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# BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

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Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

UC Room # 441

5:30 PM

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## GSA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> , 5:30 p.m.**

Please send Regrets to [gsa@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gsa@uoguelph.ca), no later than Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 12 p.m.

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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 November 20th, 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.**

### Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of October 23rd, 2024 be approved as presented.**

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

### 5:50 p.m. General Director Appointment

Grace Goderre – Department of Biomedical Sciences

Nabhan Refaie – Department of Business Management

\*See Board Meeting Materials for the personal statement\*

**MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA appoint Grace Goderre and Nabhan Refaie as general directors representing the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Business Management, respectively.**

### 6:00 p.m. PDR – College Royal Society

**MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$1000.00 to the College Royal Society in support of College Royal.**

### 6:15 p.m. PDR – Black and Racialized Graduate Student Support Network Event

**MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$1000.00 in support of the Black and Racialized Graduate Student Support Network social.**

6:30 p.m. Brenden Bellai – rlb Chartered Professional Accountants: Audit Presentation

\*Please see the Audit report included in the Board Meeting Materials\*

**MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. the audit presentation for the fiscal year of 2023 – 2024 be approved as presented.**

6:50 p.m. GSA VP Finance – 2024 – 2025 Budget Proposal

**MOTION #7: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the 2024 – 2025 budget proposal as presented.**

7:10 p.m. Letter of Support – Removal of Graduate Students, Post-Docs and Families from Family Housing

**MOTION #8: B.I.R.T. The GSA sign the Family Housing petition.**

7:30 p.m. Departmental and Committee Reports – Please see the Departmental & Committee reports section of the Board Meeting Materials, below.

7:35 p.m. Question Period

7:40 p.m. Executive Reports

7:50 p.m. President & CEO: Emily Minard

8:00 p.m. V.P. Internal: Jacob Yates

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

8:20 p.m. V.P. Financial: Mingze Li

8:30 p.m. V.P. Community Engagement: Rebecca Randle

8:40 p.m. Arising Business

8:50 p.m. In Camera Session

**MOTION #9: 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 #10: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting ‘In-Camera’ session end.**

Adjournment

## GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 5:30pm

Hybrid Teams Meeting, Room 430



### ATTENDEES PRESENT

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

<b>Staff (Non-voting)</b>	
Michelle Morris	GSA, Office Manager

**Regrets without Notification:** Juno McGowan, LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative;

5:44 p.m. Call to Order: Roodiya Awosanmi, Chair

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

The personal land acknowledgement statement was shared by the Chair.

**MOTION #1 B.I.R.T** The 5:50pm agenda item and motion #4 be removed from the agenda for October 23rd, 2024.

There was a call to remove **Motion #4** from the agenda.

Motioned by J. Yates, seconded by Y. Hasan. Motion carries

A vote was called. All in favor.

Approval of Agenda:

**MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as**

**presented.**

Motioned by E. Minard, seconded by A. Urthiel. Motion carries

Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be approved as presented.**

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

**MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be approved as presented.**

Motioned by J. Yates, seconded by Y. Hasan. Motion carries

5:50 p.m. CUPE #3913: Kimber Munford, Vice-President External

K. Munford shared the following:

- Unprecedented payroll issues resulted in many applications for the Finance Assistance Fund.
- Ongoing grievance on payroll issues
- Collection information on overwork from students (increased TA workload)
- Family friendly Halloween Craft Night scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm at 25 University Avenue East.

6:00 p.m. General Director Honoraria: GSA VP Internal, Jacob Yates

**MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. the GSA approve the release of \$ 1,562.50 for General Director Honoraria.**

J. Yates shared details on the GD honoraria:

- Introduced at the March 2024 GSA Annual General Meeting.
- Compensation to general directors for fulfilling their responsibilities to represent and advocate for graduate students.
- Tracked by VP Internal based on departmental and committee updates and board meeting minutes.
- Overseen by the Finance committee

Requesting board approval for current honoraria amounting to a total of \$1562.50 for the period May 2024 to September 2024.

Clarity was sought on honoraria paid in the past. It was noted that GD honoraria payments were approved effective March 2024. The summer 2024 semester being the first term of payments to be released.

Motioned by Y. Hasan, seconded by O. Ozoemena. Motion carries  
A vote was called. All in favor.

6:15 p.m. General Director Appointments: GSA VP Internal, Jacob Yates

**MOTION #6: the GSA Board of Directors appoint Alexander Urtheil, Erin Howard, Jayden Cote, Juno McGowan, Michael Capperault, Sydney Leblanc and Yuxin Hu as general directors representing the Department of Engineering, Pathobiology, Environmental Design and Rural Development, LGBTQSIA2+, Chemistry, Political Science and Food Science.**

Motioned by J. Yates, seconded by Y. Hasan. Motion carries  
Individual statements were shared by candidates. The board had no concerns.  
A vote was called. All in favor.

6:00 p.m. Departmental and Committee Updates  
There were no questions or concerns to discuss.

