



BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025

UC Room # 332

5:30 PM

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GSA September 24th Board Meeting Agenda

Please send Regrets to gsa.businessops@uoguelph.ca no later than September 23rd, 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 September 24th, 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. The GSA Meeting Minutes of July 23rd, 2025 be approved as presented.

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

5:50 p.m. Discussion about Consistent Payroll Issues – Megan Black

6:00 p.m. DEI Bursary Name and Description Change – Equity Committee, GSA President & CEO
MOTION #3: 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.

6:15 p.m. Body-worn cameras, Campus Safety Officers – GSA President & CEO

MOTION #4: 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.

6:30 p.m. Discussion on Budget review and cash flow model.

MOTION #5 B.I.R.T. "The GSA Board of Directors votes to approve the GSA Fiscal Budget for the year 2025 - 2026"

6:45 p.m. Discussion: Update travel grant eligibility criteria.

MOTION #6 B.I.R.T. "The GSA Board of Directors votes to update the Travel Grant eligibility criteria"

7:00 p.m. TSS Contract discussion

MOTION #7 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"

7:10 p.m. Department and Committee Updates

7:10 p.m. Question period

7:20 p.m. Executive Updates

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

7:30 p.m. VP Internal – Yuxin Hu

7:40 p.m. VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

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

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

8:15 p.m. In-Camera Session

MOTION #8 B.I.R.T. The GSA board meeting move 'in-camera' for discussion.

MOTION #9 B.I.R.T. The GSA board meeting 'in-camera' session end.

Adjournment.

GSA July 23rd Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 23rd 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
Roodiya Awosanmi	Chair
General Directors	
Akierah Binns	Black Student Representatives
Mavis Opoku	
David Bahrami	Biomedical Science
Grace Goderre	
Lynn Courville	Business Management
Okoroike Ozoemena	Chemistry
Michael Capperault	
Alexander Urtheil	Engineering
Sage Milne	Environmental Design and Rural Development
Oveka Obroh	Geography, Environment and Geomatics
Samantha Dobson	Pathobiology
Rebecca Randle	Marketing and Consumer Studies
Erin Howard	Pathobiology
Olivia Gibson	Population Medicine
Valentina Gonzalez Rodriguez	
Staff	
Michelle Morris	GSA Business Development Manager

Regrets with Notification: Barbara Hyde-Lay, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences; Benjamin Bradshaw, Assistant Vice President Graduate Studies

Regrets without Notification: Ashly Sharma, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences; Juno McGowan, LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative; Siamoy Stewart, Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management; Elizabeth Heaton, History; Kimber Munford, Vice President External, CUPE #3913

5:35 p.m. Call to Order: Roodiya Awosanmi, Chair

Territorial Acknowledgement

The personal land acknowledgement statement was shared by the Chair.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION #1: B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the July 23rd, 2025 GSA Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

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

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. the GSA Meeting Minutes of June 25th, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motioned by O. Ozoemena, seconded by M. Capperauld. Motion carries

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

K. Munford was unavailable to give an update.

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

Dr. B. Bradshaw sent his regrets and was unable to attend.

6:00 p.m. CRO Contract – _President & CEO, VP Internal, VP Finance

Y. Hasan summarized the changes to the CRO contract highlighting the following:

- Includes four referendums in addition to the Executive and General Director elections, plus a new board approved committee.
- Role involves 180 minutes of committee duties comprising of vote collection, counting, communications and notices.
- Compensation:
 - \$300 for each election
 - \$366 per referendum

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the employment contract for the Chief Returning Officer position as presented in the meeting materials.

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

6:10 p.m. Policy and bylaws amendment approval – _VP Internal

MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the UC529 Shared Space Use Policy and Ad Hoc Hiring Committee Establishment Policy as presented in the meeting materials.

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

Y. Hu presented two policies:

- policy outlining procedures for booking the new space in room 529 and
- policy to establish an adhoc hiring committee composed of the executives and general directors making the staff hiring process more equitable and transparent.

MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article 14 as presented in the meeting materials.

Motioned by M. Capperauld, seconded by Y. Hu. Motion carries.

6:20 p.m. DEI Bursary Name Change Discussion – _VP Finance, President & CEO

A Chawla spoke discussed concerns brought up by the finance committee about the name “DEI” Diversity-Equity-Inclusion. Some feel it discourages domestic students from applying, while changing the name could deter marginalized students. No changes to be made this semester, but input is sought whether the name should be revised, stay the same or if a separate bursary is needed.

Discussion period

Thoughts were shared on choosing appropriate wording that relates to including everyone, elaborating on the abbreviation of DEI and including more detail in the description for better clarity. The compassionate bursary currently managed by OGPS and what it includes was discussed. Keeping separate DEI and compassionate bursaries was also discussed. Finally reaching out to OGPS with concerns on the compassionate bursary was suggested.

6:30 p.m. Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee Meetings – _President & CEO

Y. Hasan shared that the committee met in July to discuss financial goals, improving the lookout’s accessibility and menu, and exploring revenue options such as multicultural snacks and private events, A motion is proposed to shift committee meetings to a quarterly schedule (every three months, up to two hours) for better planning, preparation and resource efficiency.

