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# BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

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Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

UC Room # 441

5:30 PM

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## **GSA Board Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m

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Please send Regrets to [gsa@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsa@uoguelph.ca), no later than February 25th 2025 at 12 p.m.  
5:30 p.m. Call to Order: Roodiya Awosanmi, 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 February 26<sup>th</sup> , 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.**

Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 be approved as presented.**

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

5:50 p.m. Faculty of Graduate Studies: Dr. Ben Bradshaw, Assistant Vice President (Graduate Studies)

6:00 p.m. PDR: International Women's Day Conference 2025, College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS)

**MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$1,000 to the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences in support of the International Women's Day Conference 2025.**

6:15 p.m. PDR: 2025 Graduate Student Symposium, College of Biological Science

**MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$\$ 1,000 to the College of Biological**

**Science in support of the 2025 Graduate Student Symposium.**

6:30 p.m. PDR: Graduate Geography Student Symposium 2025, Graduate Geography Student Society

**MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$ 2,275 to the Graduate Geography Student Society in support of the Graduate Geography Student Symposium 2025.**

6:45 p.m. Mental Health Initiative; MintOT and Tonia – GSA VP Community Engagement

**MOTION #6 B.I.R.T the GSA allocate \$59,401 for mental health support services facilitated by Tonia Cordi.**

7:00 p.m. ONCA Compliant Bylaws – GSA VP Internal

**MOTION #7: B.I.R.T the GSA approve the proposed ONCA compliant bylaws for ratification at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.**

7:15 p.m. Departmental and Committee Reports – Please see the Departmental & Committee reports section of the Board Meeting Materials, below.

7:20 p.m. Question Period

7:30 p.m. Executive Reports

7:40 p.m. President & CEO: Emily Minard

7:50 p.m. V.P. Internal: Jacob Yates

8:00 p.m. V.P. Financial: Mingze Li

8:10 p.m. V.P. Academic: M. Manjurul Islam

8:20 p.m. V.P. Community Engagement: Rebecca Randle

8:30 p.m. Arising Business

8:40 p.m. In Camera Session

**MOTION #8: 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 #9: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting ‘In-Camera’ session end.**

Adjournment

## GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025 5:30pm

Hybrid Teams Meeting, Room 441



### ATTENDEES PRESENT

GSA Executives	
Emily Minard	President and CEO
Jacob Yates	Vice President Internal
Mingze Li (Marcellus)	Vice President Finance
M. Manjurul Islam	Vice President, Academic
Rebecca Randle	Vice President Community Engagement
General Directors	
Akierah Binns	Black Student Representatives
Mavis Opoku	
David Bahrami Grace Goderre	Biomedical Science
Okoroike Ozoemena Michael Capperault	Chemistry
Spandana Chereddy	Computing and Information Science
Yusra Hasan Alexander Urtheil	Engineering
Siamoy Stewart	Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management
Elizabeth Heaton	History
Barbara Hyde-Lay Ashly Sharma	Human Health and Nutritional Sciences
Juno McGowan	LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative
Erin Howard	Pathobiology
Sydney LeBlanc	Political Science and International Development
Jayden Cote	School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
Nabhan Refaie	Business Management
Yuxin Hu	Food Science
Jayden Cote	School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
Oveka Obroh	Geography, Environment and Geomatics
Guests	
Kimber Munford	Vice President External, CUPE #3913
Benjamin Bradshaw	Assistant Vice President, Graduate Studies
Christopher Laursen	Educational Developer, Office of Teaching and Learning

Staff (Non-voting)	
Michelle Morris	GSA, Office Manager

**Regrets with Notification:** Nealob Kakar, PDR presenter for International Women’s Day Conference.

**Regrets without Notification:** None.

5:30p.m. Call to Order: Roodiya Awosanmi, 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 January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.**

Motioned by O. Ozoemena, seconded by Y. Hasan. Motion carries

Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, be approved as presented.**

Motioned by Y. Hasan, seconded by A. Urtheil. Motion carries

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

K. Munford shared the following updates:

- Winter membership hybrid meeting on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm to 9pm
- Watch for materials and events. New campaign forth coming.
- Soliciting information from graduate students regarding their experience at UofG.
- Discussion on problems faced by overworked TA’s.

