



BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024

UC Room # 441

5:30 PM

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GSA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday May 22nd, 5:30 p.m.

Please send Regrets to gsa@uoguelph.ca, no later than Tuesday May 21st, 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 May 24th 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

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

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

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

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

Please refer to the attached information for context on this conversation A proposed statement, for discussion will be sent out Tuesday, for revision prior to the Board meeting.

6:15 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates

6:25 p.m. Question Period

6:35 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports

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

6:35 p.m. President & CEO: Emily Minard

6:50 p.m. V.P. Internal: Jacob Yates

7:05 p.m. V.P. Academic: M. Manjurul Islam

7:20 p.m. V.P. Financial: Mingze Li

7:35 p.m. V.P. Community Engagement: Rebecca Randle

7:50 p.m. Arising Business

8:05 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 April 17th , 2024, 5:30pm
Hybrid Teams Meeting, UC # 441



ATTENDEES PRESENT

GSA Executives	
Nabhan Refaie	President and CEO
Emily Minard	Vice President Internal
Mingze Li (Marcellus)	Vice President Finance
Rebecca Randle	Vice President External
David Said	Chair
General Directors	
Akierah Binns	Black Student Representatives
Mavis Opoku	
David Bahrami	Biomedical Science
Yang Hoong	Business Administration/Management
Okoroike Ozoemena	Chemistry
David Bailey	Economics and Finance
Kimber Munford	Environmental Studies
Alice Hinchliffe	English and Theatre Studies
Alexander Urthiel	Engineering
Dharamdeo Singh	Food Science
Yuxin Hu	Geography Environment and Geomatics
Peter Duker	
M. Manjurul Islam	
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
Jacob Yates	Pathobiology
Janan Shoja Doost	Psychology
Olivia O'Neill	

Ashley Athier	Sociology and Anthropology
Guests	
Alexis Fabricius	Vice President External, CUPE #3913
Ben Bradshaw	Assistant Vice President, Graduate Studies
Pardeep Khanugra	College of Biological Sciences
Staff (Non-voting)	
Michelle Morris	GSA, Office Manager
Manpreet Kaur	GSA, Activities and Communications Co-ordinator

Regrets with Notification: Justina Assuah, Food Agriculture and Resource; James Rubino, History

Regrets without Notification

Jehoshua

Sharma, Graduate Student Representative; Akshita Akshita, Environmental Studies

5:31 p.m. Call to Order: D. Said, Chair

Territorial Acknowledgement

The personal land acknowledgement statement was shared by K. Munford

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION #1: B.I.R.T. **The Agenda for the April 17th, 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.**
 Motioned by P. Duker, seconded by N. Refaie. Minard. Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. **The GSA Meeting Minutes of February 21st, 2024, be approved as presented.**
 Motioned by P. Duker, seconded by N. Refaie. Motion carries.

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. **The GSA Special Meeting Minutes of March 20th, 2024 be approved as presented.**
 Motioned by R. Randle, seconded by P. Duker

5:35 p.m. CUPE #3913: Alexis Fabricius, Vice-President External

A. Fabricius shared the following via email:

- New Collective Agreement ratified and ratified in 90 days with a 97.7% vote. Questions to be directly to president@qp3913.on.ca
- Reminder to sessionals to submit their professional development claims (upto \$500) before June 1st
- VP External of CUPE 3913 term coming to an end. To be replaced by K. Munford.

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

B. Bradshaw shared the following:

- Successful conclusion to negotiations with CUPE.

- Braithwaite Travel Conference award of \$1000.000 donation from anonymous doner.
 - Email to share with GSA for further circulation.
 - Time limited with potential of extension with strong outcome
- Federal Budget update for graduate students
 - Increasing funding in Tri-Agency Awards
 - \$17,500 to \$ 27,000 for master's per annum and \$ 20,000 or \$ 35,000 to \$ 40,000 for PhD's.
 - Challenging to Ontario universities who are facing a fiscal crisis to put together awards

Question Period

A discussion on how this Budget increase would affect students currently awaiting a response on Tri Agency Scholarships. In response it was shared, there is a chance this could be manifested at the new rates for 2024-2025, this however is an assumption.

