



BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

Wednesday, June 25th, 2025

UC Room # 332

5:30 PM

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GSA Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday June 25th 5:30 p.m.

Please send Regrets to gsa@uoguelph.ca, no later than June 24th, 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 June 25th, 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. The GSA Meeting Minutes of May 21st, 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: 2025 OVC Graduate Student Research Symposium

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the release of \$ 876.75 to the Ontario Veterinary College in support of the 2025 OVC Graduate Student Research Symposium.

6:15 MintOT contract update – GSA VP Community Engagement, GSA President

MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the increase of the budget for the nutritious food and tea for the drop-in Mint-OT community study hall and drop-in support from \$675 to \$1,000.

6:25 p.m. Bylaws amendment and policy approvals – VP Internal

MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the proposed GSA Executive Elections Policy, GSA General Director Elections Policy, and GSA Ad Hoc Elections Committee Establishment Policy as presented.

MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the Proposed Amendment to Bylaw Article 8 and 9 as presented.

MOTION #7: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the Proposed Amendment to Bylaw Article 10 as presented.

6:40 p.m. Wellness fund reduction – GSA President & VP Internal

MOTION #8: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors reduce the fund allocated to Student Health and Wellness valued at \$5000 by 40% of this value.

6:50 p.m. Staff contracts – GSA President

MOTION #9: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the addition of a new staff member to the GSA, as outlined in the provided materials, with an annual salary in the range of 40,000-50,000 with benefits.

MOTION #10: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the role adjustment of the former Office Manager to Business Operations Manager, with compensation reflecting the agreed-upon cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and former executives' authorized percentage increase.

This increase would bring wage compensation closer to the mid-point dictated in pay grade 3 (P03).

7:10 p.m. Department and Committee Updates

7:15 p.m. Question period

7:20 p.m. Executive Updates

7:20 p.m. President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

7:30 p.m. VP Internal – Yuxin Hu

7:40 p.m. VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

7:50 p.m. VP Academic – Manjurul Islam

8:00 p.m. VP Community Engagement – Spandana Chereddy

8:10 p.m. In-Camera Session

MOTION #11 B.I.R.T. The GSA board meeting move 'in-camera' for discussion.

MOTION #12 B.I.R.T. The GSA board meeting 'in-camera' session end.

Adjournment.

GSA May 21st Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 21st 2025 5:30pm

Hybrid Teams Meeting, Room 441



ATTENDEES PRESENT

GSA Executives	
Yusra Hasan	President and CEO
Yuxin Hu	Vice President Internal
Jacob Yates	Outgoing Vice President Internal
Ayush Chawla	Vice President Finance
M. Manjurul Islam	Vice President, Academic
Spandana Chereddy	Vice President Community Engagement
Rebecca Randle	Outgoing Vice President Community Engagement
General Directors	
Akierah Binns	Black Student Representatives
Mavis Opoku	
David Bahrami Grace Goderre	Biomedical Science
Okoroike Ozoemena Michael Capperault	Chemistry
Alexander Urtheil	Engineering
Juno McGowan	LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative
Erin Howard Samantha Dobson	Pathobiology
Nabhan Refaie Lynn Courville	Business Management
Yuxin Hu	Food Science
Oveka Obroh	Geography, Environment and Geomatics
Staff	
Michelle Morris	GSA Office Manager
Guests	
Sage Milne	Environmental Design and Rural Development
Olivia Gibson Valentina Gonzalez Rodriguez	Population Medicine

Regrets with Notification: Benjamin Bradshaw, Assistant Vice President, Graduate Studies.

Regrets without Notification: Siamoy Stewart, Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management; Sydney LeBlanc, Political Science and International Development, Barbara Hyde-Lay, Ashly Sharma, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences; Elizabeth Heaton, History.
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 Board moves Motion# 10 in the meeting agenda to the in-camera session of this meeting.

Motioned by Y. Hasan, seconded by N. Refaie. Motion carries.

MOTION #2 B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the May 21st, 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

Motioned by N. Refaie, seconded by A. Urtheil. Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of February 26th, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motioned by M. Capperault, seconded by N. Refaie. Motion carries

MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. the GSA Special Meeting Minutes of March 5th, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motioned by N. Refaie, seconded by Y. Hu. Motion carries

MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. the GSA Special Meeting Minutes of April 16th, 2025 be approved as presented.

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

MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. the GSA Special Meeting Minutes of May 1st, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motioned by M. Islam, seconded by A. Urtheil. Motion carries

MOTION #7: B.I.R.T. the GSA Special Meeting Minutes of May 6th, 2025 be approved as presented.

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

5:50 p.m. Statement from the GSA – Equity Committee

MOTION #8 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the release of the statement attached in the board meeting materials package via the GSA website and social media accounts.

Motioned by Y. Hasan, seconded by N. Refaie. Motion carries

A public statement released by the GSA was shared and approved by the board for release. Discussion involved ongoing concerns about student trust and engagement with the GSA, especially among Palestinian students.

A vote was called. All in favor.

6:00 p.m. Approvals of polls for GSA website – Equity Committee

MOTION #9 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the polls attached in the board meeting materials package to be posted on the Graduate Student Association website.

Motioned by M. Capperault, seconded by E. Howard. Motion carries.

Polls were developed to improve GSA visibility and gather graduate student feedback. Minor, grammatical inconsistencies were noted. The motion was approved with minor grammatical corrections to be made. A vote was called. All in favor.

6:10 p.m. Amendments to GSA DEI Bursary – Equity Committee

MOTION #10 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors amend the language of the DEI bursary requirements, and the value awarded as outlined in the attached board meeting materials.

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

Bursary increased from \$200 to \$400 to support LGBTQIA+ students facing travel barriers to U.S. conferences.

A vote was called. All in favor.

6:20 p.m. Faculty of Graduate Studies: Dr. Ben Bradshaw, Assistant Vice President (Graduate Studies)
Dr. B. Bradshaw sent his regrets and was unable to attend or provide an update for the meeting.

6:40 p.m. General Director Appointments

Individual statements were shared by each candidate.

MOTION #12 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors appoint Sage Milne to the position of General Director for the Department of Environmental Design and Rural Development, effective immediately until October 28th, 2025.

Motioned by M. Capperault, seconded by L. Curville. Motion carries.

Sage shared her statement and spoke about her interest in issues raised around commuting challenges faced by graduate students, particularly those from outside Guelph. Discussion included the need for improved support for students on academic leave and increased awareness of summer bus pass opt-in options.

A vote was called all in favor.

MOTION #13 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors appoint Olivia Gibson to the position of General Director for the Department of Population Medicine, effective immediately until October 28th, 2025.

Motioned by M. Capperault, seconded by Y. Hasan. Motion carries.

A vote was called all in favor.

MOTION #14 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors appoint Valentina Gonzalez Rodrigues to the position of General Director for the Department of Population Medicine, effective immediately until October 28th, 2025.

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

A vote was called all in favor.

MOTION #15 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors appoint Rebecca Randle to the position of General Director for the Department of Marketing & Consumer Studies, effective June 1st, 2025, until August 31st, 2025.

Motioned by M. Capperault, seconded by M. Islam. Motion carries.

A vote was called all in favor.

