



BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

UC Room # 332

5:30 PM

Table of Contents

GSA October 29th Board Meeting Agenda	3
GSA September Board Meeting Minutes	5
Sexual & Gender-Based Violence Support and Educational Services:	18
F25 General Director Election Results	19
rlb Chartered Professional Accountants: Audit Presentation – Brenden Bellai	21
GENERAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT	31
<i>Personal Statement – Jenna Scharnowski, School of Environmental Science</i>	31
<i>Personal Statement – Lokesh Kumar Karuppaiya Muthiah, School of Computer Science</i>	32
<i>Personal Statement – Juno McGowan, LGBTQ2IA+ Student Representative</i>	33
<i>Personal Statement – Grace Goderre, LGBTQ2IA+ Student Representative</i>	34
<i>Personal Statement – Himashree Ponrajan, Department of Engineering</i>	35
EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS	36
<i>President & CEO – Yusra Hasan</i>	36
<i>VP Internal – Yuxin Hu</i>	40
<i>VP Finance – Ayush Chawla</i>	41
<i>VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam</i>	42
<i>VP Community Engagement – Spandana Chereddy</i>	44
<i>Business Operations Manager – Michelle Morris</i>	46
<i>Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales</i>	47
<i>Events Coordinator – Hrishikesh Patil</i>	48



GSA October 29th Board Meeting Agenda

Please send regrets to gsa.businessops@uoguelph.ca no later than October 28th 2025 at 12 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Call to Order: Kathleen Nolan, 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 October 29th, 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. The GSA Meeting Minutes of September 24th 2025 be approved as presented.

5:40 p.m. CUPE #3913: Vice-President External, Grace Godere

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

6:00 p.m. Sexual & Gender-Based Violence Support, SGBV Support Coordinators Melissa and Rashida (please refer to presentation in materials)

6:40 p.m. rlb Chartered Professional Accountants: Audit Presentation, Brenden Bellai

Please see the Audit report included in the Board Meeting Materials

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the audit presentation for the fiscal year of 2024 – 2025 be approved as presented.

6:15 p.m. F25 GSA General Election Results: Vice President Internal (away) item to be presented by Ayush Chawla, GSA Vice President Finance

6:20 p.m. General Director Appointment: Vice President Internal (away) item to be presented by Ayush Chawla, GSA Vice President Finance

1. Jenna Scharnowski – School of Environmental Science
2. Lokesh Kumar Karuppaiya Muthiah – School of Computer Science
3. Juno McGowan – LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative
4. Grace Goderre – LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative

See Board Meeting Materials for the personal statements

MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors appoints Jenna Scharnowski as General Director representing the School of Environmental Science, effective immediately.

MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors appoints Lokesh Kumar Karuppaiya Muthiah as General Director representing the School of Computer Science, effective immediately.

MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors appoints Juno McGowan as a GSA LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative, effective immediately.

MOTION #7: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors appoints Grace Goderre as a GSA LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative, effective immediately.

MOTION #8: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors appoints Himashree Ponrajan as General Director representing the Department of Engineering, effective immediately.

MOTION #9: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors motions to approve the GSA President & CEO, in consultation with the remaining Executive delegating tasks of the vacant position between some of the remaining Executive for the month of November.

7:00 p.m. Executive Updates

7:00 p.m. President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

7:10 p.m. VP Internal – Yuxin Hu (regrets received, refer to report in materials)

7:20 p.m. VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

7:30 p.m. VP Academic – Manjurul Islam

7:40 p.m. VP Community Engagement – Spandana Chereddy

8:00 p.m. In-Camera Session

MOTION #10 B.I.R.T. The GSA board meeting move ‘in-camera’ for discussion.

MOTION #11 B.I.R.T. The GSA board meeting ‘in-camera’ session end.

Adjournment.

GSA September Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 24th 2025 5:30pm

Hybrid Teams Meeting, Room 332



ATTENDEES PRESENT

GSA Executives	
Yusra Hasan	President and CEO
Yuxin Hu	Vice President Internal
Ayush Chawla	Vice President Finance
M. Manjurul Islam	Vice President, Academic
Spandana Chereddy	Vice President Community Engagement
Kathleen Nolan	Chair
General Directors	
Akierah Binns	Black Student Representatives
Mavis Opoku	
David Bahrami	Biomedical Science
Lynn Courville	Business Management
Michael Capperault	Chemistry
Sage Milne	Environmental Design and Rural Development
Oveka Obroh	Geography, Environment and Geomatics
Barbara Hyde-Lay	Human Health and Nutritional Sciences
Juno McGowan	LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative
Samantha Dobson	Pathobiology
Erin Howard	Population Medicine
Olivia Gibson	
Staff	
Michelle Morris	GSA Business Development Manager
Harrison Barretto	Administrative Assistant
Hrishikesh Patel	Events Coordinator
Guests	
Benjamin Bradshaw	Assistant Vice President Graduate Studies

Regrets with Notification: Valentina Gonzalez Rodriguez, Population Medicine; Grace Goderre, Biomedical Science and CUPE#3913 VP External

Regrets without Notification: Alexander Urthiel, Engineering, Ashly Sharma, Human Health and

Nutritional Sciences; Siamoy Stewart, Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management; Elizabeth Heaton, History

5:35 p.m. Call to Order: Kathleen Nolan, Chair

Territorial Acknowledgement

The personal land acknowledgement statement was shared by the Chair.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION #1 B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the September 24th 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

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

A motion to modify the agenda was requested.

MOTION #1 B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves to move the budget discussion by the VP Finance to the first discussion item.

Motion carries

A vote was called. All in favor.

MOTION #2 B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the September 24th 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented and amended.

Motion carries

A vote was called. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of July 23rd, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motioned by A. Chawla, seconded by S. Cheretty. Motion carries

5:40 p.m. Faculty of Graduate Studies: Dr. Ben Bradshaw, Assistant Vice President (Graduate Studies)

B. Bradshaw noted:

- Graduate enrollment is the key focus for senior administrators
- 40% drop in applications and 15-20% drop in acceptances.
- Delays and lower approval rates for study permits due to cap on international graduate students.
- Record intake of domestic graduate students with overall enrollment remains low. Final numbers to be available by November 1st 2025.
- Emphasis on maintaining graduate student population to support a vibrant research community to balance growing undergraduate enrollment.
- Efforts continue to support thesis based graduate programs.