Plans to retain donor pictures and testimonials for the Braithwaite Travel Grant were discussed. The need for providing evidence of expenditure with opportunities for pictures and outcomes was highlighted.

Increase to graduate student funding was discussed, highlighting the University President and Provost being committed to adding new monies to the graduate scholarships. Commitment to increase funding to \$1000,000 per year for the next four years with the Graduate Student Scholarship.

With the Vanier Student Scholarship being discontinued, there was no insight to have a substitute for the moment.

5:55 p.m. Lookout Finances/Operations Update: Mike Calvert, Senior Operations Manager

M. Calvert shared the following updates:

- The Grad Lounge Renovation to be begin on April 22nd
 - Establishing preconstruction plans with contractor, ensuring scope is in place
 - Goal to finish by May 2024
 - Work to commence in 2 phases, Demolition and Renovation
 - Goal to have patio opened and ready, followed by the Grad Lounge
- Updates to furnishings by replacing tables and chairs
- Goal of improvements to vitalize space and increase attention to the lookout
- Financial Update
 - Annual statements to be provided next month
 - Strong sales over the last seven weeks beating previous year to date for the week
- Meeting with Grad Lounge Committee for sampling of new summer menu
- Collective review of procurement agreements
- Product cost in lookout dropped by 4%
- Success in cross utilization of labor personnel, especially regarding food operations.

6:05 p.m. Lookout Agreement: Nabhan Refaie, GSA President & CEO

N. Refaie shared information on the lookout agreement:

- Agreement between UC Services and GSA signed in year 2021, with MOU ending soon.
- Proposing the following changes for board approval:
 - Have a permanent agreement with a renewal term rather than an end date

- Provision of exiting agreement with a 30 months' notice period
- A dispute resolution process involving the UC Board and GSA Board, to allow more operational productivity and collaboration.
- Clarifying responsibilities of UC Services
- Clarifying responsibilities of the GSA President, Grad Lounge Committee and GSA Board.
- Ensuring fair evaluation of Equipment and investments in the lookout, in the event of a non-renewal.
- Report and updates to be provided directly to Grad Lounge Committee and only semesterly or semiannual/annual updates provided to the board.

Motion # 4 B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves modifications to the MOU between The University Centre Services and The GSA as presented.

Motioned by E. Minard Seconded by O. Ozoemena

A vote was called, Motion passed.

6:20 p.m. Funding Request for College of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Symposium: Pardeep Khangura, College of Biological Science

Pardeep presented the following:

- Representing the 2024 CBS GSA planning Committee requesting \$1000 from GSA through the PDR funding program.
- Student run conference for graduate students, fostering networking collaboration within the college.
- 3 Departments:
 - Molecular and Cellular Biology
 - Integrative Biology
 - Human Health and Nutritional Sciences

Event Details:

- To be held on April 30th in a hybrid oral presentation.
- Estimating 150 attendees

Funding Breakdown

Expenses	Expected 2023	Actual 2023	Expected 2024
Catering	\$4,600	\$4661.23	\$4300
Atrium rental	\$500	\$500	\$500
A/V equipment, poster board, tables and chairs rental	\$150	\$68	\$500
The Lookout rental & trivia host	\$500	\$739.34	\$500
Photocopying/printing	\$150	\$158.21	\$350
Prizes for best presenters	\$300	\$300	\$250
Gifts for judges	\$200	\$100	\$200
Gifts for keynote speakers	\$100	\$84	\$200
Raffle/door prizes	\$150	\$39.72	\$150
Misc expenses (COVID-19 cleaning supplies, masks, hand sanitizer, pens, name tags, paper)	\$100	\$0	\$150

Total Expenses:	\$6,750	\$6650.50	\$7000
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Question Period

Questions were raised regarding extending the registration deadline. It was confirmed that the deadline could be extended past a couple of days.