7:00 p.m. Approval of GD honoraria for Winter 2025

MOTION #16 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the release of \$899.93 for General Director honoraria.

Motioned by Y. Hasan, seconded by Y. Hu. Motion carries.

A vote was called all in favor.

7:10 p.m. Department and Committee Updates

No verbal updates were provided. Materials available in the board meeting materials package.

7:20 p.m. Executive Reports

7:20 p.m. President & CEO: Yusra Hasan

Y. Hasan spoke about the following:

- Support she has been receiving during the transition into her new role.
- Highlighted her involvement in coordinating with MintOT representatives to support the delivery of mental health services for graduate students,
- A staff hiring plan is currently in development to support administrative functions,
- Trivia host hiring is nearing completion.

7:30 p.m. V.P. Internal: Yuxin Hu

Y. Hu shared:

- Bylaws and Electoral process reform in progress.
- Ongoing transition support from outgoing VP Internal, J. Yates

Outgoing V.P Internal: Jake Yates

Key highlights:

- Completion and handover of Winter 2025 by-election
- Ongoing transition documentation and support provided to new VP Internal including guidance and onboarding processes.
- Clarity and Information provided on internal processes to ensure continuity and support for incoming executives.

7:40 p.m. V.P. Financial: Ayush Chawla

A Chawla's update included:

- Review of bursaries by Finance Committee
- Exploring potential new funding opportunities for fieldwork support
- Coordinating budgeting for potential staff position.

7:50 p.m. V.P. Academic: M. Manjurul Islam

M. Islam spoke about:

- Accreditation Policy review.
- The Graduate Council updates in progress.

- Promotion of Mental Health Service with MintOT.

8:00 p.m. V.P. Community Engagement: Spandana Chereddy

S. Chereddy shared:

- Mental health workshops well received by graduate students.
- Trivia host auditions underway,
- Successful summer bus pass opt-in program continues and running successfully,

Outgoing V.P Community Engagement: Rebecca Randle

R. Randle shared her final updates as part of the executive transition. She highlighted:

- Continued expansion of GSA-led mental health programs, including workshops and drop-in sessions.
- Emphasis on transit access equity, particularly through the improved summer opt-in program for students not automatically eligible for a bus pass.
-

8:15 p.m. In Camera Session

MOTIN #17: 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 M. Capperauld, seconded by M. Islam. Motion carries.

MOTION #18: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting ‘In-Camera’ session end.

No Motion was passed due to loss of quorum.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned and the next GSA Board meeting scheduled for June 25th, 2025. Please send your regrets no later than June 24th at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:	Minutes Approved by:	
<hr/> Michelle Morris GSA – Office Manager	<hr/> Yuxin Hu GSA Vice President - Internal	<hr/> Roodiya Awosanmi Chair

PDR: 2025 OVC Graduate Student Research Symposium

Event Name 2025 OVC Graduate Student Research Symposium	Event Date 07/08/2025
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Contact Person	
Name Carys Vyn	
Department Population Medicine	
Email cvyn@uoguelph.ca	Phone (226) 276-5282

Organization Information	
Organization Ontario Veterinary College	
Department Dean's Office	
Email ovc.gradresearch@uoguelph.ca	Phone (519) 824-4120

Audience Information	
Graduate Students Expected 71	
Undergraduate Students Expected 0	
Faculty, Staff and Community Members Expected 19	

Total Expected 90

Funding Information	
Have you received funding from the GSA before? Yes	
Please specify how the money was spent This event was organized by myself (Carys Vyn) and other student volunteers working on the OVC graduate symposium organizing committee. Funds was put towards appetizers and beverages to host a conference reception. We had an attendance of approximately 80 people, mostly graduate students across OVC departments, and some faculty. We stayed within budget and the the event was extremely well received. This year we have a record number of attendees (in part due to last year's success) and are requesting additional funds to host a similar style event and encourage most cross-department connection.	
Amount Requested \$ 876.75 CAD	

Budget

Total Requested: \$876.75

Revenue:

Source	Amount (\$)
OVC Fund	\$750
Total Revenue	\$750

Projected Expenses:

Item	Cost Estimate
Appetizers and refreshments from UC catering services	\$15 per person x 90 attendees = \$1350
Service fee (7.5% of catering costs)	\$1230 x 7.5% = \$101.25

Item	Cost Estimate
Taxes (13% of catering costs)	\$1230 x 13% = \$175.50
Total Expenses	\$1626.75

Net Total:

Item	Amount (\$)
Total Expenses	\$1626.75
Revenue from OVC Fund	\$750
Amount Requested from GSA	\$876.75

Budget Justification:

A total of 90 attendees are expected to attend the symposium based upon the number of student presenters and additional attendees (faculty, current/incoming students). Catering expenses (platter and beverages) through the University of Guelph Catering is estimated to be \$15.00 per person ($\$15.00 \times 82 = \1230). Additionally, 7.5% is added as per the standard service fee ($7.5\% \times \$1230 = \92.25) as well as 13% ($13\% \times \$1230 = \159.90) for taxes.

Bylaws amendment and policy approvals

Executive Election Policy

Policy Number: GSA-POL-09

Bylaws Committee Approval Date: June 10, 2025

Date Presented to Board: June 25, 2025

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the process and expectations for the fair and transparent election of Executive Officers of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) in accordance with Article 9 of the GSA Bylaws.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Members of the Corporation who are eligible and intend to seek election to the GSA Executive, and to individuals involved in election administration.

3. Executive Positions

- President and CEO
- Vice President Internal
- Vice President Finance
- Vice President Academic
- Vice President Community Engagement

4. Definitions

- CRO: Chief Returning Officer
- Member: As defined in the GSA Bylaws
- General Director: A voting member of the Board elected to represent a departmental unit or community group

5. General Election Guidelines

5.1 All Executive positions must be elected except in the case of a vacancy or removal as per Article 9 of the Bylaws. The CRO shall be responsible for conducting the election of Executive according to the procedures described in this policy.

5.2 The Office Manager shall announce the timeline of the election period, as determined by the current Vice President Internal in conjunction with the CRO, at the meeting of the Board of Directors that immediately precedes the beginning of the election period.

6. Eligibility

6.1 All candidates must be current Members of the Corporation. Members seeking nomination to an Executive position must be registered, or indicate the intent to register, in graduate studies at the University for the spring, fall and winter semesters of their term.

6.2 Individuals who have served as Executive Officers for three (3) or more years at the start of their next term are ineligible, unless an exception is granted by Board resolution. However, they may run for another executive position during that election period.

6.3 Members seeking nomination to an Executive position must have at least three (3) months service as a General Director or Executive at the commencement of their term to be eligible. This requirement is waived if none of the candidates nominated meet the requirement.

6.4 Members who have previously been removed from any position on the Board of Directors are ineligible to seek election to any position on the Board of Directors for a period of one year after their removal. These Members must sit on the board for an additional three (3) months prior to submitting a nomination for Executive positions.

6.5 Executive Officers must not concurrently hold executive positions in any other student organization with signing authority or financial compensation.