5:50 p.m. Faculty of Graduate Studies: Dr Ben Bradshaw, Asst Vice President (Graduate Studies)

B. Bradshaw shared the following:

- Information on upcoming available positions at the University, mainly
  - University President
  - Student Representative.
  - Dean of OAC
- Registration of International applicants to begin with requirement of provincial attestation (PAL)
  - Applications down 10% for fall 2025.
- Graduate funding
  - Competitive offers for incoming students
  - Infusion of scholarship funding
  - Graduate student scholarships
  - \$750,000 in awards dispensed to students by OAC
- Transition from graduate student settlement for thesis-based students last semester

### Question Period

There was a discussion on the topic of payroll deduction and the payment process. Students shared the

issues they are currently facing. Ben to investigate further and discuss at the next board meeting.

6:00 p.m. PDR - Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference, Office and Teaching and Learning  
C. Laursen, co-chair of the 2025 TLI conference outlined the main points:

- 2-day conference
  - o May 14<sup>th</sup> in person
  - o May 15<sup>th</sup> virtual
- Theme - cultivating spaces of possibilities really evokes how educators make learning environments into spaces that truly inspire and advance learning.
- Anticipate more than 200 participants (faculty, sessional instructors, graduate and undergraduates)
- Proposing GSA to cover registration fees for 30 graduate students. (\$65 x 30 students = \$1,950)
- Graduate students seeking the discount code will be directed from the registration website to e-mail requesting the code and confirm their status.

There was a discussion, and questions were raised by the board regarding last year's event. It was also confirmed the funding from the GSA would solely be utilised towards graduate student registration.

The motion passed and clarification was sought from the presenter. It was confirmed that funding would be expedited to the final number of graduate students registered.

**MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$1,950 to the Office of Teaching and Learning in support of the 2025 Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference**

Motioned by E. Minard, seconded by R. Randle. Motion carries

6:15 p.m. PDR – International Women’s Day Conference 2025, College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS)

The presenter was unable to attend due to unexpected circumstances. The presentation is now rescheduled for the February board meeting.

**MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$1,000 to the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences in support of the International Women’s Day Conference 2025.**

The motion was postponed.

6:30 p.m. Release of Funds for General Director Honorarium

J. Yates shared the calculation and responsibilities outlined in the contract for the General Director monthly honorarium.

Divided into equal payments per month, dependent on meeting the completion of assigned tasks.

**MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. the GSA release \$625 for payment of General Director Honorariums for the period of October 2024 to December 2024.**

Motioned by A. Urtheil, seconded by R. Randle. Motion carries.

A vote was called. All in favor.

6:40 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates

No updates were shared.

6:45 p.m. Question Period

There were no questions at the time.

6:50 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports

6:50 p.m. GSA President Report – Emily Minard

E. Minard shared the following:

- Meeting with B. Bradshaw and M. Islam to discuss individual student cases.
- Athletic Advisory Committee – department facing substantial cut of \$2.25 million in funding with an expectation to fund themselves through their own business model. Reduction in fitness centre hours, lack of accessibility to resources and cutback on staffing.
- Met with off campus therapy group MintOT. Aim to have more one-on-one therapy group sessions for graduate students both in person and virtually. Carry forward SLEF Funding application submitted.

Clarity was sought if a portion of the therapy would go towards the LGBTQIA marginalized groups. It was confirmed therapy would not be group specific but cover a broad list of topics.

7:00 p.m. VP Internal – Jacob Yates

J. Yates shared the following updates:

- UC529 Update
  - Physical resources to meeting with M. Calvert to discuss next steps looking at the approved budget allocations.
  - Anticipating vacant General Director positions to be filled by Winter 2025 by elections which is underway.
  - Executive Nomination period starts February 3<sup>rd</sup> . Encouraging current General Directors to apply.

7:10 p.m. VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam

M. Islam shared the following:

- Attended Admissions and Progress Committee meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> . Individual student files were assessed, and decisions were made based on evaluations.