5:50 p.m. Discussion about Consistent Payroll Issues – Megan Black, Department of Chemistry
M. Black addressed ongoing issues with graduate student payments following the rollout of the University's new HR system in Fall 2024.

Key highlights:

- Overpayment errors – students asked to repay large sums due to accumulation.
- Lack of communication – Forced payroll deductions resulting from attempts to arrange repayment plans.
- Scholarship payment errors – Large debts due to duplicate payments from both scholarships and supervisors.
- Miscalculation and misinformation – Financial sanctions, withheld academic records and missed graduation deadlines.
- Requesting transparency, consistency, accountability and compassion

B. Bradshaw acknowledged the seriousness of the issues raised regarding pay errors and apologised for the situation. It was noted that the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) should now be fully functional, and the remaining issues appear to result from administrative errors at the departmental level. Requesting that information on specific cases be shared to enable a proper investigation and ensure accountability, with a commitment to conducting a thorough review of the processes involved.

M. Black agreed to follow up, noting that some affected students wish to remain anonymous, while others were comfortable sharing their names. Emphasizing that occasional errors are understandable, however the frequency and consistency of payroll errors remain concerning. Reiterating the importance of reducing these errors to prevent financial and emotional harm to graduate students.

Questions were raised on the inconsistencies in graduate student funding structures across departments and why funding models differ between departments. In response it was shared that funding varies across the university and departments. Funding for thesis-based students comes from supervisor research funds, TA ships, internal and external awards and departmental and college contributions. There is no single standardised model for graduate student funding. Some departments have a structured package while others are dependent on available resources.

Further discussion highlighted a student's personal experience with the accounts office where a \$140 fee was charged despite being on a payment plan. Attempts to resolve it were delayed, phone contact was not allowed, and the student had to visit in person. The fee was ultimately waived, but the student was forced to accept responsibility for an error originating from the office. The case highlights a power imbalance and broader systemic issues affecting graduate students' ability to manage essential expenses. B. Bradshaw suggested the student forward the email chain to him so he could investigate the issue further.

A question on the disparity between domestic and international graduate student fees was

raised, inquiring on the possibility of reducing international student fees or adjusting the fee structure to be more equitable. It was noted that the PhD level scholarships are available to bridge the gap between international and domestic tuition. However, at the master's level the differential remains.

6:00 p.m. Discussion on Budget review and cash flow model.

MOTION #4 B.I.R.T. "The GSA Board of Directors votes to approve the GSA Fiscal Budget for the year 2025 - 2026"

A. Chawla provided an overview of the fiscal year budget. Highlighting the following:

- No significant changes from previous year.
- Strong operational balance
- Projecting closing balance, ensuring a secure financial starting point.
- All accreditation requirements have been met.

Motioned by A. Chawla, seconded by S. Chereddy. Motion carries

A vote was called. All in favor.

6:15 p.m. Discussion: Update travel grant eligibility criteria.

MOTION #5 B.I.R.T. "The GSA Board of Directors votes to update the Travel Grant eligibility criteria"

Following a review by the Finance Committee, it was identified that some students may receive overlapping or excessive funding by combining the Braithwaite Travel Grant (which provides funds in advance) with the GSAS Travel Grant (which provides up to \$500). To ensure fairness and financial accountability, the GSAS Travel Grant terms and conditions are being updated.

Proposed updates:

- **Collection and Verification**
As part of the application process, GSS will collect specific applicant information, including (but not limited to) the applicant's student identification number and the conference or event name. This data is required by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS) to facilitate funding verification. This data will be cross-referenced with OGPS to confirm the total amount of travel-related funding received from other sources (e.g., Braithwaite Travel Grant).
- **Implementation:** GSA will provide OGPS with a list of monthly award recipients information. OGPS will verify the corresponding Braithwaite amounts, after which GSA will adjust the approved grant amount accordingly.
This will ensure that applicants do not receive duplicate or excess funding and that available resources are directed to those with the greatest need.
- **Confidentiality:** All applicant information and supporting documents will remain strictly confidential to protect applicant privacy while maintaining transparency in funding administration.

Motioned by M. Manjurul, seconded by A. Chawla. Motion carries
A vote was called. All in favor.

6:30 p.m. TSS Contract discussion

MOTION #5 B.I.R.T. "The GSA Board of Directors approves a motion to terminate TSS contract effective December 12th 2025 with a 2 months' notice"

TSS currently provides life-coaching services for graduate students under contract until **December 12, 2025**. The service has been running for approximately one year.

Key Points Raised:

- The **GSA is prioritizing investment** in services with high student engagement and minimal duplication.
- **Wellness Services** (through the university) and **Mint OT** already provide similar mental health and life-coaching support, often free for students.
- **TSS attendance numbers** were notably low, despite consistent promotion on Instagram, LinkedIn, Griff Life, Bounce, and the GSA listserv.
- **Technical difficulties** during TSS sessions caused disruptions and increased administrative workload.
- TSS is **not a certified therapy practice**, unlike Mint OT and Wellness therapists who are registered professionals.
- **Wellness management** questioned why GSA was paying for a third-party provider when free equivalent services exist.

Discussion:

- Board members agreed that the services overlap, and funds could be better allocated.
- **Reallocating the budget** to expand existing mental health services (e.g., adding more Mint OT sessions or supporting accessibility services) was suggested.

Motioned by O. Gibson, seconded by S. Chereddy. Motion carries
A vote was called. All in favor

The GSA Board approved the **termination of the TSS contract effective December 12, 2025**, with notice provided and Funds to be **reallocated to other high-demand student wellness or accessibility initiatives**.

6:25 p.m. DEI Bursary Name and Description Change – Equity Committee, GSA President & CEO
MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. The GSA board of directors approves the name change of 'DEI Bursary' to 'Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Bursary' with the description modified as presented in the meeting materials.

- Proposed to rename "DEI Bursary" to "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Bursary" for clarity students unfamiliar with the acronym "DEI").
- Update terms and conditions to better reflect current needs and inclusivity.
- Value: \$400

- Eligible to domestic or international graduate students from equity-seeking groups, including (but not limited to):
- Black, Indigenous, and students of colour
- LGBTQ2IA2S+ students
- Students with disabilities
- Others protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code
- Support for students experiencing financial challenges due to:
 - Emergency circumstances
 - Safe travel for conferences related to equity concerns
 - Gender-affirming healthcare not covered by insurance
- Frequency: Once per graduate degree
- Verification: Based on self-identification and documentation as reviewed by the Finance Committee, with discretion to request further details as appropriate.