The board members discussed and shared their opinions in favor of the event.

Motion # 5 B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors allocate \$1000 towards the College of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Symposium

Motioned by N. Rabhan, Seconded by A. Urtheil

A vote was called. All were in favor.

6:35 p.m. Update on GSA Website: Rebecca Randle, GSA VP Community Engagement and Nabhan Refaie, GSA President & CEO

N. Refaie shared the following:

- Discussion with Student affairs on having the GSA Website move away from University Servers.
- Looking for a new website that increases engagement.
- Developer completed project with CSA for thecanada.ca website
- Quote received for \$9525 + HST with training provided. Seeking board approval.

Motion # 6 B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves \$11,000 towards contracting Barking Dog Studios Inc. For Web Development

Motioned by N. Refaie, Seconded by E. Minard

During the discussion phase, N. Refaie confirmed the required amount to be a one-time payment, sourced from the GSA's reserve funds, not affecting the GSA's financial stability. The website's maintenance is to be managed by the GSA Communications Coordinator and supervised by the GSA VP Community Engagement.

A vote was called. All were in favor.

6:50 p.m. Student Wellness, Counselling Fund Agreement: Nabhan Refaie, GSA President & CEO.

Motion # 7 B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves the Counselling Services Agreement between Student Wellness Services and the GSA.

Motioned by A. Urtheil, Seconded by N. Refaie

- To develop an agreement/program that can be used to enhance the capacity of mental health services for graduate students.
- Budget approved at Annual General Meeting
- \$5000 in Funding to be transferred annually to Student Counselling Services
- Funds to cover part of costs not covered by insurance
- Funding to be provided by means of visa gift cards that can be used towards payments.

A vote was called. All were in favor.

7:05 p.m. Food Bank Funding Letter: Nabhan Refaie, GSA President & CEO and Rebecca Randle, GSA VP Community Engagement

N. Refaie discussed the following:

- Current annual donation of \$7,500 provided to food bank
- In coordination with the CSA, looking at having a permanent funding agreement for the following reasons:
 1. 80% of food bank users are graduate students
 2. Graduate students pay a lower compulsory fee towards the food bank as compared to undergraduate students.
- The funding to be adjusted annually as per CPI.
- The CSA provides VP Community Engagement, a report outlining how many graduate students are served on the Food bank every year, to ensure if there is a change in how the Food Bank operates, student funding will be available without any issues.

There was a discussion on the topic, prioritizing the importance and continued support required for the food bank.

A vote was called. All were in favor.

7:15 p.m. Executive Elections Update: Emily Minard, GSA VP Internal

E. Minard stated there was no update at this point since the election only ends today at 11:59pm. Updates to be provided later.

7:20 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates

A Urtheil sought clarification on what topics were to be discussed in departmental updates. It was confirmed that any information beneficial to be included in the GSA materials can be discussed in this section.

O. Ozoemena discussed the topic of the Health and Insurance Plan and the possibility for full coverage as opposed to the existing 80% coverage. N. Refaie responded any changes would need to be addressed by the Student Health and Dental Plan Committee and then discussed with the insurance company which is not an easy process. Being part of that committee will be an opportunity to have your views heard. Urging those interested to join.

7:30 p.m. Question Period

There were no questions at the time.

7:35 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports

7:35 p.m. GSA President Report – Nabhan Refaie

N. Refaie shared the following updates:

- Positive Feedback received for 2024 AGM
- Working on Executive Transitions
- VP Academic position currently contested with 2 candidates
- General Education Campaign
 - Students' involvement in issues of provincial funding
 - Issues of shortages of counselling staff
 - Higher food and housing prices
- Applications for a GSA Communications Coordinator position open until Friday and interviews to be scheduled for next week.
- Manpreet Kaur to assume the role of Events Coordinator
- Developed agreements for appointed officers and contractors to ensure compensation and responsibilities are in order.
- GSA Elections end tonight. Encouraging more students to vote so we can meet quorum.