7:20 p.m. VP Finance - Mingze Li

- Last year's GIC investment is nearing maturity. Exploring market for profitable options.
  - \$9000 in interest gained through current investment.
  - Funds to be allocated to grants and bursaries to support graduate students.

M. Li further shared figures on the current PDR allocation and balances.

7:30 p.m. VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle

R. Randle shared the following:



- Thoughts were shared by the board on the benefits of such support groups and coaching.

## 7:50 p.m. In Camera Session

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

**MOTION #12: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting 'In-Camera' session end.**

## Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned and the next GSA Board meeting scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please send your regrets no later than February 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m.

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

## PDR – International Women’s Day Conference 2025

IWD Conference 2025 Budget			
Revenue (Sources)	Last Year	Actual	Projected
Leftover Funds from previous year			
Psychology Department	\$600		
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (Dean)	\$400	\$3,636	\$3,636
Political Science Department (Leah Levac + Deborah Stienstra)	\$200	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Sociology and Anthropology Department	\$400.00		
Geography	\$500		
Carla Rice and Marnie Eves (Revision)		\$200.00	\$200.00
OPIRG			
Community Engaged Scholarship Institute	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Student Life Enhancement Fund	\$1,000		\$800
Graduate Student Association			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$9,100</b>	<b>\$8,136</b>	<b>\$8,936</b>
Expenses			
Room Fees (UC; includes setup and equipment)	\$304.00		
ASL Translators		\$800	\$800.00
Student Organizers Compensation (20 weeks)	\$6,000.00	\$3,000	\$3,000.00
Keynote Speakers	\$2,500.00	\$2,500	\$2,500.00
Workshop Presenters/Panelists	\$300.00	\$1,300	\$1,300.00
Feminist Entertainment	\$250.00		
Student Event Team (2x7 hours x \$25/hr)		\$350	\$350.00
Gift Card Giveaways	\$100.00		
Advisory Committee Honorariums	\$300.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Student Presenter Bursary Grant		\$250.00	\$250.00
Student Note Takers & Graphic Recorder		\$1,860	\$1,860.00
Mailing cost for prizes/honourarium/thank you bags	\$100.00	\$200	\$200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,854.00</b>	<b>\$11,060</b>	<b>\$11,060.00</b>
<b>Total</b>			

# PDR – Graduate Student Symposium 2025

GSS 2025 Budget									
<div> <div> NAME OF APPLICANT:  GENERAL EMAIL OF APPLICANT:  Primary Contact Person:  Primary Contact's Email:  Secondary Contact Person:  Secondary Contact's Email:  NAME OF INITIATIVE: </div> <div> CBS GSS 2025 Planning Committee  emanches@uoguelph.ca  Elizabeth Manchester  emanches@uoguelph.ca  Virginia Capmourtes  vcapmour@uoguelph.ca  CBS 2025 Graduate Student Symposium </div> </div>									
						APPLICATION BUDGET (Estimated)			Final Report Budget (Actual)
<b>INCOME</b>									
Amount of funds requested						\$ 1,000.00	Amount Received		
Registration/Admission fee: 0							Actual Fee		
Estimated # of Registrations/Tickets: 175							Actual #		
Total Estimated Fee Revenue						\$ -	Actual Fee Revenue		\$ -
Other Income (ie: PDR, Grants, Sponsorships, contribution from organization bank account)									
Source: CBS ADR Office						Amount: \$ 5,000.00	Source (rename)		
Source: Student Life Enhancement Fund						Amount: TBD	Source (rename)		
Source: Sarstedt						Amount: TBD			
Source:						Amount:			
Source:						Amount:			
Source:						Amount:			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>						<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
<b>SITE/FACILITY EXPENSES</b>									
Room Booking (rename as appropriate)						\$ -	(Rename if needed)		
Equipment rental						\$ 300.00			
Table & Chairs Rental						\$ 100.00			
Lookour Rental						\$ 500.00			
<b>TOTAL SITE/FACILITY EXPENSES</b>						<b>\$ 900.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>FOOD/REFRESHMENT EXPENSES</b>									
Catering/ Food and beverages						\$ 5,500.00	(Rename if needed)		
<b>TOTAL FOOD/REFRESHMENT EXPENSES</b>						<b>\$ 5,500.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>PROMOTION EXPENSES</b>									
Photocopying/printing (rename as appropriate)						\$ 350.00	(Rename if needed)		
<b>TOTAL PROMOTION EXPENSES</b>						<b>\$ 350.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>PROGRAM/EVENT EXPENSES</b>									
Prizes for presenters						\$ 250.00	(Rename if needed)		
Gifts for judges						\$ 200.00			
Gifts for keynote speakers						\$ 200.00			
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM/EVENT EXPENSES</b>						<b>\$ 650.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES (rename as appropriate)</b>									
Raffle/door prizes						\$ 200.00	(Rename if needed)		
Misc expenses (pens, name tags, paper, etc...)						\$ 150.00			
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>						<b>\$ 350.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>						<b>\$ 7,750.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL PROFIT (OR LOSS)</b>						<b>\$ (1,750.00)</b>			<b>\$ -</b>