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

A vote was called. All in favor

6:40 p.m. Body-worn cameras, Campus Safety Officers – GSA President & CEO

MOTION #7: B.I.R.T. The GSA board of directors is in favor of the University of Guelph Campus Safety Officers use of Body-worn cameras.

The **Chief Constable** brought this proposal to the **GSA Executive**, who voted in **favor**. To equip campus constables with BWCs for increased safety, accountability, and transparency on campus

Pros:

1. Increased Accountability & Transparency
2. Improved Evidence Collection
3. Reduced Misconduct and Complaints
4. Enhanced Community Relations
5. Improved Officer Training
6. Faster Case Resolution

Cons:

1. Privacy Concerns
2. Data Storage and Access
3. Potential for Misuse
4. Technical and Cost Challenges

Key points discussed:

- Constables hold positions of authority, making it crucial to have safeguards in place to prevent potential misuse of power.
- Concerns were raised about the privacy risks of recorded faces and voices, especially with the rise of AI technologies that can replicate personal data.

- The proposal to implement BWCs came from campus police, not students. The GSA Executive reviewed and voted in favour of it.
- There will be no financial impact on graduate or undergraduate students for the rollout of body-worn cameras.

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

7:10 p.m. Department and Committee Updates

Updates were shared by individual General Directors representing departments.

Black student Representative: Akierah Binns and Mavis Opuko

- Team shifting to one key networking event and one social event due to past low turnout and budget constraints from the Cultural Diversity team.
- Round-table discussions with graduate students (1 Master's, 1 PhD), Wellness Services, and other campus groups
- conversations (5–10 mins) about available services and grad experiences

Department of Chemistry: Michael Cappearuld

- Due to ongoing budget constraints, the Graduate Chemistry Society (GCS) has been combining events with undergraduate students to maintain programming.
- Welcome Event at the Lookout for new graduate students.
- Professor Meet-and-Greet last week, primarily for undergrads but open to graduate students.
- Upcoming Events include a Mall Day, as well as Halloween and Christmas socials for graduate students.

LGBTQIA2S+Representative: Juno McGowan

- No formal updates or new initiatives, as organizing LGBTQIA2S+ graduate students remains a challenge due to their small numbers and wide distribution across departments.
- A concern was raised regarding ongoing anti- LGBTQIA2S+ and anti-neurodivergent rhetoric and legislation, particularly in the U.S., with a reminder to stay informed, vigilant, and supportive of affected communities.

Pathobiology: Erin Howard, Samantha Dobson

- Welcome Back Pizza Lunch held on September 19th
- OVC Baking Event on September 29th:
- Pathobiology Arboretum Walk happening this Friday, with refreshments provided and a focus on birdwatching.

- Department Trivia Night to be held later this semester — date TBD.

Population Medicine: Olivia Gibson

- The department has recovered from the major flooding that occurred in the winter semester. Renovations are now complete, and both students and faculty have returned to the space.
- Weekly bulletin boards highlighting upcoming events in Pop Med, OVC, and across campus are being posted to rebuild community and engagement.
- Welcome Back BBQ held successfully.
- Population Medicine students also participating in the OVC Baking Event.
- Department's main student club recently held its member recruitment.

7:20 p.m. Executive Reports

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

Y. Hasan shared the following updates:

Advocacy for Engineering Graduate Students:

- Advocated on behalf of engineering grad students affected by HVAC failures in College of Engineering offices.
- Contacted Ben Bradshaw and Melinda Scott to request urgent attention and explore financial support (e.g. fan purchases).
- A lunch event may be held to acknowledge the burdens faced by affected students.
- GSA and CUPE 3913 are exploring ways to collect student feedback and emergency preparedness data for future incidents.

Hiring & Strategic Planning:

- Participated in CRO and Events Coordinator hiring.
- Developed a plan with the new Events Coordinator to expand inclusive, hybrid-friendly programming, such as a photo contest.

-

Student Housing & Bill 33:

- Attended a House Canada meeting on student housing. The GSA decided not to proceed with partnership due to excessive long-term costs for students.
- Met with university administration to discuss implications.
- Collected opposition signatures from graduate students on campus.
- Encouraged departments to support the campaign with physical petition sheets, available at the GSA office.
- A QR code is available for information, but signatures must be physical.

Policy, Legal & Support Work:

- Worked with the Student Experience team and VP Internal on GSA bylaws and elections.

- Met with a lawyer to ensure all GSA contractual operations align with Canadian law and SOPs.
- Collaborated with TSS to launch support sessions for students impacted by global conflicts.

Committee Involvement & Leadership:

- Chaired the Executive Committee, Equity Committee, Grad Lounge Committee, and the Grad Lounge Sustainability Subcommittee.
- Oversaw key updates such as:
 - DI Bursary name and terms change
 - Called and chaired two Executive Committee meetings in August
 - Proposed an innovative Gryphon Outdoor Conveyor System ("GO-CON") to improve mobility and accessibility on campus, especially during winter

Funding & Budgeting:

- Participated in Compulsory Fees Subcommittee, where \$17,000+ was allocated to the Food4U program
- Actively engaged in GSA budget discussions and auditing processes

Orientation & Accreditation:

- Contributed to graduate orientation, including a speech at the OGPS welcome event.
- Accreditation is now complete, and two SLF (Student Life Fund) applications have been submitted:
 - One for the GSA office
 - One on behalf of Mike for the GSA itself
 - A third SLF submitted for a graduate student program, with over \$5,000 allocated

Bill 33 Petition – Follow-Up Discussion

- Petition sheets are physically available at the GSA office; departments are encouraged to help gather signatures.
- Deadline: October 20
- A QR code is available to access more information, though signing must be done in person.
 - Suggestion to promote the petition using talking points i.e. Bus pass services, Health and dental benefits, Student events and union support and Risks to funding and autonomy posed by Bill 33
- Suggestions to consider scanning a PDF version to support digital access and accessibility. Also, a long-term sustainability plan should be developed in case the bill passes.