6.6 All candidates participating in the elections must be compliant with the procedures and deadlines outlined in this policy and Article 9 of the GSA Bylaws. Violations may result in disqualification of the candidate as determined by the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

7. Term of Office

7.1 Executives serve a one-year term from May 1 to April 30.

7.2 Executives may be re-elected for a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms.

7.3 The Board may grant an extension in exceptional cases via resolution.

8. Nomination Process

8.1 The nomination period shall be one (1) month in duration. If a nomination is not received for the Executive position(s), the CRO can extend the nomination period as long as doing so does not postpone the voting period beyond the Annual General Meeting, where possible.

8.2 Nominations must be submitted via email to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and must include a candidate statement of no more than 250 words. Any portion of the statement exceeding the word limit will be excluded from the ballot.

9. Campaigning

9.1 Campaigning shall begin immediately following the nomination deadline and last for two (2) weeks in duration. Campaigning must end by 4:30 PM EST on the final day.

9.2 Campaign material and intended campaigning platforms must be pre-approved by the CRO, if needed, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

9.3 Campaign spending shall be limited to seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per candidate. Campaign materials for which a candidate is charged less than the market value shall be accounted for in the campaign spending limits at fair market value as determined by the CRO. Campaign expenses shall be reimbursed to the candidate by the Corporation upon receipt of a summary of expenses, along with receipts, which shall be submitted to the CRO on the last day of the campaigning period.

9.4 No campaigning is permitted during the voting period.

10. Voting Procedures

10.1 Voting shall be conducted electronically and last for at least three (3) days.

10.2 All Members of the Corporation may vote.

10.3 Ballots must include:

- Candidate names (alphabetical by last name)
- Position description
- Approved statements
- Option to decline or vote for none

10.4 Immediately prior to the commencement of the voting period, the CRO shall cast a paper ballot for each position being contested in the election. This ballot shall be sealed and used in the event of a tie. If no tie exists after the election this ballot shall be destroyed without opening.

11. Results and Tie-Breaking

11.1 The CRO shall collect and certify the election results, if needed, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

11.2 The candidate with the highest number of affirmative votes shall be elected.

11.3 In the event of a tie, a sealed CRO tie-breaking ballot will be used.

11.4 Results will be presented to the Board of Directors in an in-camera session.

11.5 All candidates will be notified by email by the CRO.

12. Disputes

12.1 Disputes must be submitted to the CRO in writing within 48 hours of result announcement.

12.2 The Ad Hoc Elections Committee will review and resolve disputes, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the GSA Ad Hoc Elections Committee Establishment Policy.

13. Vacancies

13.1 Vacancies may be filled by by-election or Board appointment until the next general election.

13.2 Appointed Executives serve until the next election cycle unless otherwise determined by the Board.

14. Responsibilities

- CRO: Oversees election procedure, compliance, and dispute resolution. Chairs the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

- VP Internal: Supports nomination and communication.

- Candidates: Follow all rules, deadlines, and campaign standards.

15. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Bylaws Committee or as needed in accordance with any amendments to Article 9 of the GSA Bylaws.

General Director Election Policy

Policy Number: GSA-POL-08

Bylaws Committee Approval Date: June 10, 2025

Date Presented to Board: June 25, 2025

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures and expectations for the nomination, election, campaigning, and appointment of General Directors to the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Board of Directors in accordance with Article 8 of the GSA Bylaws.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Members of the Corporation who seek election to the position of General Director or are involved in the administration of General Director elections. The GSA is committed to a fair, accessible, and democratic election process for all General Directors, ensuring equitable representation across departmental and community constituencies.

3. Definitions

- CRO: Chief Returning Officer
- Member: As defined in the GSA Bylaws
- General Director: A voting member of the Board elected to represent a departmental unit or community group

4. Eligibility

- 4.1 Only current Members may be nominated.
- 4.2 Individuals removed under Articles 6.8, 8.5, or 8.6 are ineligible for one (1) year.
- 4.3 All candidates participating in the elections must be compliant with the procedures and deadlines outlined in this policy and Article 8 of the GSA Bylaws. Violations may result in disqualification of the candidate as determined by the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

5. General Election Guidelines

- 5.1 Annual elections must conclude by the October regular Board meeting.
- 5.2 Terms commence on the day of the October meeting and conclude the day before the October meeting of the following year.
- 5.3 A by-election may be held in January, concluding by the February regular meeting, if vacancies remain.
- 5.4 Further by-elections require approval by the Vice President Internal.

6. Nomination Process

- 6.1 The nomination period begins after the September Add/Drop deadline and must last a minimum of ten (10) days.
- 6.4 Nominations must be emailed to the CRO, including a statement (≤ 150 words). Any portion of the statement exceeding the word limit will be excluded from the ballot.

7. Campaigning Rules

- 7.1 Campaigning starts immediately after the nomination period and lasts two (2) days. Campaigning must end by 4:30 PM EST on the final day.
- 7.2 Campaign material and intended campaigning platforms must be pre-approved by the CRO, if needed, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.
- 7.3 Candidates are expected to respect the GSA's Human Rights and Equity policies.
- 7.4 No campaigning is allowed during the voting period.

8. Voting Procedures

- 8.1 Voting is conducted electronically, open for at least two (2) days.
- 8.2 Ballots are distributed through an official University email list.
- 8.3 Ballots must include:
 - Candidate names (alphabetical by last name)
 - Position description
 - Approved statements
 - Option to decline or vote for none
- 8.4 Immediately prior to the commencement of the voting period, the CRO shall cast a paper ballot for each position being contested in the election. This ballot shall be sealed and used in the event of a tie. If no tie exists after the election this ballot shall be destroyed without opening.

9. Election Results and Tie-Breaking

- 9.1 The CRO shall compile results, if needed, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Elections Committee and report to the Executive and Board in-camera.
- 9.2 The candidate(s) with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- 9.3 Re-election is void if the candidate fails to meet eligibility at the start of their term.
- 9.4 A sealed paper ballot cast by the CRO before voting begins will be used only in the event of a tie.
- 9.5 All candidates will be notified by email by the CRO.

10. Election Disputes

- 10.1 Disputes must be submitted to the CRO in writing within 48 hours of result announcement.
- 10.2 The Elections Committee will review and resolve disputes, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the GSA Ad Hoc Elections Committee Establishment Policy.

11. Vacancies

- 11.1 Vacancies may be filled by by-election or Board appointment until the next general election.
- 11.2 Appointed General Directors serve until the next election cycle unless otherwise determined by the Board.

12. Responsibilities

- CRO: Oversees election procedure, compliance, and dispute resolution. Chairs the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.
- VP Internal: Supports nomination and communication.
- Candidates: Follow all rules, deadlines, and campaign standards.

13. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Bylaws Committee or upon amendment of Article 8 of the GSA Bylaws.

GSA Ad Hoc Elections Committee Establishment Policy

Policy Number: GSA-POL-10

Bylaws Committee Approval Date: June 10, 2025

Date Presented to Board: June 25, 2025

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the establishment process of the Ad Hoc Elections Committee and expectations for the fair and transparent elections of Executive Officers and General Directors of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), in accordance with Article 10.8 of the GSA Bylaws.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Members of the Corporation who wish to participate in the administration of elections and by-elections conducted by the GSA. It is intended to ensure integrity, equity, and compliance with GSA Bylaws throughout the election process.