## **PDR – Graduate Geography Student Symposium 2025**

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### Budget

<b>LAST YEAR'S BREAKDOWN</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
GSA funding	2050	
<b>Exepnses:</b>		
Food/Catering	1500	
Poster Printing	300	
Best Poster Award	100	
Best Presentation Award	100	
Miscellaneous	50	
<b>GGSS SYMPOSIUM 2025 BUDGET BREAKDOWN</b>		
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>FOOD/CATERING</b>		
Lunch	\$15/person	1125
Snacks/coffee	\$5/person	350
<b>AWARDS</b>		
Best Oral Award	2 awards	200
Best poster	1 award	50
3MTP	1 award	50
<b>MISCELLANOUS</b>		
Poster printing	approx. 15	450
Other/Merch		50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>2275</b>

## **Mental Health Initiative; MintOT and Tonia**

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See attached presentation in meeting materials.

## **ONCA Compliant Bylaws**

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See attached Bylaws document.

## DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Departmental Reports

#### Animal Bioscience

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Biomedical Science

**Report:** Biomedical sciences welcomes students displaced by OVC flooding (primarily POPM students) to use our lounge space, which includes a fridge, sink, pantry, microwave, couches, and tables for eating and working. It is located at BIOM 2612 which is up the half-flight of stairs across from the anatomy lab entrance (BIOM 1618) in building 40.

**Report by:** David Bahrami & Grace Goderre

#### Black Student Representatives

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Business Administration/Management

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Chemistry

**Report:** The Guelph-Waterloo Centre for Graduate Work in Chemistry and Biochemistry will be having recruitment socials with faculty and current graduate students presenting posters on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, from 12:00-1:30 pm at MACN 222, Please come and join us for info.

**Report by:** Okoroike Ozoemena

#### Clinical Studies

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Computing & Information (Computer Science)

**Report:** IEEE WIE Seminar – Dr. Amira Ghenai will discuss the impact of hate speech on social media users.  
**Feb 21, 10 AM.**

**Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition** – A chance for grad students to present their research in just three minutes. Open to all Master's & PhD students.

**Report by:** Spandana Chereddy

## Economics and Finance

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Engineering

**Report:** No Engineering Department matters to report this month, thanks!

**Report by:** Yusra Hasan

## 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:** Departmental committee is organizing a semesterly social on Friday Feb 21.

**Report by:** Yuxin Hu

## Food, Agriculture & Resource Economics

**Report:**

**Report by:**



## Geography

**Report:** The Winter Speaker Geography Graduate Student Society (GGSS) Series has begun with sharing insight and research experiences. A presentation made on interdisciplinary approaches on Lemur conservation and research by Dr. Travis Steffens. Registration and preparation for the GGSS 2025 Three Minute Thesis Proposal (3MTP) Competition is ongoing. Student engaged in games and craft night for some mid semester destressing.

**Report by:** Oveka Obroh

## History

**Report:** A bunch of students have been putting together applications for the OGS Grant and travel grants for summer research travel. The Grad History Committee is beginning to put together the TRI-U History Conference.