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

Y. Hu shared:

Equity Feedback Forms:

- Anonymous feedback polls from the Equity Committee are now live on the GSA website.
- These are intended for students who may not feel comfortable raising concerns in person.
- Members are encouraged to promote the form within their departments.

GSA General Director Nomination Reminder:

- Nomination form submission deadline next month for all returning General Directors.
- Timely submissions help avoid delays in appointments at the October board meeting.

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

A.Chawla left the meeting for another engagement. Report and updates available in board meeting materials package.

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

M. Islam shared:

Student Support & Advocacy:

- Assisted students in navigating advisor-related issues, ensuring compliance with graduate policies.
- Provided scholarship and funding guidance, referring students to appropriate university resources.
- Participated in the Admissions & Progress Committee meeting (August 2025), where several study extension requests (1–3 semesters) were reviewed.

Hiring & Onboarding:

- Participated in the final interview for the Events Coordinator and Admin Assistant roles.
- Facilitated onboarding support to Events Coordinator providing an overview of duties.

Insurance Discussion:

- Initiated discussions with the Business Operations Manager and others regarding student insurance.
- A decision was made to pause any changes until after December 2025, with further planning to follow in the new year.

Memorial Service:

- Coordinated planning for the Student Memorial Tree Ceremony, held on September 26, 2025.
 - Invitations were sent in August, and families confirmed attendance.
 - All speakers confirmed; introductory speech being prepared.

Orientation & Collaboration:

- Participated in graduate orientation events hosted by OGPS.
- Worked closely with the VP Community Engagement to support department-specific orientations.

Graduate Council & Governance:

- Provided updates on the Graduate Council Activation.

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

Graduate Orientation & Departmental Support:

- GSA participated in 21 departmental graduate orientation events, coordinated in collaboration with OGPS and QP.
- VP attended multiple events, including OVC, Computer Science, and general campus orientation, to present GSA services and support to incoming students.
- GSA supported and presented at the Grad Trivia Nights and other social mixers.
-

Events & Partnerships:

- International Mixer successfully held on August 13 with a strong attendance.
- Upcoming mixed events are in planning stages.
- Met with NEADS (National Educational Association of Disabled Students) to discuss future collaboration around support sessions and awareness-building for disabled grad students.
- Attended Wellness Education meetings with Crystal (new therapist at Guelph), who will collaborate with GSA for promotional support of mental health services (no financial commitment).
- Coordinated to extend 1:1 MentoTI support services into the fall semester.

Transit & U-Pass Advocacy:

- Attended Town & Gown meetings (August & September), raising transit access issues.
- Escalated concerns about non-functional signage at bus stops to the transit manager; response received promising resolution.
- Fall U-Pass (\$163.10) is active for full-time students; opt-in options available for part-time, returning, or leave-of-absence students.

Bill 33 Advocacy & Petitioning:

- GSA is actively participating in the Hands Off Our Education Campaign against Ontario Bill 33.
- Activities include banners, town halls, postering, tabling, and petition drives.
- Bill scheduled for discussion on October 22.

- Petition signatures are being collected until October 20 (physical forms available at the GSA office).

Communications & Digital Engagement:

- Coordinated with GSA Communications Coordinator on:
- Website updates (events, services, GSA info).
- Social media promotions (e.g., Zehrs shuttle, mental health services).
- Biweekly coordination meetings are conducted.

Zehrs Grocery Shuttle:

- Launched free grocery shuttle service (in collaboration with CSA and Zehrs) on September 9.
- Scheduled weekly, Tuesday 3PM–8 PM, every 30 minutes from UC to Zehrs.
- Riders get 10% back in PC Points.

Student Services & Feedback:

- Supported students with feedback on ALUMO Benefits platform; feedback gathered from other institutions for comparison.
- Attended BWC (Body-Worn Cameras) meeting, financial audit sessions, and GSA/BEPSA discussions.

AI Tool Promotion:

- Met with support your clubs' team:
- Findgrant.ca (AI tool for finding scholarships) – not promoted due to existing internal tools.
- Popin (AI smart networking tool) – under consideration for promotion to enhance networking at events.

Committee Work:

- Active in multiple internal and external committees, including: CEOTA, Budget Allocation, SGBB, Homecoming, GSA–CSA Transit Committee, etc.

Discussion Period:

- Members discussed issues related to overcrowding and limitations on Go Transit with certain routes. It was shared that MPP Ashlyn Clancy is preparing to bring forward a proposal to the Ontario Legislature advocating for improved weekend GO Transit service. Seeking letters of support from student organizations,
- GSA VP Community Engagement to follow up with MPPs office to provide letter reflecting the concerns raised by Guelph students and continue to monitor the progress and outcome of the proposal.

Update from GSA Events Coordinator:

- GSA DJ Night scheduled for September 26th at the Lookout from 8pm to 11pm.
 - A fun night of music, dancing, and socializing for graduate students.
 - Food and drinks are available until 10:30 PM (provided by The Lookout).
 - Licensed security staff on-site to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment.
 - 84 confirmed attendees to date.

8:15 p.m. In Camera Session

The in-camera session motion could not be passed due to the absence of quorum.

Adjournment

The next GSA Board meeting is scheduled for October 29th, 2025. Please send your regrets no later than October 28th at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:	Minutes Approved by:	
<hr/> <p>Michelle Morris GSA Business Operations Manager</p>	<hr/> <p>Yuxin Hu GSA Vice President - Internal</p>	<hr/> <p>Kathleen Nolan Chair</p>

Sexual & Gender-Based Violence Support and Educational Services:
Melissa Conte and Rashida Odumoye

Please see presentation file attached to email.