Thank you to everyone, it's been a fun year.

7:55 p.m. VP Internal – Emily Minard

E. Minard shared the following updates:

- Meeting with CRO Maryam to schedule election dates
- Working with J Yates who is currently uncontested for the position of VP Internal
- Grocery Bus Initiative
- Bus departing for the last time on Saturday April 20th due to lack of funding. Reach out to Gryphonbus@uoguelph.ca for seat reservations.

Thank you to everyone for your support during my role as VP Internal with a special shoutout to Nabhan our GSA President.

8:10 p.m. VP Finance - Mingze Li

M. Li shared the following:

Thank you to Nabhan for his leadership and all the best for your journey ahead. Also, a shoutout to all our General Directors and our GSA Team for their hard work.

- Completed process for Business Credit Card with RBC. Hoping to receive the card next month. This will help our General Directors to monitor our transactions and add to transparency.
- No Finance committee scheduled for Monday since we have not received many bursary applications for approval.

8:10 p.m. VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle

R. Randle shared the following:

- Meeting with MPP was fruitful. Positive feedback on supporting graduate students and funding.

- Advocate for more funding coming from the government, which will help the university and graduate students.
- Both colleges and universities are currently underfunded by the government
- MPP approaches is to create a collective campus wide effort to create public awareness for this chronic underfunding and build public pressure to convince the government to increase funding.
- Meeting with restructuring committee regarding communications updates for the new website.
 - Include a calendar with important deadlines such as Tri Council, Health and Dental Plan, OGS etc.
 - Expanding tabs for events and other categories for easy access

8:20 p.m. Arising Business

There were no topics of Arising Business to discuss.

8:23 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 R. Randle, Seconded by A. Urtheil. Motion carries.

There was a discussion on improvements to the Elections.

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

Motioned by Nabhan, Seconded by O. Ozoemena. Motion carries.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned, and the next GSA Board meeting is the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 22nd 2024. Please send your regrets no later than May 21st 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;">Emily Minard GSA Vice President - Internal</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">David Said Chair</p>

EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

President & CEO – Emily Minard

Hi everyone!

I hope all of you have had a good start to your summer semester and have been able to take some much-needed rest enjoying the warmer weather. Before I get into my updates, I want to officially congratulate the new GSA executive team! I'm very happy to introduce Jake and Manjurul as our VP Internal and VP Academic respectively, and I'm incredibly excited to see all the great things they'll do during their term. Additionally, I'm very happy to continue working with Marcellus and Rebecca, our re-elected VP Finance and VP Community Engagement! With that said, you can find my updates below:

Executive Transition

Most of my time over the past few weeks have been focusing on getting our new executives transitioned – especially our VP Internal and Academic. This has entailed working with Jake to go over recommendations to bylaw changes, introduction to the bylaws committee, and providing an overview of our board and committees. Moreover, I have attended several meetings with key university administrators with Manjurul discussing academic-related issues, have discussed GSA clubs accreditation, and have helped with resolving academic disputes.

GSA – CUPE Transition Lunch

The outgoing and incoming GSA and CUPE executives met at The Lookout for lunch on April 23rd. Here, we discussed what the goals and priorities were for GSA and CUPE moving forward and we shared conversations over how we could potentially work together/partner on projects.

GSA – CSA Transition Lunch

The outgoing and incoming GSA and CSA executives met at The Lookout for lunch on April 25th. We were able to introduce all of ourselves and what each of our executive roles were. After lunch we gave the CSA a tour of our GSA offices and received a tour of the CSA offices.