Discussion period

Thoughts and opinions were shared on the three-month schedule. All agreed.

MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee meetings to be scheduled every three months following the July 17th committee meeting.

Motioned by Y. Hu, seconded by L. Courville. Motion carries.

6:35 p.m. ALUMO App - VP Finance

MOTION #7: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the change from Canada Life to ALUMO app starting Fall 2025.

A Chawla shared details on the current student health and dental broker Gallivan transitioning from a broker to a payer model while merging with three other companies.

Advantages:

- A dedicated support service with a quick response time.
- Ancillary services can be promoted on their new platform
- Fraud Management
- Reduction in time for claims processing turnaround time.

Insights were shared if switching to ALUMO right away or after a year was beneficial

Motioned by M. Capperauld, seconded by A. Chawla. Motion carries

A vote was called. The motion was defeated, and the topic was reopened for discussion.

Feedback from current users (details submitted by Gallivan) was discussed.

MOTION #8: B.I.R.T. The Board of Directors approves the change from Canada Life to ALUMO app starting Fall 2025.

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

7:10 p.m. Department and Committee Updates

Committee and Department updates submitted in the board materials package. No comments shared at the meeting.

7:20 p.m. Executive Reports

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

Y. Hasan shared the following updates:

- Governance and Leadership: Continued supporting and coordinating the executive team, delegating tasks while avoiding micromanagement and assisted with training completion.
- Finance and Student Support: Worked with VP Finance on potential new bursaries (Rural development, DEI and research), Represented GSA on the fee subcommittee, including \$17,000 reallocation discussions.
- Operations and Administration: Oversaw CRO Contract updates, participated in hiring of the Administrative Assistant, and collaborated on contract reviews.
- Advocacy and Student Affairs: Advocated for food security supports, air conditioning upgrades in Engineering offices, and improved transit accessibility.
- External Relations: Strengthened partnerships with unions, planned collaborative events, and engaged in housing advocacy discussions.
- Communications and Engagement: Supervised funding-focused newsletter, promoted events, and supported Trivia night adjustments due to licensing delays.
- Committees: Chaired the Grad Lounge Committee Meeting. Led GSA lookout operational planning, participated in executive and equity committee meetings. Proposing the below motion for General Directors to chair the Equity Committee Meeting going forward:

There was a discussion, and concerns were raised that singling out only the Equity Committee creates inconsistency.

- Allowing GD's to chair should apply to all committees in emergency situations.
- The existence of a compensation gap since the Executives are paid for committee responsibilities and GD's receive a smaller honorarium, making expectations inequitable.
- The requirement on creating clearer by law language for emergency situations in the absence of an executive.

MOTION # 9: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approve a General Director to chair the Equity Committee.

Motioned by Y. Hasan, seconded by M. Capperauld. The motion was withdrawn. Executive team to revisit the issue in September considering the above discussion.

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

- Met with Jen Durst from student services along with GSA President to review improvements to policies and electoral processes.
- Worked with executives on RP contract pray and hiring underway.
- Provided updates for board portal and website.
- Contributed to bylaw revisions approved today.
- Participated in executive discussions on wellness programs.
- Assisting with hiring a new chair, whilst current chair transitions to a new program.

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

- Updated Budget with Business Operations Manager to reflect monthly costs and staffing sustainability.
- Raised idea of a graduate student investment fund during VP Student Affairs meeting, inspired by the undergraduate model supported by Fidelity investments.
- Attended wellness provider meeting. Contracts in progress.
- Took part in a productive finance committee meeting, including discussions on emergency support.

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

- Met with Assistant VP of Graduate Studies to discuss documentation and support for students applying/reapplying to the Admission and Progress Committee.
- Met with the Mentor Team and VP Committee Engagement to review the one-to-one referral process and future support resource management.
- Supported graduate students with advisor conflicts and followed up on previous student issues.
- GSA merchandise for publicity and upcoming fall 2025 has been approved and will be distributed.
- Recruitment for events coordinator is underway, with interviews completed and appointments expected by the end of the month.

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

- Participated in monthly tabling with VP Finance, upcoming tabling on August 13 and 19. International Mixer event scheduled for August 13th.
- Orientation and Communications: Updated GSA information on all social channels and Gryph Life platform.
- Attended NEADS meeting on August 6th to discuss supporting students
- Met with manager of wellness services and new therapist to explore programs and fall offerings.

- Attended Transit committee meeting to discuss late night service agreement.
- Chaired equity committee meeting on July 4th. Joint SGBV Committee confirmed for Fall 2025
- Discussion on Ontario Bill 33 funding concerns.
- Assisted students with access to wellness programs, registration issues and ongoing support sessions,
- Participated in events coordinator and admin assistant hiring process.
- Working on amendments to TSS contract and other administrative tasks.

A question was raised regarding GSA' stance on the Bill 33 situation.

GSA Executives discussed the threat Bill 33 poses to universities and student organizations, including impacts on graduate students. Two executives attended a conference to advocate on behalf of graduate students and cast votes regarding Bill 33. The GSA plans to support the CSA and work collectively with other student organizations to advocate for student interests. The next meeting related to this advocacy is scheduled for August 17th .