F25 General Director Election Results

	Department	Name	Email
1	Biomedical Science	David Bahrami	bahramid@uoguelph.ca
		Nicole Loyola Andrade	nloyolaa@uoguelph.ca
2	Black Student Representatives		
3	Chemistry	Michael Capperauld	mcappera@uoguelph.ca
4	Computing and Information Science		
5	Economics and Finance		
6	Engineering		
7	English and Theatre Studies		
8	Environmental Science	Sarah Kingsley	skingsle@uoguelph.ca
9	Food Agriculture and Resource		
10	Food Science		
11	Geography, Environment and Geomatics		
12	History		
13	Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management		
14	Human Health Sciences	Barabara Hyde-Lay	bhydelay@uoguelph.ca
		Zayd Al Kassem	Zalkasse@uoguelph.ca
15	Integrative Biology		
16	International Students		
17	LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative		
18	Marketing and Consumer Studies		

19	MA Leadership		
20	Pathobiology	Erin Howard Samantha Dobson	ehowar09@uoguelph.ca Sobso03@uoguelph.ca
21	Plant Agriculture	Ishrat Zahan	mzahan@uoguelph.ca
22	Population Medicine	Olivia Gibson	ogibson@uoguelph.ca
		Amna Jaleel	ajaleel@uoguelph.ca
23	Psychology		
24	Sociology and Anthropology		
25	School of Environmental Design & Rural Development		

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.
INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2025

	Page
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	3 - 4
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement of Financial Position	5
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	6
Statement of Operations	7
Statement of Cash Flows	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 - 10

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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, 2025 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, 2025 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
September 25, 2025



Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT APRIL 30, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 350	\$ 350
Bank	688,800	602,625
Bank - staff health plans	8,187	7,559
Investments (note 5)	205,000	205,000
Prepaid expenses	<u>12,749</u>	<u>7,088</u>
	<u>\$ 915,086</u>	<u>\$ 822,622</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 74,929	\$ 64,511
Government remittances payable	2,256	2,090
Fund - staff health plans	<u>8,187</u>	<u>7,559</u>
	<u>85,372</u>	<u>74,160</u>
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>829,714</u>	<u>748,462</u>
	<u>\$ 915,086</u>	<u>\$ 822,622</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, 2025

	2025	2024
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ 748,462	\$ 688,337
Surplus from operations	<u>81,252</u>	<u>60,125</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 829,714</u>	<u>\$ 748,462</u>

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2025**

	2025	2024
REVENUE		
Fees	\$ 1,655,909	\$ 1,626,451
Grants and other income	56,559	36,302
Interest	<u>24,516</u>	<u>1,964</u>
	<u>1,736,984</u>	<u>1,664,717</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Guelph Transit Passes	1,312,836	1,304,065
Wages	76,516	60,452
Donations and travel grants	67,509	53,001
Honorariums and executive	64,249	57,730
Office and telephone	24,708	34,303
Employee benefits	18,951	17,009
Insurance	13,702	13,402
Professional fees	13,588	19,187
Events and activities	9,972	10,565
Advertising and promotion	9,437	3,106
Health plan benefits	2,000	1,952
Bank charges	<u>941</u>	<u>1,919</u>
	<u>1,614,409</u>	<u>1,576,691</u>
INCOME BEFORE THE FOLLOWING	122,575	88,026
LOUNGE - NET OPERATING DEFICIT (note 4)	<u>(41,323)</u>	<u>(27,901)</u>
SURPLUS for the year	<u>\$ 81,252</u>	<u>\$ 60,125</u>

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2025

	2025	2024
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net surplus for the year	\$ <u>81,252</u>	\$ <u>60,125</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Prepaid expenses	(5,661)	(7,088)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	10,418	16,131
Government remittances payable	166	(495)
Fund - staff health plans	<u>628</u>	<u>694</u>
	<u>5,551</u>	<u>9,242</u>
CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investments	<u>0</u>	<u>(205,000)</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH for the		
year	86,803	(135,633)
CASH, beginning of year	<u>610,534</u>	<u>746,167</u>
CASH, end of year	<u>\$ 697,337</u>	<u>\$ 610,534</u>
CASH REPRESENTED BY		
Cash	\$ 350	\$ 350
Bank	688,800	602,625
Bank - staff health plans	<u>8,187</u>	<u>7,559</u>
\$ 697,337		\$ 610,534

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2025

1. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association Inc. is a not-for-profit organization 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

At the end of each reporting period, the association assesses whether there are any indications that a financial asset measured at cost or amortized cost may be impaired. If there are indicators of impairment, and the association determines there has been a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows, an impairment is recognized. If circumstances change, a previously recognized impairment may be reversed.

Transaction costs

Transaction costs attributable to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are recognized in income in the period incurred. Transaction costs related to financial instruments originated or exchanged in an arm's length transaction that are subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost are recognized in the original cost of the instrument. When the instrument is measured at amortized cost, transaction costs are recognized in income over the life of the instrument using the straight-line method.

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 2025 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. Those amounts are broken down as follows:

	2025	2024
Lookout revenue	\$ 135,920	\$ 148,458
Lookout cost of sale	(51,488)	(59,846)
Lookout expenses	<u>(108,089)</u>	<u>(122,145)</u>
Lookout loss	<u>(23,657)</u>	<u>(33,533)</u>
Association's 50% share	(11,829)	(16,767)
Capital repairs	(19,300)	0
Management fee	<u>(10,194)</u>	<u>(11,134)</u>
Net Lookout expense	<u><u>\$ (41,323)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (27,901)</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 2.70% to 2.90%, with maturities in March 2026. The two GICs in the prior year, with interest rates ranging from 4.50% to 5.05%, matured in February and March 2025.

6. COMMITMENTS

An agreement was signed before year end for a wellness project to begin in the following fiscal year, which will provide group and one on one coaching support between April to December 2025 for an agreed amount of \$24,298.

GENERAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Personal Statement – Jenna Scharnowski, School of Environmental Science

My name is Jenna Scharnowski and I am nominating myself for the SES General Director position on the GSA Board of Directors. I am in my second year of my MSc Environmental Science.

I am seeking appointment to the GSA Board of Directors to help share and represent the interests of all graduate students studying within the School of Environmental Science. I hope to help make decisions regarding the improvement of campus life and academic studies for graduate students. If appointed, I strive to act as a liaison between the SES Graduate Student Council, the SES graduate student body, and the GSA.

I value the importance that the board holds in ensuring communication between the departments and representation of the student body's interests.

Thank you for taking the time to consider me for this position.

Sincerely,

Jenna Scharnowski

GENERAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Personal Statement – Lokesh Kumar Karuppaiya Muthiah, School of Computer Science

I am writing to express my strong interest in the General Director (Computer Science) position within the Graduate Student Association. I understand that I am reaching out at an unconventional time, and I sincerely apologize for missing the standard application window. However, I am eager to contribute to our graduate student community and hope you might consider my candidacy. Please find the candidate statement below.