6:00 p.m. Executive & Staff Reports

6:00 p.m. GSA President Report – Emily Minard

E. Minard shared the following:

- Removal of top up funding from Tri-Agency Scholarship holders.
  - Bill Rosehart and Ben Bradshaw from OGPS confirmed this is not a breach of contract from their end.
  - Further stating this was the department's liability and any communication to be taken up with them directly.
- SLAM meeting
  - First slam meeting of the year attended by student leaders and administrators.
  - Collaborative event between CSA-GSA and Shack scheduled by end of semester or early next semester. The event will help inform students of their tenant rights.
- UGFA
  - Faculty strike averted. UGFA came to an agreement with the University administrators and the strike is now called off.
- Other meetings Attended
  - Athletic Advisory Council Meeting
  - First Compulsory Fees committee meeting
  - First Senate and SLEF committee meetings

6:10 p.m. VP Internal – Jacob Yates

J. Yates shared the following updates:

- Onboarding of General Directors
- Updated and working on community assignments for general directors
- Current chair of the Equity / Ad hoc committee
- Attended other committee meetings

It was noted that General Directors are supposed to represent graduate students in the GSA on one university committee. If you are already representing graduate students on a committee, you do not have to add a second one unless you would like to.

6:20 p.m. VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam

M. Islam shared the following:

- Student memorial ceremony on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Event was collaboratively organized by the CSA and GSA.
  - Emphasis on remembrance and resilience
  - Tribute to student's vibrant lives



- Highlighting community's diverse beliefs
- Meeting with AVP Graduate Studies
  - Addressed changes to visa regulations affective international students
  - Issues with HR discrepancies
  - Impending UGFA strike
  - The formulation and processes related to the CSA club accreditation policy.
- Admission and Progress Committee Meeting September 2024
  - The committee meticulously reviewed each student file to assess student admissions and progress.

6:30 p.m. VP Finance - Mingze Li

M. Li was unavailable. An update was shared on his behalf.

- Communicating with students regarding bursaries and grants
- Also working on the fiscal budget for the year to be presented over the next few months.
- A motion for an additional GSA grant which was on the previous agenda was on hold due to no quorum, will now not be passed due to stipulations. More details on the stipulations to be investigated.

6:35 p.m. VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle

R. Randle shared the following:

- GSA New Website
  - Work on new website is now completed. Domain name to be confirmed.
- Presentation from a Toronto based private company
  - Hosted by the Higher Education Strategy Associates on October 8th
  - Report for 2023 regarding the state of post-secondary education in Canada.
  - Includes research indicators and performance.
  - Further details are shared in the executive report.

7:45 p.m. Arising Business

E. Minard spoke about the following:

- Effective Winter 2025 semester the Graduate Settlement Option to be completely removed.
- Tuition is to be paid in full or with a 3-installment plan incurring a charge of \$100.
- Requesting board members to spread the news among other graduate students

A question was raised to confirm if this was finalized or could be contested. It was confirmed that this was the final decision. Further discussion confirmed students with a payroll deduction for the current semester would have the \$100 fee waiver for the winter semester.

The possibility of contesting advance payments for students in financial situations was discussed. Also, for students with secondary awards such as OGPS or Tri Council, the cost of tuition is deducted from the award and balance paid to the student.

GSA to continue to advocate for graduate students on the subject. Collective advocacy including the board members is essential.

#### Question Period

7:55 p.m. In Camera Session

#### **MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. the Meeting move ‘In-Camera’ for discussion.**

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

Motioned by O. Ozoemena, seconded by E. Minard. Motion carries

#### **MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. the GSA Board Meeting ‘In-Camera’ session end.**

Motioned by J. Yates, seconded by O. Ozoemena. Motion carries

#### **Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned and the next GSA Board meeting scheduled for November 20th, 2024. Please send your regrets no later than November 19th at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:	Minutes Approved by:	
Michelle Morris GSA – Office Manager	Jacob Yates GSA Vice President - Internal	Roodiya Awosanmi Chair

## GENERAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

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### ***Personal Statement – Grace Goderre, Department of Bio Medical Science***

Grace started their leadership roles with their first appointment to the Ontario Ministry's Student Advisory Council in seventh grade, which eventually culminated in the updated and more inclusive health curriculum for Ontario students. Throughout high school, they were a student consultant for School Mental Health ASSIST, focused on peer-helper suicide prevention in schools. They won the 2018 President's Scholarship for their undergraduate degree in Equine Management, worked as a President Scholar Student Mentor, founded one CSA club and served on the executive board for another. They have worked in veterinary medicine since 2014, and as a surgery technician and research assistant in the Ontario Veterinary College since 2018, often managing student groups. Grace's master's in Biomedical Sciences investigates cardiovascular dysfunction in horses and affords them the opportunities to TA cardiology courses, guest lecture equine courses, and manage the herd of teaching horses. Their focus as a potential representative of graduate students is suicide prevention – which can be accomplished through things such as affordable housing, livable wages, respecting pronouns, and access to healthcare. Grace does not have spare time but fondly recalls the concepts of hobbies.

***Personal Statement – Nabhan Refaie, Business Management***

To the GSA Board of Directors,

My name is Nabhan Refaie, and I am a 5<sup>th</sup> year PhD Candidate in Management. I am writing to nominate myself for the General Director seat in Business Management.

My involvement with the GSA started when I was elected as a General Director for Business Management in February 2022. I, then, became the Interim Vice President Internal in September 2022 (being formally elected to the role in October 2022). I became the Acting President in February 2023, and was elected as the GSA President in May 2023. During my time with the GSA, I served graduate students (and my department) on several committees, working to improve GSA operations and university policy involving graduate students.

My interest in returning to the GSA stems from the increasingly important role the organization is playing within the university. The university has made several decisions that are counter to graduate students' interests, and I want to help the GSA advocate for its constituents' rights.

Thank you for taking your time to consider my nomination!

## **PDR – College Royal Society**

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Please see attached PDR Application for information.