Other discussion

Thoughts were shared regarding the General Director chairing committees referencing the bylaws specifying that committees are to be chaired by an executive member allowing flexibility to assign leadership based on experience. Emergency situations may require discussion with the board to ensure equitable decision-making. Proposed amendment to allow General Directors to chair committees should apply to all committees and be limited to temporary emergency basis with a specified time limit. Emphasis on avoiding risks to committee continuity, in particular the Equity Committee, and acknowledging th workload of executive members.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Okoroike Ozoemena, GSA General Director, Department of Chemistry thanked the team and announced the conclusion of his term following his successful thesis Defense.

Roodiya Awosanmi, the chair marking her final meeting in the role, also extended her thanks and wished everyone the best.

8:15 p.m. In Camera Session

The meeting did not move to an in-camera discussion due to loss of quorum and the meeting was subsequently adjourned.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm and the next GSA Board meeting scheduled for September 24th, 2025. Please send your regrets no later than September 23rd at 12 p.m.

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

DEI Bursary Discussion

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Bursary

This award, valued at \$400, is for both domestic and international students belonging to equity seeking groups for:

- Emergency circumstances in their previous or current semester.
- Attending a conference in a student's current or next semester where additional financial support is needed to ensure the student is travelling to a safe destination due to their belonging to an equity-seeking group.
- Funding gender affirming health care not otherwise covered by a student's available insurance(s) in any semester of their graduate studies.
- Equity-seeking groups include Black, Indigenous, and students of colour; LGBTQ2IA2S+ students, students with a disability, and other protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Due to the impacts of ever-changing circumstances and intersectionality, we encourage applications from any graduate students who are unsure if they meet these criteria. Students must be registered as graduate students in the term specified. Please note that the committee may ask for additional documentation. Students may receive this bursary once within their graduate degree.

Body-worn Cameras – Pros and Cons

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) offer both potential benefits and drawbacks for law enforcement. Arguments in favor include increased accountability, transparency, and improved evidence collection, while concerns exist about privacy, data storage, and potential for misuse.

Arguments for Body-Worn Cameras:

- **Increased Accountability and Transparency:**
BWCs provide an objective record of police interactions, which can help to hold both officers and the public accountable for their actions.
- **Improved Evidence Collection:**
Video and audio recordings from BWCs can serve as valuable evidence in investigations and legal proceedings, potentially clarifying events and resolving disputes.
- **Reduced Misconduct and Complaints:**
Studies suggest that the presence of a BWC can reduce both instances of misconduct and the number of complaints against officers.
- **Enhanced Community Relations:**
BWCs can foster trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve by demonstrating a commitment to transparency and accountability.
- **Improved Officer Training:**
BWC footage can be used to review and analyze officer performance, providing valuable insights for training and development.
- **Faster Case Resolution:**
The availability of video evidence can streamline the investigative process, potentially leading to faster case resolution and reduced litigation costs.

Arguments Against Body-Worn Cameras:

- **Privacy Concerns:**
BWCs can capture sensitive or personal information, raising concerns about the privacy of individuals, especially in vulnerable situations.
- **Data Storage and Management:**
The large volume of video data generated by BWCs requires significant storage capacity and robust data management systems, which can be costly.

- **Potential for Misuse:**

There are concerns about the potential for footage to be misused, such as being released publicly without consent or being used to target specific individuals or communities.

- **Technical Challenges:**

BWCs can be susceptible to technical issues such as battery life limitations, video quality concerns, and connectivity problems.

- **Impact on Officer Safety:**

Some argue that BWCs can make officers more vulnerable by revealing their location and actions to potential threats.

- **Cost:**

The initial purchase and ongoing maintenance of BWCs can be expensive for law enforcement agencies, particularly smaller ones.

Departmental Reports

Animal Bioscience

Report:

Report by:

Biomedical Science

Report: Nothing to report

Report by: Grace Goderre

Black Student Representatives

Report:

Report by:

Business Administration/Management

Report:

Report by:

Chemistry

Report: In early September, the Graduate chemistry society had their annual meet and greet for new and returning graduate students. Michelle attended the meeting to give student information on the services provided by the GSA and who to contact for any questions. Within the next month, the GCS has multiple events planned in coordination with the undergraduate chemistry club, such as a scavenger hunt, a meet and greet with professors, and a mole day event.