Meeting with Jen Durst, Student Experience

On April 25th, Manjurul and I met with Jen from Student Experience to talk further about what developing a GSA clubs accreditation system would look like. Manjurul and I were able to get a much clearer image from our conversation regarding what this process would look like.

The Lookout Summer Menu Tasting

I met with Mike Calvert and Brooke Crease from UC Services on April 26th to try out The Lookout's new summer menu. While I was able to provide suggestions for how some of the items could be improved, the new menu is overall delicious! My favourite was the shawarma wrap – I recommend giving the new menu a try!

GSA Communications Coordinator Hiring

On April 24th the previous GSA executives held interviews for the new Communications Coordinator role. On April 26th after coming to a collective decision, we officially hired Joshua Gonzales for the role! We are incredibly excited about his new position and can't wait to see all of the great work we know he'll do 😊

Board Appreciation Lunch

On April 30th we had our board appreciation lunch at The Lookout. Thank you to all who attended, it was great seeing you!

Meeting with Ben Bradshaw

On April 13th Manjurul and I met with Ben to discuss academic-related matters. I brought up the issues we continually receive from students regarding the effects of having either an absent supervisor or a poor relationship with a supervisor. I asked about ways we can help enforce supervisors to foster improved relationships with their students and provide consistent communication. Ben explained that navigating these relationships can be very difficult, but essentially the students would have to first try to resolve the conflict with their GPA, then department head, then college Chair, and finally to Ben if it couldn't be resolved within the college. He then provided us with several links outlining key stipulations that Manjurul could refer to in the future when navigating academic disputes.

I then asked Ben about graduate enrolment and how that may be expected to increase. Ben said that the university's goal is to have 4000 graduate students enrolled by 2028 (1400 course-based Masters, 50 GDips, 1400 PhDs).

GSA – VPSA Meeting

The GSA executives met with Melinda Scott (VPSA) on April 13th. Seeing as this was our first meeting with Melinda as a new executive, we spent most of our meeting with introductions and talking about what focuses we have over our terms. Some of the topics that came out of these discussions included improving GSA awareness, being more involved in orientation events, GSA club's accreditation, and improving food and housing insecurity. During our conversations surrounding housing insecurity, I asked about whether the university has plans to expand its graduate student housing – the unfortunate short answer to this was no.

Executive Committee Meeting

I chaired our Executive Committee meeting on April 14th. In this meeting we each took turns sharing our executive updates and discussed some housekeeping items such as scheduling of our meetings and ensuring all of our executives remember to complete the mandatory online training modules that were introduced in our recent bylaw changes.

Meeting with GSA Communications Coordinator

I met with Josh on April 14th to discuss ideas I have for improving GSA awareness on our social media. As well, I highlighted key areas within my position as President that could also be included on our social media. We discussed several ideas for Instagram posts based off these conversations – I’m very excited to see what we’ll come out with!

Academic and Progress Committee

I met with the A&P Committee on April 16th; however, because this is technically under the Vice President Academic’s portfolio now, I’m going to reach out to the Chair, Karl Cottenie, to ask for removal of my name from their membership list and for it to be replaced with Manjurul’s.

Those are all of my updates, folks! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me 😊

Emily Minard

GSA President & CEO

gsapres@uoguelph.ca

VP Internal – Jacob Yates

Hello Everyone!

It has been a hectic start to the month! I hope everyone has been enjoying the nicer weather so far! My first two weeks have mainly been focused on learning as much as I can about the role, getting things set-up and completing some required training. This will be a brief report as I've only had two weeks in this role, but please see my few summary notes below:

- GSA executives met with the vice-provost student affairs to discuss goals for the year. Food insecurity, graduate student funding, housing and building up the sense of community amongst graduate students was discussed.
- Met with GSA communications coordinator to identify some things that could be marketed to graduate students. Using various means of communication to increase awareness about the different services and grants the GSA offers.
- Meet & greet with the CUPE3913 and CSA incoming executives.

