. This current

model suggests that home ownership is the optimal and universal housing goal for everyone, which is not the case. It also suggests that housing options such as renting or living in supportive housing are beneath home ownership, which is not true, helpful, or accurate. We suggested adopting a model more similar to the city of St. Johns, Newfoundland where all types of housing are presented as equal, and available to suit the needs of unique individuals, with the inclusion of emergency shelters and transitional housing. I would be happy to discuss any aspects of this more in-depth.

That's all for this month! Please feel free to reach out to me via email at gsavpext@uoguelph.ca if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I welcome feedback and input from graduate students and GSA members regarding anything I discussed so that I may bring your thoughts and opinions to the appropriate committee or representative(s).

Thank you!

Rebecca Randle

GSA VP Community Engagement

June 2024 Communications Coordinator Report:

Newsletter Redesign

The newsletter has been redesigned to enhance user-friendliness. While future additions will be made as necessary, the focus remains on simplicity. Key information will also be shared through social media channels.

Information Workflows

Planning is underway to develop efficient information workflows in alignment with the new website development.

Social Media Strategy

A more consistent social media schedule has been initiated to improve our online presence and engagement.

Future Communication Strategy

Plans are in place to engage with executives and board members to determine the most effective communication strategies moving forward.

Thanks,

Josh

GSA Communications Coordinator

Activities Coordinator – Manpreet Kaur

Hello everyone,

I hope you all are having a great semester so far.

Upcoming Events

1. Trivia

Location: The Lookout on a weekly basis. Happens every Thursday.

2. Monthly Step Challenge

3. Paint Night

Location: The Lookout

Date: June 24th, 2024

Timings: 5 – 6:30 PM

Thank you,

Manpreet

Events Coordinator gsaact@uoguelph.ca

Office Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all doing well. It is just business as usual and regular routine tasks at my end.

A few key updates:

- The Interim Student Fees for Summer 2024 are paid out this month.
- Working with the web developer to update our new website.
- Communication with Students on Bursaries.
- The renovation for the Lookout is now complete except for a few minor aesthetics/touch ups that are ongoing.

Have a good summer ahead.

Best,
Michelle