Report by: Michael Capperault

Clinical Studies

Report:

Report by:

Computing & Information (Computer Science)

Report:

Report by:

Economics and Finance

Report:

Report by:

Engineering

Report:

Report by:

English & Theatre Studies

Report:

Report by:

Environmental Design & Rural Development

Report:

Report by:

Environmental Science

Report:

Report by:

Family Relations & Applied Nutrition

Report:

Report by:

Fine Arts & Music

Report:

Report by:

Food Science

Report:

Report by:

Food, Agriculture & Resource Economics

Report:

Report by:

Geography

Report:

Report by:

History

Report:

Report by:

Hospitality, Food & Tourism

Report:

Report by:

Human Health Sciences (HHS)

Report: No updates

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:

- Pathobiology New Grad Student and Welcome Back Pizza Lunch to be held Friday Sept 19th from 12-1 pm
 - Location details to come.
 - For more information:
https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/Pathobiology/_layouts/15/Event.aspx?ListGuid=ee5de717-58c1-4936-8e71-b5f1f8fc9ebf&ItemId=391
- OVC School Year Kick-off Baking Event will be held September 29th
 - Three sessions, headed by a professional pstry chef; 9-11 am, 11:30 am-1:30 pm and 2-4 pm
 - Free of charge but you must register as spots are limited.
 - To be held in the Anita Stewart Memoral Food Laboratory.
 - For more information:
<https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/OntarioVeterinaryCollege/SitePages/OVC%E2%80%99s-School-Year-Kick-off-Baking-Event.aspx>

Report by: Sam Dobson

Philosophy

Report:

Report by:

Physics

Report:

Report by:

Plant Agriculture

Report:

Report by:

Political Science

Report:

Report by:

Population Medicine

Report: The Population Medicine building has re-opened for the new semester since the renovations. We are planning to put up a bulletin soon to post upcoming events that students may want to attend (especially helpful if they miss the emails!). We will also be leaving our contact information so that new and current graduate students know that they can contact us with questions or concerns regarding the department.

A welcome BBQ is occurring September the 17th for POPMED students.

Additionally, the following message was distributed to POPMED students but is open to all OVC: We're excited to invite you to the **third annual OVC School Year Kick-off Baking Event!** This occasion brings together OVC staff, students and faculty for a fun baking sessions, supervised by a professional pastry chef, intended for creating new connections and building community. No prior baking experience is required!

The three baking sessions will take place at the **Anita Stewart Memorial Food Laboratory (located in the Macdonald Institute @ 68 MacDonald St)**. We'll be baking an assortment of sweet treats for OVC.

Baking Event Sign Up Links (register for one session only):

[Morning Baking Session - September 29, 9 - 11 a.m.](#)

[Lunch Baking Session - September 29, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.](#)

[Afternoon Baking Session - September 29, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.](#)

Lastly, the graduate student executive committee for population Medicine is recruiting: The Graduate Student Executives of Population Medicine (GSEPM) is recruiting new members for Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 — and we'd love to have you on board! Get involved in building a strong, supportive community through student-led initiatives, academic engagement, and social events. This is a great opportunity to collaborate with peers across the department, develop leadership experience, and help shape the graduate student experience in Pop Med.

★ **We are currently recruiting for the following positions:**

- Secretary
- Lead Event Coordinator
- Event Coordinators
- Student Representatives

Please **follow this link** to complete the survey if you are interested in joining and supporting our graduate community: <https://forms.office.com/r/q0wVxxkCx0>

Deadline to complete this survey is **Friday September 12, 2025 at 11:59 PM.**

Report by: Olivia Gibson and Valentina Rodriguez

Psychology

Report:

Report by:

Sociology & Anthropology

Report:

Report by:

PhD in Social Practice and Transformational Change (SOPR)

Report:

Report by:

Committee Reports

Alcohol & Substance Abuse Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Animal Care Committee

Meeting date: Aug 8

Report: No updates

Next Meeting: Sept 12

Athletics Advisory Committee

Meeting date: Next meeting September 23rd

Report: Meetings have been scheduled for the entire semester, no updates as of yet.

Next Meeting: September 23rd

October 21st

November 18th

January 27th ***This meeting would be VOTING and quorum required. Fee Proposal Due to VPSA

February 3rd.

February 24th

March 24th

By-Laws & Constitution Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Co-Curricular Experiential Learning Integrity Committee (CELIC)

Meeting date: n/a

Report: nothing to report

Next Meeting: Thursday Sept 18, 2025

Code of Ethical Conduct Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Compulsory Fees Committee (CFC)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Digital and Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Equity Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Finance Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Health & Dental Plan

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Hospitality Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

Meeting date:

Reports:

Next Meeting:

Human Rights Advisory Group

Meeting date: N/A

Report: Have not had a meeting since the last report meeting date, have not recieved email about when another meeting will be

Next Meeting: N/A

Judicial Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

OUTline Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next meeting:

Student Food Security Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Life Award Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Wellness Advisory Group

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Wellness EDI Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Student Experience Advisory Committee

Meeting date: None over summer

Report: N/A

Next Meeting: Sept 29 but I will be absent – but will review minutes (Grace Goderre)

Transit Committee (GSA/CSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

Hello Folks,

Welcome to the Fall 2025 semester, I hope you are all great. Below you will find my report:

Advocated for College of Engineering graduate students experiencing impacts from the air conditioning issue over this Summer 2025 semester. Students are impacted academically and socially. Contacted Ben Bradshaw and Melinda Scott. Requested urgent attention to the matter and suggested solutions and ways to support students financially who need to purchase fans and were unable to work for heatwave days. Possibly looking into a lunch as acknowledgement of the burdens engineering graduate students experienced during this time. GSA and CUPE 3913 will hopefully be working together strategically over the next fiscal year to ensure HVAC operations and emergency situations such as the one above do not hinder students' academics or social potential (discussed in an August meeting with myself, GSA VP Community Engagement, and CUPE 3913 President).