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

Thanks,
Jake

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 make decisions on the 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

Hello all,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the start of summer! It has been a quiet month for Marcellus and me as the other executives focus on transitioning into their new roles. Also, many committees that only meet in the fall and winter have wrapped up for the summer. Please find below a summary of my responsibilities since the May board meeting:

Transition Meetings

The outgoing and incoming execs met with CSA, CUPE 3913, and the new VP of Student Affairs over the last few weeks. The goal of these meetings was to begin to establish relationships and collective goals for the upcoming year so that we can continue to maintain these important relationships. It also allowed the new executives within these organizations to gain a better understanding of how we've worked together in the past and what collaboration will likely look like moving into the new term.

Transit

This month has been all about bus passes. As the university systems transition from fall/winter enrollment to summer enrollment, we've had a bunch of issues with student cards/UPasses not working. Guelph Transit had some issues on their end of the system for a period of time as well which made for a complicated situation. Michelle checked in with the administrators on the university side of bus pass enrollment and things seem to be working normally now, fortunately. We've also had many inquiries about summer bus pass opt-ins which we do not currently offer based on our existing contract with Guelph Transit. Currently, only enrolled graduate students (those who have paid the GSA student fee for the semester) are eligible for the discounted student bus pass. The CSA offers opt-ins as undergraduate students are typically only enrolled for the fall and winter semesters. Their student fees are also structured to account for this (annual amounts are collected through the fall/winter vs. GSA's annual amounts are divided over all three semesters) and they have the staffing resources to collect payments and distribute passes. However, it would still be ideal if we could offer bus passes to the small group of graduate students who take a leave of absence for the summer. At our Transit Meeting next week (the morning before the board meeting) we're going to discuss whether this might be a feasible change for the GSA to offer next summer.

We held interviews for the GSA Communications Coordinator position, and I am happy to announce that our new Communications Coordinator started on May 1st! His name is Josh, many folks may know him as he was previously a GD. He's doing a fantastic job and has already helped to make some much-needed changes and updates.

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

Meeting with AVP-Graduate Studies

Government Commitment to New Allocation for Tri-Agency Scholarships

- We discussed the government's commitment to new allocations for tri-agency scholarships. The conversation included strategies for harmonizing the university's existing funding mechanisms with the new government allocations. Challenges remain, such as disparities in funding options among departments, with some having significantly less funding. However, the University of Guelph will address these discrepancies.

Academic Dispute Resolution Policy

- We reviewed the academic dispute resolution policy, focusing on the support and role of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) in this regard. The AVP of Graduate Studies shared valuable resources to support graduate students, which can be applied on a case-by-case basis. We also discussed on generative AI use policy of the University of Guelph. There is clear guidance on the use of generative ai for graduate students, their advisors, and graduate programs at the University of Guelph. This guidance on generative AI uses can be useful for AI use-related dispute resolution.

Enrollment Trends in Graduate Programs

- We explored the enrollment trends for domestic and international students in course-based and thesis-based master's and doctoral programs. Recent trends indicate an increase in international student enrollment and a slight decrease in domestic student enrollment. The University of Guelph aims to achieve an enrollment target of 4,000 graduate students by 2028.

Activities Coordinator – Manpreet Kaur

Pending Updates.

Email: gsaact@uoguelph.ca for any queries.

Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales

List of Monthly Activities

- Took over the social media accounts and started to create a more consistent brand image for the GSA.
- Met with executives to determine what to promote within each individual’s portfolios.
- Started strategic plan leading up to the fall semester.
- Initiated development of templates for future events, activities, and resources.
- Started creating documentation for future communications coordinator on-boarding.

List of Upcoming Deliverables

- Solidify strategic plan to create a more consistent posting schedule.
- Talk to general directors individually to ensure they have the tools needed to communicate with students in their departments. so they are aware of the resources available to them.
- Work on creating visual resources for specific areas of interest so executives and GDs can share with the grad student population.