## **PDR – Black and Racialized Graduate Student Support Network Evt**

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Please see attached PDR Application for information.

**Brenden Bellai – rlb Chartered Professional Accountants: Audit  
Presentation**

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**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024**

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**

**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of: University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association Inc.

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as at April 30, 2024 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association Inc. as at April 30, 2024 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

### Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association Inc. in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to a going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Guelph, Ontario  
October 22, 2024

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION****AS AT APRIL 30, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		(note 7)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 350	\$ 350
Bank	602,625	738,952
Bank - staff health plans	7,559	6,865
Investments (note 5)	205,000	0
Prepaid expenses	<u>7,088</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$ 822,622</u>	<u>\$ 746,167</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 64,511	\$ 48,380
Government remittances payable	2,090	2,585
Fund - staff health plans	<u>7,559</u>	<u>6,865</u>
	<u>74,160</u>	<u>57,830</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<u>748,462</u>	<u>688,337</u>
	<u>\$ 822,622</u>	<u>\$ 746,167</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_ Director

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024**

<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b> (note 7)
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of year</b>		<b>\$ 564,946</b>
Surplus from operations	\$ 688,337 <u>60,125</u>	<u>123,391</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<b>\$ <u>748,462</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>688,337</u></b>

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		(note 6 & 7)
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Fees	\$ 1,626,451	\$ 1,126,530
Grants and other income	36,302	36,562
Interest	<u>1,964</u>	<u>40</u>
	<u>1,664,717</u>	<u>1,163,132</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Guelph Transit Passes	1,304,065	796,871
Wages	60,452	46,344
Honorariums and executive	57,730	41,993
Donations and travel grants	53,001	32,655
Office and telephone	34,303	30,175
Professional fees	19,187	19,607
Employee benefits	17,009	7,623
Insurance	13,402	13,539
Events and activities	10,565	20,432
Advertising and promotion	3,106	0
Health plan benefits	1,952	2,000
Bank charges	1,919	1,153
SLEF	<u>0</u>	<u>250</u>
	<u>1,576,691</u>	<u>1,012,642</u>
<b>INCOME BEFORE THE FOLLOWING</b>	88,026	150,490
<b>LOUNGE - SHARE OF LOSS</b> (note 4)	<u>(27,901)</u>	<u>(27,099)</u>
<b>SURPLUS for the year</b>	<u>\$ 60,125</u>	<u>\$ 123,391</u>

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b> (note 7)
<b>CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net surplus for the year	\$ <u>60,125</u>	\$ <u>123,391</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	0	3,159
Prepaid expenses	(7,088)	0
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	16,131	(95,948)
Government remittances payable	(495)	1,118
Fund - staff health plans	<u>694</u>	<u>1,768</u>
	<u>9,242</u>	<u>(89,903)</u>
<b>CASH (USED IN) PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Investments	<u>(205,000)</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS for the year</b>	(135,633)	33,488
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year</b>	<u>746,167</u>	<u>712,679</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 610,534</u>	<u>\$ 746,167</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS REPRESENTED BY</b>		
Cash	\$ 350	\$ 350
Bank	602,625	738,952
Bank - staff health plans	<u>7,559</u>	<u>6,865</u>
	<u>\$ 610,534</u>	<u>\$ 746,167</u>

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association Inc. is a not for profit organization without share capital that has been established to represent the graduate students at the University of Guelph and to provide a lounge and recreational facilities for these students.

The University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association Inc. is a non-profit organization within the meaning of the Income Tax Act and is exempt from income taxes.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations and reflect the following policies:

(a) **REVENUE RECOGNITION**

The association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when they are received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Member fees are recognized as revenue proportionately over the fiscal year to which they relate.

(b) **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

Measurement of financial instruments

The association initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. The association subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. If an impairment has occurred, the carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortized cost is reduced to the greater of the discounted future cash flows expected or the proceeds that could be realized from the sale of the financial asset. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net surplus. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net surplus.

Transaction costs

The association recognizes its transaction costs in net income in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

# UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024

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### 3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the association is not exposed to significant interest, credit, currency, liquidity, or other price risks arising from the financial instruments.

The extent of the association's exposure to these risks did not change in 2024 compared to the previous period.

The association does not have a significant exposure to any individual customer or counterpart.

### 4. THE LOOKOUT

During the prior year, the association entered an operational partnership with University Centre Service ("the UC"). As a result of this partnership, the UC took on the regular daily management of business and financial activities of The Lookout (formerly known as the Graduate Students' Lounge). In exchange for this, the association is responsible for 50% of the cost of operation in a deficit situation or will receive an equal share of profits. The association also must pay the UC a management fee, amounting to 7.5% of revenue generated by The Lookout. In 2023, the management fee was temporarily reduced to 6.9%. Those amounts are broken down as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Lookout revenue	\$ 148,458	\$ 130,272
Lookout cost of sale	(59,846)	(53,867)
Lookout expenses	<u>(122,145)</u>	<u>(112,750)</u>
Lookout loss	(33,533)	(36,345)
Association's 50% share	(16,767)	(18,173)
Management fee	<u>(11,134)</u>	<u>(8,926)</u>
Net Lookout expense	<u><u>\$ (27,901)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (27,099)</u></u>

### 5. INVESTMENTS

During the year, the association purchased two guaranteed investment certificates ("GICs") that are still outstanding at year end. The interest rates range from 4.50% to 5.05%, with maturities ranging from February to March 2025.