As a Computer Science graduate student, I am committed to being a vocal advocate and voice for our department within the Graduate Student Association. From being Chairman of a Technical Club during my undergraduate studies, I have learned the importance of listening to student concerns, building consensus, and advocating for needs to leadership.

I understand that this role is really that of bridging the gap between the CS graduate students and the GSA, so that we are heard, and our perspectives guide association policy and activities. Whether it is requesting better research space, support infrastructures in the departments, or advocating student wellness programs, I am dedicated to representing our collective interests candidly and steadfastly.

My leadership experience has shown me that meaningful change is brought about by legitimate student representation. I am committed to being your tireless advocate, ensuring that Computer Science graduate students are represented at every table where decisions affecting us are being made.

Sincerely,

Lokesh Kumar Karuppaiya Muthiah

GENERAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Personal Statement – Juno McGowan, LGBTQ2IA+ Student Representative

Hi, I'm Juno and I am hoping to continue to try and help the LGBTQ1SIA+ grad community which remains so separated from each other by department and poor community attempts on behalf of the school. I also aim to push away senseless standards of how person should be a grad student.

Thank you,

Juno

GENERAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Personal Statement – Grace Goderre, LGBTQ2IA+ Student Representative

I'm Grace Goderre (they/them) and have served as a General Director for Biomedical Sciences for the past year within the GSA. During that time, I've sat on the Equity Committee and Student Wellness Advisory Group, predominantly focusing on sexual violence and issues affecting queer people. While on the GSA, I have advocated for accountability and transparency, increased mental health resources, improvements to the equity bursary, and more.

I have previously worked with the Ontario Minister of Education for curriculum overhaul, advocated for changes in the university's sexual and gender-based violence policy, and am currently representing graduate students on the search committee for the new Dean of the Ontario Veterinary College.

I am now the Vice President External of CUPE 3913 and want to continue my work for graduate student and enhance collaboration by staying involved in the GSA – specifically, by being appointed as the 2nd LGBTQ+ General Director.

Thank you,

Grace

GENERAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Personal Statement – Himashree Ponrajan, Department of Engineering

I'm Himashree Ponrajan, a second-year PhD student in Engineering. I've been at the University of Guelph for three years now, during which I've built a solid network and grown to appreciate our active graduate community. These experiences have shaped my understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing graduate students today.

I have a strong desire to promote inclusivity, teamwork, and communication in our University. I hope to use my strong leadership and organizational abilities, which I have developed throughout my experiences in a variety of academic and organizational roles, to represent graduate students' interests. In my capacity as General Director, I genuinely hope to act as a sincere conduit between students and GSA, facilitating clear communication of concepts, issues, and possibilities. I'm dedicated to encouraging professional development, involvement, and a sense of community, and I'm excited to support GSA's goal of improving the University of Guelph graduate student experience.

I look forward to attending the November meeting and contributing to the GSA's work in representing and supporting graduate students within the College of Engineering.

Thank you once again for your time and support!

Kind Regards,
Himashree

EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all great. Here is my report:

Campus Master Plan - GSA Engagement

Discussion with colleagues from Space and Capital Planning regarding developments that graduate students would like to see over the next 20 years.

- The North side University Center elevators are frequently under maintenance and not functioning efficiently. Installing wheelchair buttons on the doors of the GSA spaces would improve accessibility, as we currently do not have any. The installation of a GSA plaque, like the CSAs at the University of Guelph, would help students recognize our presence and know who to contact for help or inquiries.
- Outdoor lighting at night needs to be optimized across campus. Parking spaces and the strategic organization of designated spots for graduate students should be improved, along with minimizing waitlists.
- Accessibility of the University Centre doors and ramps also needs attention, as not all doors are equipped with ramps. Individuals requiring accessible entrances often must travel a significant distance to find one. Regular maintenance of wheelchair mechanisms should also be ensured.
- An idea was proposed to install a heated conveyor over Johnston Green, as this part of campus becomes hazardous in the winter, causing many students to fall and get injured.
- Additional suggestions included adding more green roofs on campus, led by students as project leaders to gain hands-on experience, and creating areas where graduate students can bring their children and work, as childcare is costly. A possible quiet room for graduate students was also discussed.

Student Executive Council (SEC) Meeting

- Attended this meeting, introduced myself, met other student leaders, and provided an update.

Student Memorial Service 2025

- Gave a speech honoring the memory and lives of those remembered, offering comfort to families, friends, and colleagues in attendance. Assisted with the packing up of service materials.

DJ Night!

- Ensured that a security guard was present and that the CSO Constable was informed of the event a week in advance to ensure student safety. Oversaw all communications and assisted in oversight of coordinating the setup.

SLEF Application Reviews

- Participated in a series of review appointments to “grant” funding to various student experience initiatives and fundraisers, totaling over 130,000 CAD.

GSA Executive Committee Meeting

- Called and chaired this meeting, distributing the agenda beforehand. Executives took turns sharing their updates and discussing any matters requiring a vote. A final open discussion was held at the end.

Meeting with GSA President and VP Academic Graduate Studies Ben Bradshaw

- College of Engineering students affected by the air conditioning failure during the summer will receive an acknowledgment free lunch, tentatively scheduled for November 17th.
- Discussed payroll issues faced by graduate students, how the University plans to resolve this ongoing matter, and ways to mitigate its aftermath.

TSS Discussion with GSA Team

- Discussed the TSS contract, program statistics, and functionality with the GSA Executive. The Executive shared insights into the economic, social, and structural aspects of the service and its impact on graduate students.

1-1: Yusra and Leadership Education & Development Advisor (Jen Durst)

- Met to discuss the functionality of the GSA and gain additional insights on leadership and development.
- From my perspective, leadership strengthens with every opportunity for mentorship and growth, driving continuous improvement across the organization. I am pro-lifelong learning! 😊

CRO Resignation and Matters Relevant

- I appreciate the efforts the CRO contributed to serving the community, thank you so much. The GSA continues to shape its future direction and improvements with graduate students dedicated to “Improve Life.”

Payroll Conversation with Megan Black and Michael Capperault

- I had a meeting with Megan and Michael. Proposed launching a survey (with all credit to Megan Black and Michael Capperault) via the GSA Listserv to assist in data collection.
- Suggested creating a committee dedicated to supporting students with payroll issues. Having a focused resource for those facing these challenges would not only help track and

address problems more effectively but also provide reassurance and peace of mind, knowing there is someone available to offer guidance during such a stressful time.