Office Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

Its been a good start to the 2024-2025 year. Some of the key tasks covered:

- Completion of the Summer Accreditation Process with the University of Guelph
- Assisting Executives through the transition process.
- Working with the bank to complete all updated signing authorities for the new fiscal year.
- Business Cards for new executive team
- Expediting Internal Payments for the Winter 2024 semester
- Payment expedited to University Centre Services for 2023-2024 Lookout Operational costs which includes 2023-2024 management fee and 50% Share of Operational Loss.
- Attended CSA/GSA Transit Committee Meeting with Guelph Transit

Thank you,

Michelle Morris
GSA Office Manager

DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Departmental Reports

Animal Bioscience

Report:

Report by:

Biomedical Science

Report:

Report by:

Black Student Representatives

Report: Mavis and I have been supporting the Cultural Diversity Office by helping with the upcoming Black Brilliance Conference. The annual conference will be held on May 29 and will see high school students visiting the University's campus and learning about what UofG has to offer. The promotional materials are below.

Report by: Akierah Binns

Business Administration/Management

Report:

Report by:

Chemistry

Report: CEPS Clubs, associations & reps met on the 1ST of May 2024 and discussed the plans to socialize this summer and the way forward for members. We also met on the 14th of May. Top in the agenda was Ten Thousand Coffees which enables students to connect with UoG alumni, opening new career pathways and unlocking opportunities to shape their future.

Report by: Okoroike C. Ozoemena

Clinical Studies

Report:

Report by:

Computing & Information (Computer Science)

Report:

Report by:

Economics and Finance

Report: No Updates

Report by: David Bailey

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: No updates.

Report by: Yuxin Hu

Food, Agriculture & Resource Economics

Report:

Report by:

Geography

Report: Our geography symposium was a huge success, attendees reported significantly enjoying the event and appreciating the department collegiality fostered by the event. We hope that this event will be recurring annually.

Report by: Peter Duker and Manjurul Islam.

History

Report:

Report by:

Hospitality, Food & Tourism

Report:

Report by:

Human Health & Nutritional Science (HHNS)

Report: Nothing new to report!

Report by: Barbara Hyde-Lay

Indigenous Student Representatives

Report:

Report by:

Integrative Biology

Report:

Many **IB Spring defenses** occurred at the end of the W24 semester

Some IB students are out **in the field** now and throughout the summer to collect samples for their studies

Some IB students in physiology recently attended the **2024 Canadian Society of Zoologists (CSZ)** in Moncton, New Brunswick from May 6th-10th. We had two grad students present oral presentations, one present a poster, and one acted as a student councillor on the conference organizing committee. We also had two IB faculty present talks that focused on student work. It was a fun and productive meeting for all! 😊

Our **2024 Graduate Student Symposium (GSS)** occurred on Tuesday April 30th, 2024. This was a college-wide event with ~35 oral presentations, ~50 poster presentations, and faculty keynote speakers over a catered lunch. What a great day of showcasing our students' excellence and cross-disciplinary networking! 😊

Report by: Liz Manchester (emanches@uoguelph.ca)

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: A cookie decorating contest was hosted for graduate students on May 3 followed by a departmental-wide pizza lunch on May 10 for new students and faculty. Board game nights are happening every Wednesday, and Ultimate Frisbee days will be announced soon.

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: no updates

Report by: Olivia O'Neill

Sociology & Anthropology

Report:

Report by:

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: Have not met

Next Meeting:

Animal Care Committee

Meeting date: May 10 2024

Report: Business as usual for the ACC. Several site visits upcoming.

Next Meeting: June 7 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: April 29th

Report: One member is graduating.

Next Meeting: TBD

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:
Report: No updates. The meetings for OUTline Committee for the 2023/2024 year concluded on April 15.
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: April 25th 2024

Report: No new updates

Next Meeting: May 29th 2024

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: The GSA Volunteer Committee did not meet this month.

Report: N/A
Next Meeting: TBD