3. Definitions

- CRO (Chief Returning Officer): The external individual appointed to oversee the administration of the election.
- Member: As defined in the GSA Bylaws
- General Director: A voting member of the Board elected to represent a departmental unit or community group

4. Formation of the Committee

4.1 This committee will be chaired by the CRO, who serves as a non-voting authority.

4.2 The committee shall be composed of a minimum of three Board members. At least one member must be selected from the GSA Constitution and Bylaws Committee and one from the GSA Equity Committee.

4.3 The Ad Hoc Elections Committee shall be established prior to each GSA-conducted election and shall be dissolved following the completion of the election process and resolution of any associated disputes, in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.

5. Express of Interest for Committee Membership

5.1 A call for expressions of interest to join the Ad Hoc Elections Committee shall be issued at least one (1) month before the last day of the nomination period of each election.

5.2 The GSA Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the GSA Equity Committee shall each select one of their members to serve on the Ad Hoc Elections Committee by the close of the call for expressions of interest.

5.3 The committee must be fully formed within five (5) business days of the call for expressions of interest.

6. Responsibilities of the Committee

6.1 The Ad Hoc Elections Committee shall monitor the election process to ensure it is conducted fairly, transparently, and in accordance with the GSA Bylaws and policies.

6.2 The committee shall hold the CRO accountable for decisions made during the election process and provide oversight to maintain impartiality.

6.3 The committee shall resolve any disputes that arise during or after the election process, following the procedures outlined in this policy.

6.4 Committee meetings may be held at any time during the election process, as needed. The quorum for committee meetings shall be a majority of voting members. Decisions shall be made by a majority vote, unless otherwise stated. The CRO, as chair, shall not vote.

7. Election Dispute Resolution

7.1 In the event of a dispute, the CRO shall call a dispute resolution meeting within two (2) days of receiving a written dispute.

7.2 The dispute resolution meeting must take place within five (5) business days of receiving the original written dispute. Impacted individuals may be invited to attend the meeting at the CRO's discretion. During this meeting, the committee members shall deliberate on the circumstances and decide on the outcome of the dispute.

7.3 Resolution decisions shall be made by a majority vote of the voting members of the committee, unless otherwise stated. A summary of the dispute and the final decision shall be communicated to the Board of Directors within two (2) business days of the resolution.

8. Re-election

8.1 The Ad Hoc Elections Committee shall call for a re-election only under one or more of the following circumstances:

- **Significant Procedural Irregularities:**
Demonstrable violations of election procedures (e.g., errors in nomination timelines, miscommunication of voting details, or failure to publish candidate information) that may have impacted the fairness or outcome of the election.
- **CRO Misconduct or Bias:**
Verified instances of partiality or failure of the Chief Returning Officer to adhere to election standards, where such conduct may have influenced the election outcome.
- **Candidate Misconduct Affecting Results:**
Confirmed violations by a candidate (e.g., harassment, bribery, or vote manipulations, and unauthorized campaigning) that affected the election and cannot be remedied by disqualification alone.
- **Any other circumstances under which the Ad Hoc Elections Committee recommends a re-election must receive approval from the Board of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.**

8.2 A re-election must be held within five (5) business days of the committee's decision, barring exceptional circumstances. A revised election timeline, including nomination, campaign, and voting periods, shall be released by the CRO after approval by the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

8.3 The committee may determine whether the re-election applies to specific position(s) or the entire election.

8.4 The Ad Hoc Elections Committee shall issue a summary report outlining the rationale for the re-election decision. This report shall be submitted to the Board of Directors and communicated to all Members of the Corporation within two (2) business days of the decision.

9. Committee Vacancies

If no expressions of interest are received from the Board of Directors or the committee cannot be formed within the stipulated timeline, members of the Executive Committee shall be responsible for

assuming vacant seats to ensure the Ad Hoc Elections Committee can be constituted and fulfill its duties.

10. Executive Oversight

If a dispute cannot be resolved by the Ad Hoc Elections Committee using the procedures outlined in this policy, the matter may be escalated to the Executive Committee for final review and decision.

11. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Bylaws Committee or as needed in accordance with any amendments to Article 8, 9, and 10.8 of the GSA Bylaws.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw Section 8 & 9

Bylaws Committee Approval Date: June 10, 2025

Date Presented to Board: June 25, 2025

Rationale

The current wording of Bylaw Articles 8 & 9 contains detailed procedural information better suited for a policy document. The proposed amendment simplifies the Bylaw by preserving only the governance-level backbone information and deferring all procedural elements to the corresponding policies. This enhances clarity, avoids redundancy, and allows greater flexibility through policy updates without requiring a full Bylaw amendment.

Proposed Amendment Text

Replace current Bylaw 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, and 9.11 with the following:

8.2 Election of General Directors

General Director Guidelines:

General Director elections shall be held annually and must conclude by the October regular meeting of the Board of Directors. Elected General Directors shall begin their term at that meeting and serve until the day prior to the following year's October regular meeting. By-elections may be held, as needed, to fill vacancies. All procedures related to nominations, campaigning, voting, and election timelines shall be governed by the General Director Elections Policy.

8.3 General Director Election Disputes

Disputes concerning General Director elections shall be reviewed and resolved in accordance with the procedures outlined in the General Director Elections Policy and the Ad Hoc Elections Committee Establishment Policy.

8.4 Election Results

Election results shall be compiled and reported by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, in accordance with the General Director Elections Policy. The CRO shall notify all candidates of the outcome. Re-election may be voided if a General Director failed to fulfill their responsibilities in a prior term, as outlined in these Bylaws. The same rule shall apply for a General Director elected in the by-elections.

9.11 Election of the Executive

General Election Guidelines

Executive elections shall be held annually. By-elections may be held, as needed, to fill vacancies, at the discretion of the outgoing Executive. All procedures related to

nominations, campaigning, voting, and election timelines shall be governed by the Executive Elections Policy. Candidates for Executive positions shall run as individuals.

Executive Election Disputes

Disputes concerning Executive elections shall be reviewed and resolved in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Executive Elections Policy and the Ad Hoc Elections Committee Establishment Policy.

Election Results

Election results shall be compiled and reported by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, in accordance with the Executive Elections Policy. The CRO shall notify all candidates of the outcome.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw Article 10

Bylaws Committee Approval Date: June 10, 2025

Date Presented to Board: June 25, 2025

Rationale

This section is to be added to the bylaws in conjunction with the development of a new policy outlining the establishment of the GSA Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

Proposed Amendment Text

The following section is to be added to the current bylaws:

Article 10.8: Ad Hoc Elections Committee

The mandate of the Ad Hoc Elections Committee is to oversee the fair and transparent administration of all elections and by-elections for the Executives and General Directors of the Corporation.

In addition to the General Committee procedures outlined in Article 10.1, the Ad Hoc Elections Committee shall:

- (a) be chaired by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), who shall act as a non-voting authority;
- (b) consist of at least three (3) Directors of the Board, including one (1) representative from the Bylaws Committee and one (1) representative from the Equity Committee;
- (c) monitor the election and by-election process to ensure compliance with all applicable bylaws and policies;
- (d) provide oversight of, and hold accountable, the CRO in the execution of election duties and decisions;
- (e) adjudicate disputes or challenges arising during or after an election, following the dispute-resolution procedures set out in the GSA Ad Hoc Elections Committee Establishment Policy.