Hiring of an Events Coordinator, and a plan to include more events that accommodate in-person and online (virtual) settings like photo contests. Involved in the hiring process of the CRO. Met with HOUSE Canada for student housing issues and brought the details to the executive, where it was voted not to continue with the involvement with this not-for-profit because of the burden of students being required to pay 15% of the total cost of the development of many years.






Discussed Bill 33 implications with administration, many meetings to prepare for the campaigning and "fight" against the bill. Collecting opposition signatures from graduate students in the University Center at a designated table. Worked diligently with Leadership Education and Development Advisor from Student Experience and GSA VP Internal on GSA By-Law Election. Met with a lawyer to ensure the GSA is operating according to the SOP and Canadian Law when it comes to contractual agreements. Met with TSS to develop a series that would support those who are affected by global conflicts. It is important that these services include this because graduate students need to feel safe, comfortable, and supported to truly succeed. The GSA cares about the well-being of its members. Communication between CSA were continued during the summer and plan to have an GSA CSA meeting soon.

In July I chaired the Executive Committee, Equity Committee, and the Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee. In the Equity Committee the (tentative) DEI Bursary name change and terms and conditions amendments were completed and are brought to the board for approval. In August I called and chaired two Executive Committee. A plan for this year was a major focus to be presented to members. Actively involved with the audit process for the GSA. Attended the teaching and learning network. In the Compulsory Fee Sub Committee over 17,000 was voted to be allocated to the Food4U program (committee approved this afterwards). Furthermore, I was involved in the budget discussion to ensure the GSA operates in an optimal manner with accordance to the budget. Completed the EDI and Disability

Confident Leadership training as the GSA President and CEO from the Office of Diversity and Human Rights.

Involvement in the: CRO hiring, events coordinator hiring, International Student Mixer with GSA and CUPE, several departmental orientations, Cultural Diversity Munch & Mingle, Meet the Profs event (help Black and racialized students), OGPS student orientation. Had a CUPE and GSA President meeting to suggest methods to improve tabling outreach, a yearly joint bursary with a teaching theme, etc. Also, accreditation and two SLEF applications have been submitted. This September I will also be chairing the Equity Committee on the 22nd.

GSA Yearly Plan 2025–2026

 Equity |  Diversity |  Inclusion |  Accessibility |  Sustainability

1. ✨ Governance & Equity

- **Honoraria & Roles:** Review and adjust General Directors' honoraria to ensure **fair and equitable compensation** with the GSA team
- **Executive Role Restructure:** Redefine GSA executive positions for **efficiency and impact** in the short and long term to enable optimal service to the GSA

2. Inclusion & Financial Support

- **Monthly DEI Lunches & Team Competitions (SLEF):**
 - Launch monthly GSA-hosted **lunch events**
 - Award **\$500 monthly** to winning teams of five
 - Funded through SLEF strategic application
- **Revise DEI and Compassionate Bursaries:**
Equity and Finance Committees to name and/or revise terms and conditions for greater inclusivity and accessibility with the interest of GSA members in mind

3. Sustainability & Accessibility

- **Campus Sustainability Survey:** Identify and promote **sustainable campus development** and locations that accommodate all members
- **Campus Planning Collaboration:** Organize a **small-group session** with the Campus Planning PM to provide GSA input on future university development
- **Accessibility Survey (in partnership with ODR & VPSA):** Launch a campus-wide survey to **evaluate needs of students with disabilities** and gather actionable data
- **Gryphon Outdoor Conveyor System (GOCon):** Innovating mobility across campus. *More details coming soon – stay tuned!* ✂

4. Advocacy for Graduate Students

- **Tuition Advocacy:** Campaign for **lowering or removing graduate tuition charges**
Explore **alternative strategies** for cost reduction

- Maintain strong relations with OGPS to ensure **continuous communication and advocacy** for graduate students' academic and financial needs
- In person drop-in hours to maximize support to members

My way of life as a Gryphon is being caring, authentic, respectful, and engaged, while staying fair, honest, and transparent. As an individual, I care deeply about human life and dignity, and serving as your President and CEO is a meaningful opportunity to help make life better for you!

I wish you all success this semester – stay strong!

VP Internal – Yuxin Hu

Hi everyone! Hope you are all thriving!

Besides regular duties of VPI, here are some updates on what I worked on in the last update:

- Feedback polls are finally up on the GSA website! Big thanks to the equity committee for refining the poll and our communications coordinator for putting them up.
- Updated GD records and sent for honorarium payments. Please feel free to reach out if you have not received your honorarium or have any questions or concerns.
- Proposed amendments for increasing the GD honorarium amount and adjust
 - The process includes evaluating the current status and putting together the idea/proposal; then multiple discussions with VP Finance for the financial feasibility and amount of increase; and meetings with the executive team for inputs and perspectives
 - Plan to be presented to the Bylaws committee for approval before presenting to board on September 22nd
- Continuous improvement of teamwork and group norm discussion in the executive and staff team.
 - Meetings and scheduling of a facilitated session with Jen Durst from Leadership Education and Development.
- Status check with GDs who have not been active i.e. missing all responsibilities for over 4 months – Siamoy Stewart (School of Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management) and Elizabeth Heaton (History)
- CRO hiring and onboarding – interview, training, handover
- Chair onboarding – onboard meeting to go over things
- Advising and supervising the CRO in planning and executing the Fall general election

Please make sure to send in a nomination if you plan to return as a GD for this year!