**Report by:** Elizabeth Heaton

## 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:**

**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:** Pathobiology Coffee House will be running February 27 from 1:30-3:00 pm in PABI 3829

- Nature documentary, social, coffee and refreshments
- OVC Food Market continues every Monday from 3:00-5:00 pm in the OVC Cafeteria

**Report : Sam Dobson**

## Philosophy

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Physics

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Plant Agriculture

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Political Science

**Report:** There is an upcoming virtual Panel on February 27<sup>th</sup>: **Countering Policy Exclusions: Canada, Disability, and International Commitments**. The event will be on Zoom from 12:30-2:00 pm ET. Nothing else to report at this time.

**Report by: Sydney LeBlanc**

## Population Medicine

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Psychology

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Sociology & Anthropology

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## PhD in Social Practice and Transformational Change (SOPR)

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Committee Reports

### Alcohol & Substance Abuse Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:** 30<sup>th</sup> January

**Report:** Planning on Developing Drug Overdose Safety. During our last meeting we discussed strategies for overdose awareness and response, emphasizing phased implementation, stakeholder engagement, and harm reduction education. The next steps to be taken in our next meeting include drafting a recommendation document and involving campus resources to enhance safety measures.

**Next Meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### Animal Care Committee

**Meeting date:** Feb 7, 2025

**Report:** Nothing new to report from the ACC

**Next Meeting:** March 14, 2025

### Athletics Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

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

**Meeting date:** Feb 14<sup>th</sup>

**Report:** First round of revisions to ONCA compliant bylaws.

**Next Meeting:** Feb 18

### 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:**

## Digital and Technology Advisory Committee

**Meeting date: Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Report:**

- **Case Management Software Initiative:** Aims to streamline non-academic misconduct investigations at the University of Guelph. The RFP closed on February 5, with implementation planned for Winter 2026.
- **Graduate Admissions (Slate OGPS):** Proposal to implement Slate for graduate applications to enhance efficiency, aiming to increase applicant processing capacity and revenue.
- **AI Initiatives:** Discussions on forming an AI Steering Committee, piloting generative AI chatbots for student services, and expanding the Registrar Chatbot for academic advising and CourseLink support.

**Next Meeting:**

## Equity Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Finance Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Health & Dental Plan

**Meeting date:** Have not met

**Report:** The committee have not met this year.

**Next Meeting:** Still waiting to hear from them

## Hospitality Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

**Meeting date:**

**Reports:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Human Rights Advisory Group

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:** N/A

## Judicial Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## OUTline 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:**

## Student Experience Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Food Security Committee

**Meeting date:** January 24, 2025

**Report:** Had a meeting to discuss the mandatory fees for undergrads and grad students for the 2025/26 year. I advocated for a little increase in fees for grad students as much as possible and was met with agreement by the other board members.

**Next Meeting:** March 7, 2025

## Student Leaders and Administration Meeting (SLAM) Committee

**Meeting date:** Jan 29

**Report:** Presentation from President's Mental Health task force. Discussion focused around how to implement and deliver a course addressing mental health resources that can be used to help individuals with their own mental health needs.

**Next Meeting:** Feb 25

## Student Life Award Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Life Enhancement Fund (SLEF)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Mental Health and Well-Being Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Wellness Advisory Group

**Meeting date:** Monday Feb 24 (update to follow. Will be focused on counselling resources and referrals)

- Grace Goderre

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Student Wellness EDI Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

## Transit Committee (GSA/CSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**



## EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

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### President & CEO – Emily Minard

Hi everyone,

Hope you each had a break during the reading week or were able to get caught up on grading, research, etc.! As well, welcome to the new GDs who were elected during our byelections! I am really looking forward to working with you 😊 As well, our GSA Annual General Meeting is upcoming! It will be held at The Lookout on March 26<sup>th</sup> (more information to follow). As some of you may know, we need a minimum of 100 graduate student votes to hold the meeting, so we need all of you in attendance and to help us spread the word! You are also able to collect proxy votes from your friends who are unable to make the meeting which counts as more votes for yourself! There will also be substantial prizes including:

Most Proxy Votes

1. \$1,250
2. \$1,000
3. \$750

Random Attendance:

- 3 prizes valued at \$500

More information regarding registration details and how to collect proxies will be coming and posted to our social medias and webpage! With that said, below you will find my updates 😊

### **Student Executive Council**

I chaired the SEC meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting I received updates on events and elections being ran by various undergraduate student groups on campus and was able to provide updates on graduate student issues and GSA events.