### 6. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain figures presented for comparative purposes have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



## **7. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT**

During the year, it was determined that a number of billings between the University and the Association were missed and, accordingly, an adjustment of \$11,426 was recorded to unrestricted net assets in order to report the costs in the appropriate fiscal year. The effects of this prior period adjustment are below:

	<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>Adjusted Balance</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>2023</b>
Total expenditures	\$ 1,001,216	\$ 11,426	\$ 1,012,642
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(36,954)	(11,426)	(48,380)
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	(699,763)	11,426	(688,337)

## Letter of Support

### Removal of Graduate Students, Post-Docs and Families from Family Housing

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#### **Family Housing Petition**

We are writing to express our deep concern about the current situation facing the postdoctoral scholars and graduate students at University of Guelph who currently reside in family housing.

The university has made the decision to remove postdocs and graduate students from university family housing to “guarantee campus housing to all incoming undergraduate and graduate students for the full duration of their studies (with the exception of PhD students who are guaranteed only for their first year)”.

These institutional decisions are no doubt related to increased enrollment of undergraduate students, an unmanageable enrollment rate which seems to be continuing into future academic years. **Postdocs and graduate students should not bear the burden of the universities decision to over-enroll in the 2024 and future academic years.**

Graduate students and postdocs at University of Guelph are an integral part of the university's academic community and play a critical role in supporting its research and educational goals. Particularly, we would like to highlight that postdoctoral researchers are highly educated individuals, however, despite their high level of education, they are one of the lowest paid employee groups at the university. With the current market to find affordable housing outside of the university, it is nearly impossible for graduate students and postdocs to make day-to-day expenses.

**We, the undersigned, urge the university to reconsider its decision to remove graduate students and postdocs from family housing. We ask that no graduate student or postdoc be removed from family housing while they have an active contract (\*including new contracts and extensions at the University of Guelph) or are engaged in graduate study.**

**\*\*See second page to add individual signatures**

*Serra-Willow Buchanan*

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Serra-Willow Buchanan, Chair  
USW4120 – 1



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Scott Duchesne, President  
CUPE Local 3913

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John Tartt, President  
USW4120

## DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Departmental Reports

#### Animal Bioscience

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Biomedical Science

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Black Student Representatives

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Business Administration/Management

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Chemistry

**Report:** The CEPS is hosting an Innovators & Entrepreneurs Social on Tuesday, November 12, at 2:30 pm at The Lookout (UC, 5th floor)! No registration is needed, just come by to connect and share ideas. This event is all about fostering social connections that drive innovation and support new ideas. Creating spaces for innovation goes beyond providing resources, join us and be part of the conversation!

**Report by:** Okoroike Ozoemena

#### Clinical Studies

**Report:**

**Report by:**

#### Computing & Information (Computer Science)

**Report:**

**1. Tremaine Visiting Speaker Series:**

- a. **Event:** Welcome Reception with Dr. Joanna McGrenere
- b. **Details:** An opportunity to engage with Dr. McGrenere's insights on user interface design and how it impacts user experience. The event fostered discussions on current trends and future directions in computational research.

**2. 2024 Grad Preview Day:**

- a. **Date:** October 30th, 2024
- b. **Overview:** Prospective students were introduced to the graduate programs in computer science, showcasing research, funding, and career opportunities. The day included lab tours, panel discussions, and networking sessions with faculty and current students.

**3. WACE Global Challenge 2024:**

- a. **Start Date:** November 11th, 2024
- b. **Context:** This initiative has begun, with participants engaged in addressing global challenges through collaborative projects, aiming to foster solutions that are innovative, scalable, and sustainable.

**4. PhD Thesis Defenses:**

- a. **Dates:** November 15th and 19th, 2024
- b. **Candidates:** Three PhD students will defend their theses this month, presenting their research findings to the department and wider academic community.

*Issues:*

**5. Scholarships Information:**

- a. **Concern:** There is a noted demand for clearer, more accessible information regarding scholarship opportunities for both international and domestic students within the department.

**6. Transportation and Weather Concerns:**

- a. **Issue:** Students have expressed discomfort with having to wait outside in the cold for buses, as buses arrive only a minute before departure. This has been especially challenging during the colder months.

**Report by: Spandana Chereddy**

## Economics and Finance

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Engineering

**Report:**

**Past Events:**

- [Discover STEM Programs Webinar](#)
- [One Health Seminar with Dr. Faisal Moola](#)
- [Diverse Voices Shaping the Digital Future](#)
- [Sharing Insights: Computer Science is more than you believe!](#)
- [Human-Computer Interaction: Designing Inclusive User Interfaces](#)
- [Tremaine Visiting Speaker Series: Welcome Reception with Dr. Joanna McGrenere](#)
- [2024 Smart Villages Symposium](#)
- [Cyber Security Awareness Month \(CSAM\)](#)
- [2024 Grad Preview Day](#)

#### Issues:

- The Graduate Engineering Society (GES) requires additional funding to engage graduate engineering students in academic, professional and social events.
- Engineering students (both undergraduate and graduate) need more lighting (light posts/higher light intensity) behind the Thornborough Building, when the sun sets it is extremely dark behind the building, making some students feel unsafe. All students should feel safe and campus and adding brighter lighting is fundamental to their well-being.
- Graduate engineering lounge needs monthly cleaning of their kitchen (including fridges) to maintain hygiene.
- Graduate engineering computer labs are very dusty, representing low standard of care of these labs, and impacting the wellbeing of students who need to use them for pro-longed hours.
- Re-occurring issues with the taps on the first floor Thornborough washrooms for the past two months, lots of water and electricity have not been reserved and this problem needs to be fixed for sustainable building operation.