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

Best,
Yuxin

VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

Greetings Guelph graduate students!

I hope you are all doing well. I'd like to update you on several initiatives and financial support measures that have taken place over the past two months.

Bursaries and GD Stipends

During August and September, in collaboration with the Business Operations Manager, we updated our allocations to expand bursary support and submitted an accurate iteration of our fall budget. Additionally, I worked with the VP Internal to increase General director stipends, aiming to better assist your academic and professional journeys.

Finance Committee Meeting

Our Finance Committee meeting, which will cover both August and September bursary applications, is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23.

Engagement and Outreach

During these months, I have also been active in campus engagement, including:

- Assisting with orientation sessions,
- Tabling with CUPE,
- Facilitating events and related budget discussions.

Travel Grants and New Terms & Conditions

I am currently working on updating the Terms and Conditions for our Travel Grants. This revision comes as OGPS has agreed to help refine our grant distribution practices toward greater equity. I will also be bringing the new DEI grant and compassionate bursary terms to the Finance Committee for review.

Looking Ahead

Lastly, I plan to reach out to OGPS shortly with updated requests for prospective Terms and Conditions that could further improve the equitable distribution of grants.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions regarding these financial support initiatives.

Best regards,

Ayush Chawla, VP Finance.

VP Academic – M. Manjurul Islam

Students Support

Assisted students with conflicts involving advisors, ensuring compliance with graduate policies. Also, followed up on past issues concerning a few students. In addition, support is provided to students with scholarship and funding-related queries to help them access these resources.

Admission & Progress Committee Meeting

In August 2025, the Admissions and Progress Committee evaluated student files from the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS) records. During this meeting, they approved several study extensions, lasting from one to three semesters.

Meeting with Assistant Vice-President, Graduate Studies

I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with the AVP of Graduate Studies and our President, where we discussed the Compassionate Bursary authorities and approval mechanism. In addition, the President also advocates for the current issues related to AC in the engineering building.

Event Coordinator and Admin Assistant Recruitment Process

In July 2025, I led the recruitment process for an Event Coordinator. Based on the interview, we were able to offer the position to our new Event Coordinator, who is currently on board. I also had a chance to participate in a final interview with other executives to select an administrative assistant for GSA.

Event Coordinator Onboarding

- After joining the Event Coordinator, I scheduled an introductory meeting with him to describe an overview of the roles and future plan for the events under GSA. Also, discuss the potential events that engage more participants.
- Based on the planned event by the Event coordinator, I shared it with relevant executives for their input and opinions. In addition, Event Coordinators, VP-Finance, President, and I engaged in discussions on the potential budgets of the planned events.

Graduate Council Accreditation

- The President and I met with the Student Experience Adviser to discuss the way forward and the scope of implementing the Graduate Council Accreditation Policy. Based on our discussion, we worked on insurance requirements.

- Recently, I reached out to seven college administrators to get an update on the current state of the graduate council within colleges, but I didn't get many responses. Meanwhile, the Business Operations Manager and I have been in touch with key personnel about insurance. After meeting with the President, VP-Finance, and Business Operations Manager, and reviewing the budgets and current contract with the provider, we've decided to keep hold of the insurance work until December 2025.

Student Memorial Service 2025

The Memorial Tree Ceremony is scheduled for September 26, 2025. Invitations were sent in late August 2025 to the families, and interested families have confirmed their participation in the event. All speakers for the ceremony have also been invited. We are currently preparing an introductory outline for the ceremony, working closely with the CSA VP-Academic.

Participation in Grad Orientation 2025

- I had the opportunity to prepare an orientation presentation for the Grad orientation during O-week, with support from the president and VP-Community Engagement.
- I also participated in grad orientation organized by the OGPS, along with the President. Additionally, through collaboration with CUPE, our VP of Community Engagement coordinates department and college-wide orientation sessions, where I had the opportunity to present at the Psychology and Geography department orientations.

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

Reporting Period: August – Mid September 2025

1. Events & Student Engagement

1.1 Upcoming Mixer Event

- Planned and promoted upcoming mixer event for graduate students.

1.2 Tabling & Promotion Activities

- Hosted GSA information table on **August 13** during the International Mixer.
- Distributed GSA materials, engaged with students, and promoted services.

1.3 Orientation Preparation

- Compiled orientation schedule in Excel to track executive attendance.
- Coordinated with V.P Academic.
- Suggested inclusion of graduate-specific events in O-Week planning.

1.4 Community Events

- Attended **Town and Gown Meeting** on **August 19** to discuss transit-related issues.
- Attended **Lookout Food Sampling** on **August 13**.
- Attended **International Mixer Event** on **August 13** and hosted GSA tabling.