### **Student Life Enhancement Fund (SLEF)**

I met with the SLEF committee on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to go over the SLEF applications we received for events/projects running this semester. We were able to finalize our funding allocation by February 4<sup>th</sup> and submit our decisions to the Compulsory Fees Committee for review.

### **SLEF Carry-Forward Funding**

I met with a working group from SLEF on January 29<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> to go over applications for funding requests to the carry-forward funds that had accumulated from previous years. We finalized funding decisions on the 13<sup>th</sup> and will have the Compulsory Fees Committee approve our recommendations before contacting those who submitted.

### **UC Finance Committee**

I met with this committee on February 4<sup>th</sup> to approve UC budgets before going to the UC Governance committee.

### **Student Food Security Committee**

I met with this group on February 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss with other key food security figures on campus what food insecurity-related events and projects are underway. One project that is coming is being held on March 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a food insecurity workshop organized by Sam Laban from Guelph Lab and myself, CSA reps, and several admins will be attending.

### **CUPE meeting and tabling**

I met with CUPE on February 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss campaigning ideas. CUPE is running a campaign called #SaveOurSchool to bring awareness to the issues surrounding areas such as housing, finances (i.e. graduate settlement, HR system errors, etc.), over enrollment and more. The GSA will be helping to spread awareness of these issues as well through circulating their campaign materials. For more information on this you can visit CUPE's social media.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> I also tabled with CUPE for a couple of hours in the UC. This gives the GSA an opportunity to connect with graduate and undergraduate students and tell them about CUPE and GSA benefits and talk about student issues with them.

### **GSA Executive Meeting**

I met with the GSA executives on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. We discussed a wide range of issues and provided our individual updates at these meetings. Some key items discussed were the SLEF carry-forward applications we submitted for the GSA Space Initiative and the MintOT Mental Health programs. We also discussed issues relating to the upcoming elections and collaborating with the CSA to hold an event with our Guelph MP at The Lookout. A final topic we spent time discussing has been details surrounding our AGM.

### **Student Leaders and Administrators Meeting**

I attended SLAM on January 29<sup>th</sup> where we received a presentation from the Student Mental Health Task Force. After the presentation we were able to provide further insights on key areas we would like the university to focus on. One such area I brought up was providing teaching assistants compensation for completing mental health training so they can respond meaningfully to student mental health concerns.

Jake and I attended a follow-up meeting to discuss mental health issues and current initiatives with Raquel, who is leading the Student Mental Health task force. We met with her on January 31<sup>st</sup> to continue our discussions.

### **Ethnic Cuisines and Student Event Catering Working Group**

I met with this working group on February 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues surrounding ethnic cuisine on campus. Naomi, from the CSA, spoke largely to the inauthenticity of Black/ Caribbean/ Jamaican food on campus; I discussed how I really appreciated the celebratory décor during Chinese New

Year but would have liked to have seen traditional Chinese food rather than Asian American Chinese food.

### **Athletics Advisory Council**

I met with the AAC on February 11<sup>th</sup> to finalize recommendations from the AAC Finance working group. We also heard presentations from student representatives on areas they wish to see focused on more.

### **Compulsory Fees Committee**

I met with the CFC on February 11<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we received presentations from various groups who have compulsory fees in student tuition. These groups provide us with brief presentations on why they are proposing fee increases (CPI 2.4% + an up to an additional 3% maximum). The committee then votes to either approve or reject these student fee increases. Unfortunately, due to some circumstances including the Chair of the meeting forfeiting their student vote, student votes were outnumbered by administrative votes. All fees were then passed to increase in the following semester.

### **UC Governance Board**

I met with this group on February 11<sup>th</sup> to approve budget presentations for UC Finances.

### **PASV and SCSGBV**

I met with this group on February 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss combining these two committees into one. As well, we received a presentation from Sexual and Gender Based Violence Education and Training. After this presentation I recommended that a program be offered to TAs and Instructors that provides compensation for completing relevant training. This recommendation was taken very well and sparked interest within the group.