Meetings with Undergraduates and Graduate Students to Support Their Academics

- Held multiple meetings and communications with graduate and undergraduate students seeking advice, both as GSA President and as a graduate student, regarding their decisions to continue their studies at the University of Guelph.
- Had meaningful conversations and directed them to valuable resources across OGPS and various departments.

GSA-TSS - Nonrenewal of Contract Discussion

- In accordance with the terms of the contract, the lead GSA Executive will meet with TSS to mutually agree not to renew the contract after its final date (December 19th, 2025). The contract has been honored in full.

Please see this for added context:

2. ENGAGEMENT

(b) Requirements. The specific services to be provided by TSS will be mutually decided by the Company and the University of Guelph Graduate Student Association; these services may evolve during this engagement.

3. TERM AND TERMINATION.

(b) Feedback. Feedback of student needs will be communicated by both parties on an ongoing basis. Evaluation of services and any addition of services will be assessed in July 2025 and again in October 2025.

U of G Presidential Installation

- Had the honour of attending the University of Guelph Installation Ceremony for Dr. Rene Van Acker, the 10th President of the University of Guelph.
- It was a meaningful moment for the U of G community, and Dr. Van Acker's words were truly inspiring: "Our mission to Improve Life and our ability to solve real-world challenges are clearly needed in the world."

He reminded us that applying our expertise for global impact has always been at the heart of U of G's identity. "This is how bold new chapters begin... Forward, together." Truly motivating!

Congratulations, Dr. Van Acker, wishing you success in this ambitious and grounded next chapter!

This can also be found on my LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yusra-hasan-%F0%9F%87%A8%F0%9F%87%A6-03b06b219/>

Lunch with Provost (Bill Rosehart)/Vice-Provost (Melinda Scott)/CSA Exec/GSA Exec

- Had a very engaging conversation centered around student study spaces. I suggested developing a portal that shows students which lecture halls and conference rooms are available for a few hours during the day, with capacities that can accommodate a significant number of students.
- Instead of purchasing more resources, we can be sustainable by optimizing the use of existing spaces that are not currently used strategically. We also discussed potential support students could receive from GTAs, or educational support staff present in those rooms.

Executive Committee Special Meeting Regarding VP Academic Matter

- Held a special meeting to lead the discussion about the VP Academic vacancy during the month of November.

1-1: Yusra and Jen (no comments)

SLAM: Student Leaders & Administrators Meetings

- Discussion centered around the role of AI in the University and explored methods to train faculty and students on the responsible use of AI to improve the efficiency of teaching and learning, while fostering stronger DEI across classrooms and campus.

SEC Meeting

- Attended this meeting where College Royal gave a presentation. Had thoughtful discussions with fellow student leaders and provided an update.

Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee

- Postponed until incoming General Directors join the GSA and become part of the Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee.
- This month I received the general directors who will be on this committee and hope to schedule for the month of November.

On a side note, I know this time of the semester is incredibly busy for most of you, and I wish you all the best in your academics and endeavors. Continue to shine and flourish as you work toward your goals, I believe in each one of you!

Sincerely,

Yusra Hasan
GSA President and CEO

VP Internal – Yuxin Hu

Hello GDs!

Congratulations on your elections! Welcome to the board for our new GDs and welcome back for our returning GDs! I hope you are having fun at the (first) board meeting!

Here are some things that I worked on other than my regular duties:

- GD honorarium adjustment discussions with the bylaws committee and the VP Finance.

§ Update: We are still working to consolidate the financial feasibility before bringing it to the board.

- Supporting the CRO in the past Fall general election.

- Conducting and concluding the general election following the recent resignation of CRO.

- Conducting the Fall executive by-election for the VP Academic position following the recent resignation of the VPA

I would like to encourage all eligible GDs to apply and/or spread the word! Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

- Meetings and conversations with the team regarding roles and responsibilities.

- GD onboarding and orientation and committee assignment

Please let me know your committee preferences if you have not done so already!

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything!

Best,

Yuxin

VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

Hello to the Guelph graduate student community!

This month has been remarkably productive for our organization. The Finance Committee concluded its session on Thursday with the approval of three exciting activity grants in a single meeting, demonstrating strong community engagement with our financial support programs. As the fall semester progresses, we're observing the anticipated increase in demand for needs-based bursaries, a trend we expect to continue through the coming months.

In response to Finance Committee feedback and our commitment to creating a more equitable bursary system, I've implemented a cross-reference system in collaboration with OGPS to track Braithwaite Award recipients. Given the substantial difference between the Braithwaite Award (\$5,000) and our standard bursary (\$500), we've identified that Braithwaite recipients typically have adequate travel funding. This insight allows us to redirect our support toward graduate students who lack departmental or scholarship funding, ensuring our resources reach those with the greatest need.

I extend special recognition to the OGPS officers for their invaluable support throughout this initiative, and to Michelle and Harrison for maintaining our vital communication channels.

We have received concerns regarding the terms and conditions around the GSA's bursaries and clarity for student interpretation of requirements. While we have made efforts to add incremental additions, more specificity is required. This will be a focal point in the coming months, as I dedicate more time to determine fair legislative language.

Additionally, this month I represented the GSA at a CUPE3913 networking event, coordinating catering services on behalf of our organization. I've also assisted in restructuring the VP Academic's responsibilities, implementing appropriate honoraria adjustments, and incorporating the Admissions and Progress Committee into my portfolio. This strategic addition aligns naturally with my focus on graduate student funding, enrollment, capacity, and overall well-being.

Looking forward to continued progress in supporting our graduate student community.

Best regards,

Ayush, VP Finance

VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam

Hello Everyone,

Please see below my report.

Board of Graduate Studies

The meeting was held in September 2025, starting with a presentation and orientation to new members. In addition, the have been made to changes graduate curriculum: program additions, deletions, changes, as follows:

- New Program (Master of Development Practice and Global Justice)
- New Program (Master of Applied Molecular and Health Sciences)
- New Program (Master of Supply Chain Management)
- Major Modification (Master of Arts in Mental Health)
- Major Modification (Master of Science in Animal Biosciences)
- Major Modification (Master of Arts in Integrated Humanities)

Admission & Progress Committee Meeting

In September 2025, the Admissions and Progress Committee assessed the files of students from the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS) recordings. The committee granted several study extension requests, which ranged from one to three semesters, during this meeting.