**Report by: Yusra Hasan**

### English & Theatre Studies

**Report:**

**Report by:**

### Environmental Design & Rural Development

**Report: Revival of the SEDRD Graduate Student Society**

The SEDRD Graduate Student Society (SEDRD GSS) has officially been revived and will be resuming its role as a hub for graduate student engagement and community building. The society is preparing to plan and host events starting in the Winter 2025 semester, fostering connections among students and enhancing the overall graduate experience.

#### **SEDRD GSS Food Drive**

The SEDRD Graduate Student Society is currently hosting a Food Drive to support the CSA Food Bank on campus. Contributions from the community are greatly appreciated to help address food insecurity among students. The donation bins are located in the foyer of the Landscape Architecture Building.

- Dates: November 12 to December 5, 2024
- Details: All proceeds will be donated to the CSA Food Bank.

We encourage everyone to participate and support this important cause.

#### **Rural Symposium**

The Rural Symposium is a signature annual event that provides University of Guelph graduate students with an opportunity to showcase their research on rural development to key stakeholders. This includes policymakers, policy analysts, and program staff from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA). Submissions can be anything that has relation to rural, however broad.

- Purpose: The symposium facilitates knowledge mobilization and fosters networking between University of Guelph graduate students, researchers, and OMAFA representatives.
- Co-hosts: The event is jointly organized by OMAFA, the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, and the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development.

This event highlights the innovative research conducted at the University of Guelph and strengthens the connections between academia and the public sector.

For any questions or additional details, please reach out to [jcote05@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jcote05@uoguelph.ca)

**Report by:** Jayden Cote

## Environmental Science

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Family Relations & Applied Nutrition

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Fine Arts & Music

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Food Science

**Report:** Weekly student seminars are still being held. The departmental grad committee is planning a December wellness-themed workshop in collaboration with campus wellness services.

**Report by:** Yuxin Hu

## Food, Agriculture & Resource Economics

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Geography

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## History

**Report:** The Graduate students have discussed being disappointed with the university's change with the payment plan option. A petition has been sent around the department to try and fight this. I have been in

contact with the SSHRC grant recipients as well regarding the top-up being taken away. They are speaking to the Department head about it and will get back to me with what was said.

**Report by: Elizabeth Heaton**

## Hospitality, Food & Tourism

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Human Health & Nutritional Science (HHNS)

**Report:** HHNS held a fall photo contest and is also taking part in the CBS virtual Bingo raising money for United Way.

On Nov 21st at 3:00pm, HHNS will be hosting a seminar by Dr. Robin Duncan from the University of Waterloo and all are welcome to join. Will be held at FS128 or can be attended virtually. The talk will be on "Following white rabbits and black mice: Novel enzymes, bioactive lipids, and their pathways through the looking glass". Everyone is invited to join us at Brass Taps (the campus pub) from 4:15 to 6:15 pm, where we've reserved a section for the event. Pub food will be available for attendees to enjoy while interacting with our guest speaker (and each other).

**Report by: Barbara Hyde-Lay, Ashly Sharma**

## 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:**

Past Events:

- Second Annual Pathobiology Trivia Night (November 5th)
- 2024 Grad Preview Day (November 15th)

Upcoming Events:

- Pathobiology Christmas Lunch (December 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Report by:** Erin Howard

## Philosophy

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Physics

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Plant Agriculture

**Report:**

**Report by:**

## Political Science

**Report:** The Political Science Department does not currently have any departmental updates; however, I have provided a list of upcoming events that graduate students are eligible to apply for or attend.

Upcoming events:

- Alternate Routes '25 Conference, and special issue Call for Papers deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. This conference takes place from May 27-30, 2025, at the University of Naples Federico, Italy. This is an opportunity for authors to submit their research papers relating to critical social research, and to present their research at the conference.



- Global Labour Research Centre Conference, call for paper's deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This conference is a graduate student symposium for graduate students to present their papers relating to work and labour at York University, Toronto. This event takes place February 20-21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- The International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS) is hosting a virtual Academic Convention from December 6-8, 2024. This is a great opportunity to discuss international relations, human rights, security, sustainability, and student activism. Also, for graduate students can share their own research.
- Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) is hosting their annual conference next year in Toronto, taking applications for posters, proposals for the topic of gender or politics

**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: The committee hasn't met**

**Report:** Okoroike Ozoemena

**Next Meeting:** No date yet

### Animal Care Committee

**Meeting date: Nov 8 2024**

**Report:** Nothing major to report. ACC is still looking for non-animal user/community representatives

**Next Meeting:** Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2024

### Athletics Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

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

**Meeting date:** N/A

**Report:** N/A

**Next Meeting:** VP Int yet to schedule

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

**Meeting date: The committee has not met yet**

However, CELIC held a workshop on Nov 12, 2024 on Performance Management.

**Report:** N/A

- Based on the workshop, topics were discussed regarding managing performance with students, highlighting key areas that should be focused on such as setting clear expectations, regular check ins and building a supportive environment.

**Next Meeting:** Nov 26, 2024

### 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:** N/A

**Report:** Going to have our first meeting soon.

**Next Meeting:** December 3rd

### Equity Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:** November 6th

**Report:** Revised Equity committee mandate/purpose document. Discussed the establishment of a graduate student specific space and how this can support graduate student needs.