1.5 Orientation & Student Engagement Activities

- Presented GSA at **OVC orientation (Sept 3)**.
- Presented at **Computer Science Department orientation (Sept 9)**.
- Reached out to OGPS (Ben Bradshaw) to include GSA & CUPE at graduate orientation.
- Promoted GSSC and GSSN slides during orientation and distributed flyers for Fall programming.
- Attended **International Student Experience Meeting** (orientation planning).
- Planned **Trivia Night** (Week 1 September) with GSA merchandise as prizes.

2. Community & Advocacy Work

2.1 National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS)

- Suggested hosting a October event to support disabled students and promote available services.

2.2 Wellness Education Meeting

- Met with **Crystal (Wellness Therapist)** to discuss collaboration with GSA.
 - Agreed GSA role is advertising/promotion; no financial commitment.
 - Biweekly coordination meetings scheduled to avoid overlap with MintOT/TSS.

- Agreed to include **Wellness Services slide** in orientation instead of direct session participation.
- “Met with a Wellness Therapist from the University to discuss opportunities for further collaboration with the GSA and explored ways to promote their services to graduate students.”

2.3 CUPE Collaboration

- **CUPE Meeting (Aug 6):**
 - GSA invited to attend and co-present at orientations; schedule received.
 - Agreed to collaborate on survey (launching Sept 24) regarding extreme heat incidents.
- GSA and CUPE collaborated and hosted the **International Mixer (Aug 13)** and **International Members Orientation** planning.

2.4 Orientation Team Collaboration

- Partnered with other orientation teams to ensure smooth integration of GSA messaging and presence.

2.5 Transit Information for Students

- Discussed bus pass activation with **Transit Manager Ujjwal**.
 - Summer student cards delayed until Aug 31; interim boarding permitted Aug 25–Sept 2.
 - Official U-Pass term: **Sept 1 – Dec 31**.
- Confirmed **Fall 2025 bus pass opt-in** with CSA:
 - Cost: \$163.
 - Forms available from GSA VP Community Engagement; purchase at CSA main office.
- Addressed student concerns about bus pass/ID expiry dates.

2.6 Ontario Bill 33 Advocacy Work

- Registered for **Hands Off Our Education – Fight the Fees Campaign** (Oct 20–25).
- Campaign will include banner drops, town halls, and petition drives.
- Representing GSA in ongoing advocacy against Bill 33.

3. Website, Communication & Outreach

3.1 Website & Social Media Updates

- Coordinated with Communications Coordinator to update GSA website (events, health/dental info, executive team, staff).
- Supported promotions of events, wellness programs, and other student-focused initiatives.

3.2 Wellness Services Promotion

- Promoted **MintOT**, **TSS**, and **University Wellness Services** sessions.

- “Provided 1:1 student services and, where appropriate, guided students to TSS, Mint OT, and Wellness Services.”

3.3 DEI Bursary

- Coordinated discussions to highlight funding accessibility for diverse students.

4. Committee Work & Representation

4.1 Executive Committee

- Attended **Executive Committee Meeting** (Aug 7).
- Attended **Budget Allocation Meeting** (Aug 8).
- Team **photoshoot** (Aug 21).
- Attended multiple meetings re: **GSA Website updates** (Aug 13, Aug 20).
- Attended **Executive Meeting (Aug 22)** to plan Fall orientations and collaborations.

4.2 Joint Advisory Committee on SGBV

- Continuing as a member of the Joint Advisory Committee on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence from 2025-2026.

4.3 CSA–GSA Transit Committee

- Confirmed U-Pass activation aligned with late-night service (Aug 29).

4.4 Homecoming Committee

- Attended **Homecoming Planning Meeting (Aug 12)**.
 - Topics: budget, public urination, drinking/driving prevention, resources.
- Meeting on Sept 9 cancelled; next scheduled Sept 23.
- “Homecoming 2025 – CSA & GSA Collaboration” – GSA supported CSA with student engagement and promotion; transit operated free daytime routes (11:45 a.m.–7 p.m.) and late-night routes on Oct 4, 2025.

4.6 Elections Committee

- “I am going to sit on the GSA Elections Committee to support the Chief Returning Officer in overseeing the upcoming General Director elections.”

5. Services & Student Support

5.1 Benefits Plan Portal

- Collected feedback on ALUMO benefits platform for graduate suitability.

5.2 Mint OT Services

- **Workshop (Aug 6):** “When to Work and When to Rest” – 36 students.
- Anonymous survey feedback reviewed for 5-week grad group.
- Cohort 2 scheduled Oct 15 – Nov 12 (weekly).
- Meeting held Aug 26 for podcast/resource planning.
- **Podcast series:** originally 3 episodes; MintOT generously added a 4th free. Topics:

- Boundaries and burnout
- Navigating hidden curriculum
- Loosening perfectionism

5.3 TSS Services

- Meeting with Tonia (Aug 15) to plan Fall workshops.
- Wellness sessions held Aug 14 & Aug 28 (“Getting organized under stress”).