Departmental Reports

Animal Bioscience

Report:

Report by:

Biomedical Science

Report:

Report by:

Black Student Representatives

Report: We supported the Student Experience Cultural Diversity team with the hosting of the annual Black Brilliance Conference in Peter Clark Hall on May 29, 2025. The event saw over 100 high school students from the Upper Grand District School Board visiting the UoG campus for workshops and campus tours.

Report by: Akierah and Mavis

Business Administration/Management

Report:

Report by:

Chemistry

Report: The department had Chemistry Seminar Series in May. Additionally, new hirings for professors will take place in June with complementary lunches being provided to graduate students to have an opportunity to interact with the candidates.

Report by: Okoroike 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 Sciences (HHS)

Report: As of the most recent Senate meeting – **HHNS is now HHS** (Human Health Sciences)! This change comes from the renaming of some programs within our department. HHS held a graduate seminar contest at the end of May which was very well attended by both faculty and students.

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:

- 2025 OVC Graduate Student Symposium will be held Tuesday, July 8th, 2025, from 8:30AM to 4:30 PM
 - More information: [https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/OVCResearch/SitePages/2025-OVC-Graduate-Student-Research-Symposium\(1\).aspx](https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/OVCResearch/SitePages/2025-OVC-Graduate-Student-Research-Symposium(1).aspx)
- OVC Graduate Connect Club is holding a paint and movie night Thursday June 19th at 5:30pm in ECLA 3708, cost is \$5
 - Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/8t9pQd3FqDjCBMhu8>
- OVC Pride VMC will be marching in the Toronto Pride Parade June 29th, 2025
 - More information:



MARCH WITH US! JUNE 29, 2025

TORONTO PRIDE PARADE

ALL ARE WELCOME! ❤️



SIGN UP HERE!



tinyurl.com/OVCPride2025

JOIN THE OVC'S PRIDE VETERINARY MEDICAL COMMUNITY FOR THIS DAY OF JOY AND ACTIVISM!



TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD COMMUNITY, PROMOTE INCLUSION, AND MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE VETERINARY PROFESSION AND BEYOND. AS 2SLGBTQIA+ PEOPLE AND ALLIES, WE WILL MARCH TOGETHER WITH PRIDE!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL EGHARABA@UOGUELPH.CA

Report by: Sam Dobson

Philosophy

Report:

Report by:

Physics

Report:

Report by:

Plant Agriculture

Report:

Report by:

Political Science

Report:

Report by:

Population Medicine

- **Report:** Also (along with Pathobiology and other OVC departments) holding the 2025 OVC Graduate Student Symposium on Tuesday, July 8th, 2025, from 8:30AM to 4:30 PM
 - More information:
[https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/OVCResearch/SitePages/2025-OVC-Graduate-Student-Research-Symposium\(1\).aspx](https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/OVCResearch/SitePages/2025-OVC-Graduate-Student-Research-Symposium(1).aspx)
 - This Symposium will feature a panel on Communication and Connection with faculty from different OVC departments. Students are encouraged to attend and ask questions related to networking, making lasting connections, and how communication has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic. Snacks and refreshments will be provided!
- Progress is being made on the renovations of the department which had major damage from a flood in W25 semester, still not open to students or faculty

Report by: Olivia Gibson and Valentina Rodriguez

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: 5th of June 2025

Report: The committee met to discuss the implementation of Phase One overdose prevention recommendations, including health promotion messaging, the Safe Gryphon App, harm reduction resources like safer use kits and naloxone, member training, and future meeting structure and participation.

Next Meeting: 3rd of July 2025

Animal Care Committee

Meeting date: June 13, 2025

Report: Nothing new to report back. ACC still looking for non-animal user members.

Next Meeting: July 11, 2025

Athletics Advisory Committee

Meeting date: N/A

Report: No meeting has taken place since last committee report

Next Meeting: August/September TBD

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:

Digital and Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Equity Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Finance Committee (GSA)

Meeting date: June 17th

Report: We went through onboarding for Val to learn about the Finance Committee. We also reviewed a few of the travel grant applications and discussed a student's request for an amendment to the application requirements. Ayush will be looking into additional student grants to support their research beyond attending conferences.

Written by: Valentina R.

Next Meeting: TBD

GenEq Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Health & Dental Plan

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Hospitality Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

Meeting date:

Reports:

Next Meeting:

Human Rights Advisory Group

Meeting date: N/A

Report: No meeting has taken place since the previous committee report.

Next Meeting: N/A

Judicial Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

OUTline Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next meeting:

Student Food Security Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Life Award Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Mental Health and Well-Being Advisory Committee

Meeting date: Not known.

Report: None for now

Next Meeting: Yet to be communicated to us.

Student Wellness Advisory Group

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Wellness EDI Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Experience Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Transit Committee (GSA/CSA)

Meeting date:



Report:

Next Meeting:

EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

Jen Durst-May 23rd	Discussed accreditation and the requirement of having audit proof of insurance and the budget.
Teaching and Learning Network Meeting May 21st	Discussion of having student experiences at the College Levels for Teaching and Learning. I added to this point mentioned by another attendee and mentioned having graduate students' presence in these committees would help graduate students stay connected to the departments as well as the university.
GSA Exec/VP SA Update Meeting May 21st	Introductions and discussions of GSA executives, and VP SA's passions to support student affairs.
GSA funding/Counselling Services May 22nd	Meeting with Trish Schmidt mentioned the \$5,000 allocated to Student Health and Wellness was only accessed by a couple students. Discussion of having more advertisements for the 2025-2026 year (examples: service posted on the GSA website, posters in the UC). Navigators need to present the information clearer to graduate international students. This discussion included me, Trish Schmidt, VP Internal and Rebecca Randle. Rebecca volunteered to interview the navigators with Trish this June. The executives have decided to motion to reduce the \$5000 by 40% to allocate this fund to a higher demand service graduate students need, leaving \$3,000 for this service. This has been forwarded to motion in the board meeting.
Executive Meeting May 23rd	<p>Discussion of Honorarium for the interim president. This would be total monthly Honorarium converted to daily rate and applied to the number of days the interim president offered training to the current president.</p> <p>There are 31 days in May, this would be a rate of \$64.24 day⁻¹. The interim president worked from May 7th to May 22nd; a total of 16 days summing to \$1,028. According to the former interim president's statement: they worked on weekends.</p> <p><u>Not part of this meeting, but to be transparent to all GDs:</u> For the month of May I have a prorated pay that will be decided by the VP Finance and executives. I won't have any influence in the final amount.</p>
TLI Conference 2025 Update (May 23rd)	A total of 18 graduate students made use of the registration code to attend this year (x \$65 registration fee) comes to a total of \$1,170.
Fulfilling a Graduates Request in Late May	Follow up on a few graduate students requests for a board in the UC: I requested that the GSA place the upcoming events and services on the UC board after approval from Monique from UC services. We hope that this makes retrieving information more accessible or has fulfilled your needs! Thank you for requesting this. ☺ If you have any other requests to make resources more accessible, please email me at gsapres@uoquelfh.ca
GSA VP Academic Meeting with Amanda Wuth May 27th	<p>I joined the meeting with the GSA VP Academic, GSA VP Finance and Amanda. GSA VP Academic made sincere apologies and clear mention of mistake, gained Amanda's forgiveness, welcomed suggestions and thoughts from Amanda.</p> <p>Here is suggestions Amanda would like for the GSA VP Academic: <u>Accountability and transparency:</u> Comprehensive reports would be preferred from the GSA VP Academic.</p> <p>Amanda mentioned the GSA should try to be as transparent as possible, providing reports to the GDs. I also see this as the most efficient method to inform the board and have growth as the GSA expands and I am happy that she proposed this! ☺</p>