Meeting with Assistant Vice-President, Graduate Studies

I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with our President and the AVP of Graduate Studies. During the meeting, we deliberated on the recent decrease in the number of international students, the deduction of the fee from the payroll, the AC engineer building issue, and the provision of complimentary food to affected students.

Students Support

Assisted a student in navigating conflicting circumstances involving faculty members and the department, offering guidance and support in accordance with the graduate policy.

Student Memorial Service 2025

The Students Memorial Service Ceremony takes place on September 26, 2025. The President and Vice President of Academics from GSA were present for the event. The GSA President delivered a speech on behalf of the graduate student community.

Student Senate Caucus Meeting

The student senate caucus meeting happened in early October 2025. It began with an introduction to all members. Furthermore, there was a discussion regarding the selection of the

chairperson of this committee. The ongoing payment issues were also discussed by the graduate students' senator, who decided to schedule this discussion for the October 2025 senate meeting.

Library Student Service Committee Meeting

The initial meeting was organized in late September 2023. During the introductory session, discussions focused on the committee members' responsibilities. Additionally, the committee chair was elected. Subsequently, the previous year's report was distributed for review by committee members.

Senate Meeting October 2025

The Senate meeting was held in early October 2025. At the senate meeting, based on the board of graduate studies' recommendations, the members approved additions, deletions, and changes to several graduate curriculum programs. In addition, a graduate student senator raised serious concerns about ongoing payment errors affecting graduate students across the University. Despite repeated assurances from the university, errors in graduate student pay including overpayments, underpayments, and missed payments continue to occur. Students from multiple disciplines reported similar problems. Based on the problems, AVP-Graduate Studies has already contacted the Registrar and the Associate Registrar of Student Financial Services to arrange a meeting to resolve this issue. Plans to include the Associate Vice President of Human Resources in these discussions. Mention the plan to investigate and take corrective measures collaboratively with graduate student representatives.

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

Please see report below:

1. Events & Student Engagement 🎉

DJ Night – September 26, 2025

- Supported and co-organized the **Fall DJ Night** in collaboration with the Events Coordinator and the GSA team.
- The event was a great success, with excellent participation and positive feedback from students.
- Helped with logistics, coordination, and ensuring smooth operations throughout the evening.

Black History Month Planning Meetings

- Attending **weekly Wednesday meetings** with the planning committee.
- The current theme is *“All in Our Blackness: Our Futures, Our Stories, Our Legacy.”*
- Focused on programming, partnerships, and event ideas to highlight Black student experiences and stories.

2. Committees & Representation 🏠

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Committee – September 29, 2025

- Represented GSA at the university’s SGBV committee.
- Discussed prevention training, support services, and awareness strategies for the graduate community.

Student Leaders & Administrators Meeting (SLAM) – October 23, 2025

- Participated in this campus-wide meeting to represent graduate student perspectives.
- Shared updates on GSA activities, student concerns, and engagement initiatives.

University Hearing Board (2025–2026 Term)

- Serving as the **GSA representative** on the University Hearing Board.
- Contributing to fair and respectful student conduct processes.

3. GSA Executive & Internal Meetings 🤝

Executive Committee Meeting – October 6, 2025

- Discussed key agenda items including:
 - The **VP Academic** position transition.

- The **Teaching Support Services (TSS)** contract.
- Ongoing event planning and student initiatives.

Executive Committee Special Meeting – October 23, 2025

- Reviewed semester updates, upcoming events, and financial items.

Meeting with TSS – October 16, 2025

- Addressed graduate student teaching concerns and reviewed TA/contract matters.

Lunch with Provost, Vice-Provost, CSA & GSA Executives – October 21, 2025

- Informal discussion on **student study spaces**, accessibility improvements, and collaboration between student associations and administration.

4. Administrative & Student Support Work 📄

Bus Pass Opt-Ins and Opt-Outs

- Processed **three bus pass opt-outs** for eligible students (distance education or 200+ km from campus).
- Approved **two opt-ins** for students who paid the required fee.

Weekly Newsletter & Listserv

- Assisted with preparing and sending **weekly newsletters** and **listserv announcements**, ensuring timely updates for graduate students.

Wellness Department Collaboration

- Continued **bi-weekly meetings** with the University Wellness team.
- Discussed ongoing initiatives for mental health awareness and well-being programming for graduate students.

5. Community Update 🗺️

Weekend GO Train Service Coming to Guelph

- Shared updates on the upcoming **weekend GO Train service**, which will improve travel options for students and the Guelph community.

🔗 [Read more here](#)

Thanks,

Spandana Chereddy

VP Community Engagement

Business Operations Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

October has been a smooth month with regular operations and a few highlights to note:

- Fall Semester Interim Student Fees were expedited.
- Attended the Health and Dental committee meeting.
- Participated in the meeting with TSS and executives to confirm non-renewal of contract

Elections

- Reminder of the GSA VP Academic By-Election dates is provided below:

KEY DATES		
	BEGINS	ENDS
Nomination Period:	Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 @ 8:30 AM	Thursday, November 13th, 2025 @ 11:59 PM
Campaign Period:	Friday, November 14th, 2025 @ 8:30 AM	Thursday, November 27th, 2025 @ 4:30 PM
Voting:	Friday, November 28th, 2025 @ 8:30 AM	Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 @ 11: 59 PM

Please feel free to reach out if you need to connect or require any assistance.

Best,

Michelle

GSA Business Operations Manager

Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales

Hello Everyone,

Please find my report below:

Highlights / Updates:

- Continued to update and maintain the GSA website to ensure current and accurate information.
- Coordinated with the Events Coordinator as well as other service providers to promote upcoming events across social media platforms, ensuring consistent messaging and engagement.

Thank you,
Josh

Events Coordinator – Hrishikesh Patil

Completed Events

 **DJ Night**

Date: September 26

Time: 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Venue: The Lookout

Goal: More than 60 students participated in this event, indulged in small activities, and had fun.

Thursday Trivia Nights

Overview: Thursday trivia nights to promote student networking and foster a sense of community.

Upcoming Events

 **Halloween-themed DJ Night**

Time: 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Venue: The Lookout

Paint night

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Venue: The Lookout

Prepared by:

Hrishikesh Patil
Events Co-Ordinator