5.4 Student Wellness Services

- Biweekly meetings with Melanie and Crystal from wellness.
- Coordinated promotion of events and cross-collaboration with MintOT/TSS.

6. Administrative & Miscellaneous Updates

- Attended **Compassionate Bursary Fund Meeting** with OGPS/ORS.
 - Discussed inclusivity, eligibility, clearer guidelines, and reducing barriers.
- Supported GSSC & GSSN promotions during orientation.
- Attended **BWC (Body Worn Camera) Q&A** with CSO Director (Aug 20).
- Attended **GSA & VPSA Update Meeting** (Aug 27).
- Attended **Financial Services Audit Session** (Sept 19).

7. Special Initiatives

7.1 Zehrs Grocery Shuttle

- Launched **Sept 9** in collaboration with Zehrs.
- Free shuttle every Tuesday (3–8 p.m.), looping every 30 minutes from UC to Zehrs Clair Road.
- Offers 10% PC Optimum points benefit for students.

7.2 Support Your Club with AI Funding Tools & Networking

- Attended session introducing:
 - **FindGrant.ca** (AI platform for grants/scholarships; not promoted due to reliability concerns).
 - **PopIn** (smart networking tool; to be promoted for student engagement).

Thanks,

Spandana Chereddy

VP Community Engagement

Communications Coordinator – Joshua Gonzales

Hello Everyone,

Please see below my updates:

- Began regularly posting GSA updates on Gryphlife and LinkedIn on top of Instagram to enhance visibility and student engagement.
 - <https://gryphlife.uoguelph.ca/organization/gsa>
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/university-of-guelph-graduate-students'-association/>
 - https://www.instagram.com/uofg_gsa/
- Added and updated the GSA website.
 - Launched feedback surveys on Microsoft forms for graduate students. There is a dedicated webpage on the GSA site to collect and manage survey responses <https://gsaguelph.ca/feedback/>

Thank you,
Josh

Events Coordinator – Hrishikesh Patil

Hello Everyone,

Please see below my updates:

Completed Events

International Themed Trivia

Date: September 1

Collaboration: International Student Experience Office

Participation: ~40 students

Overview: A successful, high-energy trivia event that encouraged cultural exchange and student engagement.

Orientation Week Activities

Dates: September 3 to 5

Departments Involved:

- Department of Food Science
- Department of Crop Science
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology (SOAN)

Role: Represented the GSA and participated in departmental orientation programs to welcome new graduate students.

Thursday Trivia Nights

Dates: September 4 & 11

Overview: Hosted two general trivia nights to promote student networking and foster a sense of community.

Upcoming Events

Photo Contest - Student Life at University of Guelph

Date: September 20

Format: Online

Goal: Showcase student experiences and campus spirit through photography.

DJ Night

Date: September 26

Time: 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Venue: The Lookout

Goal: Create a vibrant social space for students to unwind and connect.

Prepared by:

Hrishikesh Patil

Events Co-ordinator

Business Operations Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

I hope the fall semester is off to a positive start. Below are some key updates from my work over the past couple of months.

Administration and Finance

- Organized and conducted GSA Staff interviews.
- Managed GSA Merchandise orders and purchases.
- Coordinated along with UC Services, the relocation and organization of office furniture with GSA offices, thereby creating a main office presence for the GSA.
- Expedited Interim fall 2025 student fee processing.
- Providing ongoing training and performance supervision to Harrison Barretto, GSA's new Administrative Assistant. Harrison can be reached at the GSA Main Office via **Email : gsa@uoguelph.ca** OR **Telephone: 519-824-4120 x 56685**, Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Submitted Fall 2025 Accreditation to the University.
- Submitted SLEF application for Graduate Gryphon Leap on behalf of GSA President.
- Coordinated with UC Operations manager on SLEF funding for furniture updates in room 529.
- Completed Internal Billing review and summer semester payments.
- Budget discussion and updates with GSA VP Finance.
- General Director Summer Semester honorariums expedited.
- Issued Bursary and all monthly routine payments.
- Assisted students with registration processes for new health and dental portal.
- Coordinated with CCS and Physical Resources on electrical and telephone upgrades in GSA offices. (Job partially complete)
- 2024-2025 Audit Review Meeting with RLB and Executive Team.

Events and Communication

- Provided operational oversight of events coordination
- Completed contract renewals for Communications coordinator and Trivia host positions.
- Represented the GSA and delivered a presentation at the Fall 2025 orientation for the

Department of chemistry.

Elections

- Assisted the CRO with General Director Election communications.
- GD Election Schedule below:

KEY DATES		
	BEGINS	ENDS
Nomination Period:	Wednesday September 17, 2025 @ 8:30 AM	Monday September 29, 2025 @ 11:59PM
Campaign Period:	Tuesday September 30, 2025 @ 8:30AM	Wednesday October 1, 2025 @ 4:30PM
Voting	Thursday October 2, 2025 @ 8:30AM	Friday October 3, 2025 @ 11: 59PM

My updated contact information:

Email: gsa.businessops@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: 519-824-4120 x 56499
UC North, Fifth Floor, Office 530

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

Best,

Michelle
GSA Business Operations Manager