**Next Meeting:** December 4th

### Finance Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:** Oct 21, 2024

**Report:** There isn't a set weekly meeting date yet. The committee is meeting on-demand as applications come in.

**Next Meeting:** N/A

### Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee (GSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Health & Dental Plan

**Meeting date:** The committee hasn't met

**Report:** Okoroike Ozoemena

**Next Meeting:** No date yet

### Hospitality Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

**Meeting date:**

**Reports:**

**Next Meeting:**

[Human Rights Advisory Group](#)

**Meeting date:** No date scheduled

**Report:** Michael Capperault

**Next Meeting:** No meeting scheduled

[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 Food Security Committee](#)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

[Student Leaders and Administration Committee](#)

**Meeting date:** October 21st

**Report:** Covered during the October monthly board meeting.

**Next Meeting:** November 21st

### 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:** October 28th

**Report:** Activity looking into Inclusivity, Equity, Diversity and indigenization on campus and in the UofG community was completed. This was used to help structure the mandate of the committee for the upcoming year.

Concern over lack of awareness (in graduate students) regarding women's health services that are available through student wellness was mentioned.

**Next Meeting:** November 18th

### Student Wellness EDI Committee

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Transit Committee (GSA/CSA)

**Meeting date:**

**Report:**

**Next Meeting:**

### Student Experience Advisory Committee

**Meeting date:** Earlier in the semester

**Report:** N/A, missed the first meeting as it occurred before I was assigned to the committee.

**Next Meeting:** Nov 22.

### GenEQ Advisory Group

**Meeting date:** N/A

**Report:** GenEQ Exchange Series took place on Monday, November 11th

**Next Meeting:** No meeting date yet.

## EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

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President & CEO – Emily Minard

Hi everyone!

Hope all of your semesters have been going well. I know there have been several unfavorable changes impacting graduate students that have happened recently... but I hope that in spite of all that you have each found some time to relax. As well, I hope the new GDs have been settling into their positions well 😊 Below you will find my activities over the past month since our last board meeting:

### **GSA 2023-2024 Audit Draft Meeting**

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Michelle, Marcellus, and I met with Brenden so he could go over the draft of our audit from the 2023-2024 year.

### **Student Leaders and Administrators Meeting (SLAM)**

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Jake and I attended the SLAM meeting. This meeting had presentations from admins in CCS and Hospitality. CCS gave an informative presentation on the importance of cyber security. Some of the integral tips he provided us was that students should be using different passwords for everything and using password managers to keep track of these passwords. Hospitality also gave a presentation on their new International Flavours menu; for anyone interested in seeing this new menu please email me and I can forward you that!

### **Fire Warden Training**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> Michelle and I attended a fire warden training session to become fire wardens of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor University Centre. We will be helping to ensure that fire exits and extinguishers aren't blocked and are accessible to get to. We will also help to ensure extinguishers have sufficient pressure in them.

### **Student Executive Council**

On October 24<sup>th</sup> I met with undergraduate student representatives from CSA and each of the colleges. In this meeting we provide updates to each other about our organizations/constituents. Unfortunately not many of the updates I received are relevant to graduate students and most of the updates pertained to undergraduate student events.

### **Trivia Host Discussions**

On October 24<sup>th</sup> I met with Manjurul and Manpreet to discuss hiring of our trivia hosts and learn how we have previously hired them (open versus closed call). Moving forward it seems as though we will go in the direction of open call applications.

### **GSA Executive Committee Meetings**

I met with the GSA executives on October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>. For more details on how these meetings went you can refer to the attached meeting minutes from Michelle. To sum up the October meeting though, Jake discussed the idea of providing more graduate student space using one of the GSA offices, and the executives approved moving forward with our web developer to manage our website (in addition to Josh, our communications coordinator). At our November meeting we had a presentation from Bounce who specializes in using an app to help engage students more with events. The executives seemed to really like the app and so I will be looking into how we can potentially work with them.

### **Campus Food Security Projects Working Group**

I met with this group on October 29<sup>th</sup>. I learned that in the prescription program this semester 102 students have been enrolled out of a total of 115 students they can have; and this is with only closed call applications. I also learned that the Grocery Bus initiative will restart in November out of the Student Experience office. Sam Laban also mentioned that on November 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a film screening about food insecurity. This project will happen on campus and is in collaboration with Arell Foods.

### **Student Food Security Committee**

I met with this committee on October 29<sup>th</sup>. This was our first meeting of the semester so it was largely housekeeping items and introductions. However, there was a presentation on food insecurity where I learned the following: 33% of graduate students at UofG are food insecure, 32% of student respondents experienced hunger but chose not to eat because they couldn't afford it. These are statistics based on a Spring 2023 survey.

### **Compulsory Fees Committee Working Group: SLEF Carry-Over Funds**

I joined a working group from CFC where we are providing suggestions for how to spend the remaining funds from Student Life Enhancement Funds. There have been leftover funds partially due to the pandemic, and partially because there haven't been enough SLEF applications. What we are suggesting to the CFC is that there be an open call of applications to use this funding; this open call would remove restrictions typically set out by SLEF so it is extremely open and has no request limit. Following CFC approval this is something for anyone interested in proposing an idea for how these funds can be used.