	<p>The meeting concluded and Amanda appreciated the apology and suggested we can grow and lead in a good direction. I will be supporting the Case Competition this June 24th and look forward to this event.</p>
<p>GSA VP Academic Meeting with President & CEO May 27th</p>	<p>How many councils function in the seven colleges in the university? – Major thing GSA VP Academic is looking into with Jen Durst, and myself (we anticipate meeting soon to discuss this.). Of course, this is an ongoing conversation and will take a long-time span because it needs to be made more concrete before going through having internal stakeholders.</p> <p>Discussion of work related to the Admission and Progress Committee meeting, and Board of graduate Study Committee.</p> <p>Something new we hope to have setup for the fall semester is the Volunteer Committee. This failed in the 2024-2025 year. Our VP Internal will successfully set this up.</p>
<p>VP Finance and GSA President & CEO May 27th</p>	<p>There has been a high volume of graduate students attending the MintOT events. Providing food and drinks to the students from the LookOut costed \$675 originally.</p> <p>MintOT: increase the funding to \$1,000 from \$675 for students to have free food and drinks.</p> <p>Since this was originally approved by the board, the executives and me have brought this forward in a Motion for this board meeting.</p>
<p>CUPE Meeting May 28th</p>	<p>CUPE was interviewing their member mobilizers, and we quickly introduced ourselves as the new Executives.</p>
<p>Ben Bradshaw (Assistant Vice-President) and GSA VP Academic May 29th</p>	<p>I had an introductory meeting with Dr. Bradshaw and GSA VP Academic and asked Dr. Bradshaw if it would be possible to provide information on the following topics as I felt these were gaps in the latest information received. I also proposed a cool idea for a centralized funding real-time tracker/portal this way all graduates can be updated with most recent changes. Looking forward to receiving this information in the future. The slide below relates to an email received and shared by the former president in a previous board meeting.</p> <div data-bbox="678 812 1614 1326" data-label="Complex-Block">  <p>Mentioned the goal was to increase PhD funding to \$25,000/year for four years (back in 2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For 2022–2023, the average funding (from admission packages...what percentage?) per graduate student was \$21,000. <p><u>Request to share statistics for 2024–2025 to show potential improvements.</u></p> <p>Funding that is not tied to offers of admissions...consider mechanisms/approaches to increase funding for students who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and gender minorities • Racialized • Students with disabilities • 2SLGBTQI+ • Indigenous <p><u>Create a centralized funding real-time tracker/portal accessible to both students and administrators.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improves transparency and ease of access...supporting UofG EDI <p>There is a significant information gap for Master's students. <u>Information is needed.</u></p>  </div>

	<p>An update from Dr. Bradshaw to the GSA: Starting July 1 director of OGPS will be reporting to the ORS rather than Dr. Bradshaw. OGPS can benefit from the registrat services, even though there might be some compatibilities. The customer management system, need own in-house user system other than OUAC; we need more flexible system. They will have more resources to make changes to the system, but the director will only be reporting to the registrar. Not much change from graduate student avenue, but administration will see an improvement.</p>
GSA VP Finance, GSA President, and Gallivan June 3rd	Meeting with Shelly and Najam, run-down of how things have gone for the past 20 years. Need to decide for the new app for the student benefits app, Alumo (instead of CanadaLife) .
Campus Food Security Meeting June 5	<p>Food4U updates; funding from the compulsory fees and GSA. Have a robust waiting list for students 140 names and 115 spots. We are funding \$100,000.00 over 3 semesters. Something that I asked Lindsay from Student Health and Wellness: Are the spots dependent on the funding? Mentioned that the GSA board would consider providing more funding in the case that there are more graduate students needing spots in the Fall 2025 semester.</p> <p>Something that is alarming: food insecure students include varsity students.</p> <p>CSA food bank coordinator mentioned that most of their students are graduate students.</p> <p>This might suggest the need for the GSA to provide more food related support to graduate students...something for all of you to consider and reach out to me if you have questions! I will continue reviewing this matter. Thanks, you!</p>
Trivia Host Auditions	I was only able to attend one of the Trivia Host Auditions (Luca's), as I started my role after the first one and the third audition, I had an important appointment, so the GSA VP Finance attended. The entire executive team (with the exception to conflict-of-interest topic) selected the most suitable candidate that would be able to take on the role under our current limitations and constraints.
Executive Meeting	<p>Here are the topics the GSA Executives covered with this meeting being chaired by myself.</p> <p>By Laws by the VP Internal: disputes resolution processes/procedure, CRO in the election process, election committee as a standard procedure.</p> <p>Contracts (President and VP Finance-with Michelle's input):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MintOT • Staff Members Contract • Michelle's Contract • CRO • Trivia Host • Chair <p>VP Finance discussed Gallivan and the functionality of the new application...is it efficient and functional enough?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request to try ALUMO made by the VP Community Engagement and most Executives.

	<p>VP Community Engagement mentioned to host the events on the Gryphon App, or Gryph-Life.</p> <p>I brought up an original suggestion by our GSA VP Community Engagement for LinkedIn as a GSA platform, and all executives agreed to this!</p>
Discussion with VP Academic and International June 9th	NA
Merchandise Selling for Emergency Fund for Equity Deserving Groups Late May-Ongoing	The GSA VP Finance and I had an idea to have GSA Merchandise for the purpose of selling to generate profits the GSA can use towards graduate students. We are working together to hopefully have this ready by the end of July.
June 12th (1) GSA VP Finance Office Operations Manager and GSA President Meeting and (2) GSA VP Academic and VP Academic Meeting	<p>(1) Discussed contracts, Alumo application, and trivia financial accommodations</p> <p>(2) Questions raised by the VP Academic regarding housing facilities for graduate students, advisor conflicts. VP Academic gave advise on the graduate calendar policy. Last resort for student cases is to switch advisors later in semesters. Housing issues (don't fall under Ben's portfolio, but he was caring enough to answer questions and assist with a case). GSA VP Academic would like to start a case for giving high priority to students who have families for family housing!</p>
June 16th GSA Exec/VPSA Update Meeting	<p>The new Student Rights and Responsibilities policy will be sent for approval on Wednesday June 18th and will take effect in the fall. This will support a shift toward more educational and restorative practices, avoiding full hearings in the case when individuals take responsibility for their actions. The new Student Accountability Manager will support both complainants and respondents in non-academic misconduct cases.</p> <p>The sexual violence policy review has been completed, and revisions are underway. The updated policy will go to governance for approval in the fall, with a focus on streamlining the complaint process.</p> <p>Student Wellness Services is implementing recommendations from the Presidential Task Force on Mental Health. This includes a new undergraduate mental health course launching in the fall, where GTAs will help support undergraduate students.</p> <p>New graduate student facilitators will provide peer support, and a new graduate student counselor position will be established by fall.</p> <p>Additional signage will be installed to help students navigate their schedules, especially incoming students, despite enrollment numbers remaining consistent with previous years.</p> <p>Most housing is reserved for first-year undergraduates, as it's difficult to allocate those spaces individually. PhD and master's housing is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Efforts are ongoing to expand housing availability, though postdoctoral researchers are not eligible as they are not considered students.</p> <p>I inquired about access to athletic center resources for international graduate students following a couple verbal cases from students. Part-time graduate students currently do not have access due to a referendum held a year or two ago in which they voted against the athletic center fee. They can pay individually to use the facility but will not have the same privileges as full-time graduate students. Melinda will ensure full time international students do have access to these resources.</p>