### **GSA Bylaws – ONCA Compliance**

I met with our lawyers and the bylaws committee on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to get clarity on ONCA compliance, review the final bylaws draft, and make recommendations to the bylaws committee on miscellaneous changes.

### **Meetings with Ben Bradshaw**

I met with Ben on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss various individual student issues. As well, Ben expressed to me that he is looking for a recommendation from the GSA for organization of the tuition installment plan (i.e. how many installments, what times, etc.). I will be putting a survey together and distributing it to each of you and on our newsletter to collect this information before submitting a recommendation to him.

That's all from me! As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions 😊

**Emily**

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

VP Internal – Jacob Yates

Hi everyone!

Congratulations on your appointment to our new General Director! I look forward to working with you! I hope everyone had a great holiday break and the start to their new semester hasn't been too hectic!

Thanks again to the board for supporting the budget allocation for updating UC529! That has allowed us to begin the next steps with Mike!

General Director Appointments

- Still looking to fill out vacant GD positions
- W25 By-elections are now underway – thanks to our CRO Maryam!
- Executive elections are approaching – Nomination period starting Feb 3!

Committee Updates

- Please see committee Reports in Board Meeting materials for updates from me on the following committees
  - GSA Equity Ad-hoc Committee
  - GSA Bylaws & Constitution Committee
  - Student Leaders and Administrators (SLAM)

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out ([gsavpint@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsavpint@uoguelph.ca))!

Thanks,

**Jake**

VP Finance – Marcellus (Mingze) Li

Dear Folks, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to provide an update on the GIC (Guaranteed Investment Certificate) investment and our ongoing efforts to ensure the growth of our funding.

Recently, I connected with an RBC advisor to discuss the current status of our GIC investment. Based on their advice, the projected interest rate for the GIC is approximately 2.5%. Additionally, I am pleased to report that we have gained \$9,000 in interest from last year's investment.

Moving forward, I am actively exploring strategies to ensure our funding continues to grow. This includes evaluating alternative investment opportunities, optimizing our current portfolio, and seeking advice from financial experts to maximize returns while managing risks.

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

Best regards,

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

### **Senate Meeting Feb 2025**

During the February Senate meeting, a representative from the graduate student community articulated several significant concerns regarding unresolved issues related to tri-agency scholarships, HR payroll complications, and housing challenges encountered by graduate students. The representative expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which these issues have been addressed thus far. However, the Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies provided an update on these matters. The Senate acknowledged these concerns and reiterated their commitment to supporting graduate students in effectively tackling and resolving these issues.

### **Club Accreditation Policy**

The club accreditation policy has been revised and disseminated to the Advisor of Student Experience. A meeting is scheduled for early next month to finalize the policy and plan for its approval and implementation. Discussions related to insurance have commenced, and it is anticipated that these matters will be resolved following consultations with the Advisor of Student Experience.

### **Board of Graduate Studies Meeting Jan 2025**

During the last meeting, we discussed the Graduate Curriculum, specifically the Program Additions, Deletions, and Changes as follows: a) OAC: Introduction of a new program (Master of Animal Biosciences), b) COA: Major modification of the existing program (Master of Arts in Philosophy), c) CEPS and CSAHS: Major modification of the existing program (Master of Data Science).

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

Best Regards,

**M Manjurul Islam**

VP – Academic, GSA

[gsavpaca@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsavpaca@uoguelph.ca)

## VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle

Hello all,

I hope everyone is managing well with all of this snow! We've had a busy month beginning to prepare for our AGM in March and getting the mental health services proposal put together. Here are the other items I worked on this month:

### **Lloyd Longfield Townhall**

The CSA and GSA are hosting a townhall event with MP Lloyd Longfield on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm in the Lookout. Please attend if you can! We would love to see you there.

### **Transit Committee Meeting**

The GSA/CSA Transit Committee met on February 11<sup>th</sup> to review our Late Night Bus service ridership, discuss the 2025/2026 Late Night contract, and set up summer opt-ins. We had a total of 10,699 passengers use our Late Night service from August 30<sup>th</sup> to December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is a 24% increase from the same 2023 period. We are planning to continue with this year's routing and service hours next academic year, with some service improvements along Stone Rd. near the Walmart plaza. We are going to have graduate student bus pass opt-ins available again this summer for students who are taking a leave of absence or are enrolled in programs that do not run during the summer semester. I will discuss specifics for purchase at the AGM. We had several requests for this last year but did not end up selling any opt-in passes. In the fall semester, we will review the number of sales to determine if we want to offer this service for S26.