### **Meeting with Bounce**

I met with a company called Bounce on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Here, I learned about how their app runs and its functions. Essentially they have an app where events can be created with details of times/locations as well as posts can be added to them similar to social media. However, the key here is that students can be notified of these event details which includes if an event gets cancelled. For instance, if there is a week where Trivia can no longer be ran, students can be notified of this instead of having to check Instagram to see whether or not it has been cancelled. As well, we can advertise our AGM and board meetings and manage attendance through this app. The executives seem to have a collective liking towards Bounce so I will be working with them moving forward to see how we can utilize their app.

### **Accessible and Affordable Housing Meeting**

Jake and I attended a meeting with Raquel Ricardez from Student Wellness on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Here, Raquel wanted to learn more about the reality of housing affordability and accessibility for UofG graduate students for a report she is doing as part of her new role. Jake and I had lots to discuss.

### **GSA x CUPE Tabling**

Jake and I attended a tabling session with CUPE on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> I attended to SR&R meeting. There was a presentation from Athletics on their disciplinary codes of conduct, incidents on campus from the Campus Safety Office, a hate activities



report, and presentations from Senate and Residence Life.

### **UC Finance Committee**

On November 8<sup>th</sup> I met with this committee to discuss finances from the University Centre over the summer semester. There was an overall loss over the summer; however, this is unsurprising with the lack of students as well as because Brass Taps was closed for a period of time for renovations. The Lookout is also not included in the UC finances.

### **Meeting with Student Wellness**

I met with some folks from Student Wellness on November 8<sup>th</sup>. I learned at this meeting that unfortunately the use of the funds from the GSA have not been well utilized. To provide context to new GDs, the GSA approved of \$5000 from the GSA funds to be dedicated to off-campus mental health supports for graduate students. I was recently informed that only one student has used these funds. We inquired about whether they should be distributed to a different resource (i.e. funding grad student support circle facilitators, which is usually a volunteer position) or if advertising for these funds should be improved.

### **Wreath Laying: Remembrance Day**

On November 11<sup>th</sup> Nate from the CSA and I attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Branion Plaza and War Memorial. We were asked to lay wreaths at this ceremony remembering and paying respects to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives and fought for our rights as Canadians. It was an honour to be involved in this.

### **Athletics Advisory Council Meeting**

On November 12<sup>th</sup> I met with this committee. We received a presentation from Raquel from Student Wellness where she asked that we brainstorm and share ideas for how to better engage students who don't use Athletics' resources to encourage/entice them to do so. Anyone who has any suggestions please relay them to me!

### **VPSA Meeting**

Jake, Rebecca, Manjurul, and I met with Melinda on November 13<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we discussed the issues surrounding West residence. Melinda informed us that 70 individuals have been asked to leave West residence in accordance with N11 contracts. Families, however, have been asked to move to Wellington Woods instead. She told us though that students who have been asked to leave before the end of their contracts can negotiate this, but they have to ask for this!!! So if you know anyone who has been affected by this, please let them know to negotiate this issue. They can reach out to whoever manages West residence.

I inquired about whether there were plans to improved graduate student housing moving forward and she said there indeed was. UofG has plans in the next 4-5 years to develop more on-campus housing for senior undergraduate and graduate students. I asked if the GSA could get involved in potentially funding these developments are subsidizing housing costs for graduate students who would live here and she said she will reach out to the relevant people to inquire about this and get back to me on it.

After I explained to Melinda that it has been really difficult for graduate students with all of these changes affecting their housing security and finances generally she asked me if there were any smaller changes Student Affairs could implement to give grad students a win. Jake discussed the idea of having a space for graduate students and I discussed having paid positions for grad student support circle facilitators. She promised to look into this for us.

**Meeting with Ben Bradshaw**

Manjurul and I met with Ben on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We discussed some of the housing points we learned from our VPSA meeting and Ben said he wanted to look into it more for himself. We also discussed an individual student's issue and quickly got that resolved. I also inquired further about changes to the graduate student settlement and Ben explained that part of the reason they changed it to an installment option versus payroll deduction is because there had been many issues where students were not being deducted enough biweekly to cover their tuition costs so ended up owing lump sums at the end of the semester which often came as surprises to these students. So moving to an installment plan negates this issue from reoccurring. As well, Ben said that in addition to the fee being waived in the Winter semester, he is looking to see if he can advocate for the fee being reduced starting in the summer (he is hoping to reduce it to \$50). He is also looking into ways GTAs can be paid out more in the beginning of the semester rather than through biweekly payments so that grad students have more money at the start of the semester.

That is all from me! As always, please do not hesitate to email if you have questions 😊

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

VP Internal – Jacob Yates

Hi Everyone!

Congratulations on your appointment to our new General Directors! I look forward to working with you! November has been another busy month! Please see my updates, below.

General Director Appointments

- Working to recruit GDs to vacant positions. More representation across the different departments at UofG allows the GSA to better serve the graduate student community.
- Have newly appointed GDs assigned to committees and completion of their orientation

Housing Accessibility

- Emily and I met with Raquel, individual in charge of accommodating the 40 recommendations resulting from the President's Mental Health Task Force, with some of them being focused on graduate student well-being and access to housing
- Identified potential avenues to pursue to support graduate student housing opportunities.