<p>June 17th (1) Meet with Event Coordinator and (2) TLN quick connect</p>	<p>Meet with Event Coordinator: social media needed to optimize advertisements of these events. I suggested having a central poster for monthly events on the University Center board. Timing should all be after 5 pm for graduate student agenda accommodations. Newsletters should also have all the posters.</p> <p>TLN quick connect with Christie Stewart having a discussion of (https://otl.uoguelph.ca/leadership-awards/university-quelph-teaching-and-learning-network) the TLN. From the outset an intention to have graduate students on this network. Use of professional development funds for an event of up to \$5,000.</p>
<p>June 18th Student Experience Leadership Education and Development Advisor Meeting</p>	<p>Regard to lack of process with the most recent GSA election warranting some further conversation, the election is not in dispute. Process for Jen Durst to find out details and provide guidance to help ensure fair processes in the future for the GSA as an organization.</p> <p>Personal comment: the by-laws for the election processes should ensure good governance and transparency, specifically to ensure justice and fairness is the case for all individuals in line with the constitution Student Organization Policy.</p>

VP Internal – Yuxin Hu

Hi everyone! Hope you have been enjoying the warm weather now that it's finally here! Here are the main things that I have worked on for the past month.

New GD orientation and onboarding

Welcome to our four new GDs appointed at the last board meeting. We had an orientation session on June 4 to communicate GD responsibilities and answer questions. Most new GDs have been assigned to a committee.

GD resignation

Following the email communication sent out by Jayden Cote, he has resigned from his position as the general director for the School of Environmental Design & Rural Development.

I sent a status request to Sydney Leblanc following discussions during the in-camera session of the May board meeting. Sydney has resigned from the position of general director for the Political Science department.

Update list of committees with GSA representation

The list of committees is being updated with two committees that we are bringing back after some time of inactivity – Volunteer Committee (Chaired by GSA VP Academic) and Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee (chaired by GSA President). Please let me know if you are interested in getting involved!

Policies and bylaws amendments

Three policies (GSA Executive Election Policy, General Director Election Policy, Election Dispute Policy) and corresponding bylaws amendments were drafted and brought to the bylaws committee for discussion and approval. I wanted to prioritize policies surrounding the elections to get ready for our September general director election. The policies and bylaws amendments were approved unanimously by the committee (4/4 votes).

Student wellness services support discussion

The President and myself had an update meeting with Trish Schmidt on May 22nd to discuss the turnout of this program. In addition to the president update:

- It was discussed to have posters up in the wellness center waiting rooms for targeted advertising.
- It was also discussed to keep the money within the wellness services and find alternative programs/ways to use it better. Here are some ideas mentioned,

- Using towards covering out-of-pocket prescription expenses: Trish will update on the need for that after checking with the nurses.
 - Adding peer helpers specifically for graduate students to fill the current gap in that service area.
- We discussed giving the program some more time (1 month?) after ensuring that the navigators will be presenting the option to students, and see if usage increases.

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out (gsavpint@uoguelph.ca)!

Thanks,

Yuxin
GSA VP Internal

VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

Warm regards to the graduate student body,

Following is an update discussing the actions taken from May 15th to June 19th.

During the latter half of May, due to an overpayment issue concerning the President's Honorarium, I deliberated with the organization's bookkeeper to determine the appropriate action. We calculated an amount based on the extent of overpayment and ensured an equitable decision was made, matching the precedent set by the Interim President earlier in the year of Prorated payments. I also attended a meeting to discuss an issue related to problematic executive functioning with the President and Amanda Wuth. I believe the performance issues in question have been resolved resulting from a constructive discussion.

The end of May also brought unexpected elevated demand for therapy and related mental health services. In acknowledgment of the substantial demand and in collaboration with the President, we aim to increase the allocated amount for refreshments from 675\$ to 1000\$ to satisfy student demand.

At the beginning of June, I attended the Client Annual conference for our insurance provider (Gallivan). During this time, the firm discussed its merger, consolidating three large insurance providers under the rebrand of "Alumo".

This change would involve switching from CanadaLife to a new User interface platform provided by the dedicated Alumo application. While this application is not widely available to the public as it is still being developed and optimised by the firm, the interface was displayed and tested briefly during a private scheduled meeting. There seem to be myriad advantages to the adopted system in terms of reduced wait time for customer service and insurance claim payouts, but it has not swayed my apprehension toward the novel technology completely. While I would vote positively on the matter of platform change, It is still worth deliberating amongst the board and larger executive committee before taking a decision due to the large scale impact technological pitfalls may present.

Over the last (2) weeks, I have been working with RLB (Chartered Professional Accountants), the President, and office manager, to renew the Lookout's liquor license. This is currently in progress, despite efforts to have this done prior to expiry, a lack of communication and mismanagement caused this elapsed period during which the lookout is unable to serve liquor. I anticipate the issue should be resolved in the next (2) weeks.

I have also begun analysing the Lookout's financial statement to enable the revival of the grad lounge sustainability committee and ensure accountability for the lounge's management. My

analysis will be discussed in future updates, with relevant observations and recommendations to assist in informed decision making.

I solely attended all the Trivia Host Auditions, as the success of events relates to the success of the lookout, and subsequent financial welfare of the organization. I played a pivotal role in the determination of the host hiring decision and feel confident in the selected student's ability to engage an audience.

I collaborated and worked on the Contracts for Office Manager and Administrative assistant roles, calculated remuneration as per Cost of living adjustment and agreed upon wage increase for our office manager. I have also begun exploring the possibility of Merchandise sales, cost logistics and impact on our non-profit status as per CRA regulation.

Finally on the 17th of June, I chaired this month's finance committee approving eligible applications in support of the graduate student experience. We welcomed a new member to the committee (Valentina Gonzalez Rodriguez), and are fortunate to have had another addition to the committee in the last few days (Emma Sage Milne). I look forward to working with a larger committee as it will help ensure equity amongst various departments and raise awareness for issues that may have otherwise gone undetected.

In conclusion, the increased engagement from our community during this summer month is a positive reflection of public awareness and inclination towards our growing host of offerings.

Best,

Ayush Chawla, VP Finance

VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam

Update June 2025

Board of Graduate Studies

The Board of Graduate Studies meeting was held on May 21, 2025. In this meeting, under the Academic, Admission, and Educational Policies change: the admission requirements for the Master of Biotechnology, Master of Plant Agriculture, and International Development Studies has changed. Major modifications were also approved for the Master of Science in Tourism and Hospitality, Master of Arts in Economics, Master of Engineering, Master of Applied Science in Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering.