### **Bylaw Update Meeting**

Jake, Emily, and I met with the law firm working with us on our bylaws on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The bylaws are coming along well; we discussed some revisions and asked some questions about honoraria and taxation. Jake is overseeing the ByLaw updates, please refer to his summary.

### **State of The City 2025**

I attended the State of the City address on the morning of February 6<sup>th</sup> along with the CSA President, Nate, and a selection of key university administrators. The results of the Housing Affordability Committee that Emily and I sat on were presented to attendees. The University's interim President spoke, and the Mayor's Awards were distributed. Nate and I connected with MP Lloyd Longfield to discuss our upcoming townhall event. I spoke with the mayor to share some key GSA updates.

### **Meeting with CUPE3913**

Emily and I met with CUPE 3913's VP External, Kimber, on January 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss a campaign CUPE3913 is working on surrounding how recent administrative changes have negatively impacted graduate students. It has been commonly expressed both during and outside of our board meetings, that the current university climate could be more supportive of graduate students. Instead of adding services and supports, we are seeing them taken away with no plans to introduce equivalent alternatives. CUPE3913's "Save our School" campaign aims to capture this sentiment. The materials and promotional images for this campaign are being posted on CUPE3913's Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/gryphons3913?igsh=YjlyYXVuaHlhbXUw>.

## **SLAM**

Most of the GSA execs attended the SLAM meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>. We had a presentation from the Mental Health Taskforce. I will provide a summary of the relevant graduate student data from this presentation once the minutes from this meeting become available.

## **VPSA Meeting**

Jake, Emily, and I attended a meeting with the VPSA, Melinda, on January 29<sup>th</sup>. We provided Melinda with updates about what we have been working on, including our Mental Health services proposal. I again requested a copy of the Scion housing report. Melinda said she would get the report to us. As of the time of writing this report, I have not received a copy.

## **Meeting with CSA**

Jake and I met with CSA's VP of Student Experience, Naomi, on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss some possible standing events that CSA and GSA could collaborate on in the future. One of the most significant challenges that we identified was finding event contexts where it made sense for undergraduate and graduate students to attend. Ultimately, we decided that we are going to aim to host an event during Grad Launch week in April where undergraduate students interested in attending graduate school can come and speak to current graduate students about their experience. Part of the event would be a fun activity such as trivia themed around important graduate school information (e.g. Who is CUPE? What is the GSA? Etc.), and the other half would be for open discussion. We would be aiming to start this next year as Grad Launch for this year has already been planned.

That's all for this month! Please feel free to reach out to me via email at [gsavpext@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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



Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales

Hello Everyone,

We will be implementing a new mid-month email sent out to students about upcoming deadlines.

Unlike the normal monthly email, this will only inform students of impending deadlines, so that we don't miss anything that gets sent to us early in the month with a mid-month deadline (e.g. if someone sends us something February 10 but the deadline is February 20).

Thanks,  
**Josh**

Activities Coordinator – Manpreet Kaur

**Hello Everyone,**

Our Trivia and Paint Night events continue to run successfully, with strong participation from attendees. Our most recent Trivia Night had **30 participants**, while **Paint Night saw 35 attendees**, reflecting a growing interest in these activities.

We will try Bingo night in April. The positive response highlights the value of these events in fostering community engagement and interaction. We will continue to monitor participation and explore opportunities to enhance these experiences further.

Thank you,  
**Manpreet**

Office Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello All,

Hope everyone is doing well.

- Interim Winter 2025 Student fee payments expedited.

A few reminders:

**GSA Executive Elections:**

Self-Nomination Period: February 3<sup>rd</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>

Campaign Period: March 5<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>

Voting Period: March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Date: Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30pm onwards

Venue: The Lookout, UC Level 5 North

Looking forward to having everyone join us this year.

Best,

**Michelle**