VPSA Meeting

- Exploring opportunities for increasing outreach to incoming graduate students
- Development of an orientation package sent out prior to arriving; similar to undergraduate students

UC Tabling

- In collaboration with CUPE, we have set up tabling to help reach out to graduate students and raise awareness about the services that the GSA offers.
- Will continue in December

Committee Updates

- Please see committee Reports in Board Meeting materials for updates from me on the following committees
  - o GSA Equity Ad-hoc Committee
  - o Student Leaders and Administrators (SLAM)
  - o Student Wellness at Guelph (SWAG)

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

Thanks,

Jake

VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam

Hello Everyone,

Please see my update below:

**Progress on Grad Council Policy**

- A meeting was conducted with the CSA to gain a comprehensive understanding of their club accreditation process. The discussion aimed to explore how we could implement some of their successful ideas into our own framework.
- As a follow-up, we are also considering potential strategies for establishing an insurance mechanism for the graduate council, ensuring that we are well-prepared for future needs.

**Board of Graduate Studies**

- During this meeting, we engaged in discussion regarding the Graduate Curriculum, focusing specifically on the additions, deletions, and changes to various programs. We reviewed the programs that have been approved for delegation, highlighting the implications of this approval. Additionally, we examined several programs that have made significant modifications to their curricula, outlining the specific adjustments made and the reasons behind them.

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 Finance – Marcellus (Mingze) Li

Dear folks,

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

Graduate Student Consultation:

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

In addition, I prepared and will deliver the presentation of the Fiscal Budget 2024/2025 for the November board meeting.

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

Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Best regards,

**Marcellus(Mingze) Li**

GSA VP Finance

## VP Community Engagement – Rebecca Randle

Hello all,

Happy November! I hope that everyone is keeping well as the days have grown quickly shorter and the temperatures much cooler. Much of this month has been planning-focused rather than the usual frequent meetings. Please find below a summary of my responsibilities since the October board meeting:

### **Website Update**

We have purchased our domain name! We are now working with our web developer, Dave, to arrange server space and an ongoing agreement for future website updates and upkeep. The exec. decided to outsource our website upkeep to Dave rather than having the Communications Coordinator position take responsibility for website updates. Even though our current Communications Coordinator, Josh, has web development experience and would be capable of updating the website, future Communications Coordinators may not have this skill set. Website updates will also be a significant time commitment and will often need to be completed quickly. Social media management already takes up most of the Communications Coordinator's working hours, and as a grad student, it can be difficult to accommodate labour-intensive website updates on short notice, given our busy schedules. Having a long-term management and upkeep plan for the website will help future GSA boards and exec. teams so they do not need to worry about website maintenance.

### **CUPE 3913 Updates**

CUPE 3913's VP External, Kimber, has been working to organize a Solidarity Actions meeting with the GSA and CUPE exec. teams, our equity committee, and the postdoc. union. We are hoping to meet during the week of Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> (the week of the upcoming board meeting) to discuss the numerous issues that have arisen over the last few months that are negatively impacting grad students.

### **Meeting with VPSA**

Jake, Emily, Manjurul, and I met with the VPSA, Melinda, on November 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the recent housing changes at 78 College Ave. For those that have not yet heard, dozens of students are not having their leases renewed and are being required to find alternate housing accommodations off campus. Lease end dates are specific to individual students but range between the end of January 2025 and the end of April 2025. Some students have been made offers to relocate to Wellington Woods, which is positive. Though we asked Melinda whether these students would incur an increase in rent as a result of the relocation. She was unsure and said that she would follow up with us about this. Unfortunately, other students who have signed lease termination agreements will need to find

housing off-campus. Students who have leases ending in January are able to request lease extensions until April if they contact the Student Housing Office. Students who must now find housing off-campus are encouraged to contact the Off-Campus Student Housing Office for assistance finding housing off-campus. Not all students living at 78 College Ave. will be asked to relocate or experience not having their leases renewed. If you or anyone you know lives at 78 College Ave. and you have concerns about your ability to renew your lease, please contact Student Housing Services. They will be able to provide you with information about the future status of your lease. **I strongly encourage all students to please read about tenant rights in Ontario and The Residential Tenancies Act so you are knowledgeable about your rights as a tenant in Ontario.** The Student Help and Advocacy Centre (SHAC) <https://csaonline.ca/shac> is also available to grad students if you have questions about your lease (at 78 College Ave. or elsewhere). Please never sign forms that you do not feel you understand. I know these are tough times, we must advocate for ourselves and for each other.

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

**Pending. To be provided.**



## Activities Coordinator – Manpreet Kaur

Hello everyone, I hope you all are having a good semester.

### Event Ideas:

#### **Past Events | COMPLETED**

##### **1. Trivia**

- a. Location: The Lookout every week
- b. Description: In groups of 4-8, each team will have an opportunity to answer questions related to the trivia theme which will consist of 2-3 rounds.

##### **2. The cutest pet photo contest**

##### **3. Pumpkin Carving Contest**

##### **4. Halloween Costume Contest**

#### **Upcoming Events |**

##### **1. Trivia**

Location: The Lookout (weekly). Happens every Thursday.

##### **2. The Meme Contest**

- a. Location: Social handle
- b. Date: November 15<sup>th</sup>

##### **3. Paint Night**

- c. Location: The Lookout
- d. Date: November 26<sup>th</sup>

**Manpreet Kaur**

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Events Coordinator  
gsaact@uoguelph.ca

Office Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

Hope everyone is doing well and have a good fall semester. It has been relatively steady this month.

- Completed the Fire Warden and Safety Course. Officially a fire warden for the fifth floor at the University Centre.
- Monthly reconciliation and payments expedited
- Assistance provided to students on bursaries and health and dental benefits.
- Liaison and communication with web developer for updates and purchases for new website.

Best,  
**Michelle**