Meeting with Assistant Vice-President, Graduate Studies

AVP-Graduate Studies provided an update on the upcoming case competition for graduate students, aiming to envision possible ways to expand graduate student financial support despite current fiscal constraints. This follows a suggestion made earlier this year by a Graduate Student Senator in the Senate. We discussed the ongoing conflict resolution between graduate students and supervisors, addressing probable solutions for the unwanted situation. VP-Academic, GSA, also shared concerns related to the criteria for housing allocation for international students.

Senate Meeting June 2025

Senate meeting held on 2nd June 2025. The Senate approves the formation of two new colleges: i. the College of Engineering and ii—the College of Computational, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences. Concurrent with the formation of the College of Engineering, the following new academic units will be established: (i) Department of Civil, Environmental, and Water Resources Engineering, and (ii) Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, iii. Department of Interdisciplinary Engineering, iv. Department of Mechanical. The College of Computational, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences comprises the following existing academic units: i. Department of Chemistry, ii. Department of Mathematics and Statistics iii. Department of Physics iv. School of Computer Science.

Meeting with Vice-Provost, Student Affairs

A regularly scheduled meeting was held with VPSA on June 16, 2025. VPSA shared several updates on students' rights and responsibilities, as well as services for students' well-being, among other topics. The VP-Academic, GSA expressed a concern regarding housing support for graduate students. Given the limited availability of on-campus housing, what guiding principles does the university use to prioritize allocation? Furthermore, what are the urgent student needs, such as financial hardship, family obligations, or health-related

vulnerabilities, be considered a primary factor in these decisions? Developing criteria for allocating housing is recommended, particularly for international graduate students.

MintOT Services Update: May 20- June 18, 2025

Type of Services	Beneficiaries Coverage
Procrastination and Perfectionism Workshop - hybrid delivery	23 registered, 18 attended
Co-working Cafe and Drop-in Support	Four Held (May 21; May 28, June 4 and June 11) Total students attended: 85 and 11 drop-in appointments.
Five-week group	16 people registered, 4 students on the waitlist 3 group sessions completed, two remaining
Individual occupational therapy	7 sessions completed; 4 more scheduled *This reaches our 11 sessions allocated per semester One student on the waitlist

Admission and Progress Committee Meeting June 2025

On June 19, 2025, the Admissions and Progress Committee evaluated student files from the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS) records. During this meeting, they approved eight study extensions, lasting from one to three semesters. Additionally, two program transfer requests from the master's to the PhD program were approved.

Graduate Council Accreditation Policy

The purpose of gathering information for the graduate council accreditation policy requires the Vice-President, Academic, sent an email to the GDs in order to collect data concerning any existing active council information and their respective representatives.

Meeting with Event Coordinator

The President, VP-Finance, and VP-Academic met with the Event Coordinator to discuss and plan the events for Summer and Fall 2025. We discussed approaches to increase participation in the various events organized by the GSA. Since our current Event Coordinator will graduate in August 2025, we also discussed potential processes for searching for the next Event Coordinator.

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

Best Regards,

M Manjurul Islam

VP – Academic, GSA

gsavpaca@uoguelph.ca

VP Community Engagement – Spandana Chereddy

Hi everyone! 🌞

Hope you're all staying cool and enjoying the sunshine! June has been a packed month, full of great collaborations, new initiatives, and important progress for our grad student community. Here's a roundup of what I've been working on as your **VP of Community Engagement** with the GSA:

🧠 **Mental Health & Wellness**

Supported individual therapy sessions through the **Mint OT program**, several grad students accessed this resource thanks to our promotion!

Got strong interest in the **5-week Group Therapy program**, love seeing so many students investing in their well-being.

Attending **Wellness Wednesdays** weekly and meeting with Tonia to improve the experience and plan ahead for upcoming sessions.

📅 **Orientation & Events**

Attended **two Executive Board meetings**, where we discussed fresh ideas and opportunities for Fall Orientation.

Co-leading the **O-Week College Government Movie Night** this September, stay tuned for the details!

Sat in on **Lookout auditions**, connecting with creative students and promoting student engagement.

Began planning for upcoming Arboretum events in July and August:

A **"Picnic in the Park"** event (pending budget).

A **Guided Arboretum Tour** on August 7 (tentative).

Gathering interest for co-leads and volunteers!

🚌 **Transit & U-Pass Services**

Attended the **Transit Committee Meeting (June 19)** and had the chance to:

Tour the **new electric buses**.

Review and approve the updated **Late Night Bus Service Agreement**, a small budget increase (\$12,400), but **no fee hike for students**.

Push for a more **flexible, multi-year contract** moving forward (instead of annual reviews).

Confirmed some **major improvements** to bus services starting in September:

Route 5 will now run every 15 mins (7–9 PM).

Route 52U will go express on part of Gordon for faster service.

Every northbound bus on Gordon will now go to UC, signage and promo cards are coming to make this clearer for students.

Sunday Loop restructured to **better serve Stone Road Mall and Walmart shoppers**.

Digital signs with **next bus arrival info** and weather are being installed at 5 key stops, powered by a new backend system.

Promoting the **Transit App** for trip planning, especially useful during move-in and orientation.

Collaboration on social media campaigns is in the works.

Tech Advisory & Digital Equity

Sat in on the **HOLD – Digital and Technology Advisory Council Meeting**:

Discussed Microsoft Outlook **storage space reduction** to 100 GB for all users (down from previous allocations).

Due to Microsoft's new charges, both **students and faculty now share the same limit**.

Faculty expressed concern, but it was concluded that **equal storage limits** will apply across the board.

Equity, Support & Collaboration

Attended the **Equity Committee** last month and will serve as **Chair** this month.

Met with the team behind the **Graduate Student Support Circle** to support their launch, an awesome space for grads to share challenges, ideas, and solutions together.

Sat in on the **CUPE board meeting** to align on orientation and support initiatives for the fall.

That's it for June!

Whether it's buses, therapy, events, or just community vibes, I'm here to help make grad life better. Feel free to reach out if you want to get involved or have ideas to share. Let's make July even better 🌻

– **Spandana Chereddy**

VP, Community Engagement | Graduate Student Association (GSA)

University of Guelph

Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales

This month, I'll be making some light updates to our communications materials and website to keep everything running smoothly and make sure we have accurate information available. I'm currently coordinating with our wellness providers to finalize planning and scheduling for upcoming group sessions and workshops. Things are otherwise running as normal.

If board members could share our wellness programming and events with their departments, that would be greatly appreciated—it really helps with outreach and uptake.

Please let me know if you have anything you'd like included in upcoming newsletters or social posts.

Thank you,
Josh

Activities Coordinator – Manpreet Kaur

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to share a quick update following my recent meeting with the executive team. We've finalized that we will run Bingo night in July along with paint night and trivia.

Last month paint night was a great success, which had around 30 participants. We have upcoming paint night on June 24th.

Thanks,
Manpreet

Office Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

June has been an extremely busy month with ongoing and additional responsibilities namely:

- Actively supporting our executives
- Coordinating and working with auditors for the annual audit
- Assisting mental health consultants
- Organizing Trivia host and event logistics
- Processing bursary payments and expediting all other financial-related matters
- Attended the CSA-GSA Transit Committee Meeting on June 19th at Guelph Transit Offices.
- Liaison and coordination with UC Services and Auditors for liquor license renewal and documentation.

Best,

Michelle
GSA Office Manager