



BOARD MEETING MATERIALS

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & UC Room # 332

5:30 PM

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GSA February Board Meeting Agenda

Please send regrets to gsa@uoguelph.ca no later than February 25th, 2026, at 12:00 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 the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships with them. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we learn and work.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION #1: B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the February 25, 2026, GSA Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. The GSA Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2026, be approved as presented.

5:40 p.m. CUPE #3913 Update: Grace Goderre, Vice President External

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

6:00 p.m. General Director Appointment: Vice President Internal (vacant) - item to be presented by Olivia Gibson, GSA Vice President Academic

1. Jenna Ford - Department of Management

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors appoints Jenna Ford as a GSA general

director in the Department of Management, effective immediately.

6:10 p.m. PDR: College Royal – Emma Robinson

MOTION #4: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves the release of \$1,000 to the College Royal Society in support of the 2026 College Royal.

6:25 p.m. PDR: Geography Graduate Student Research Symposium – Madeline Medrano

MOTION #5: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves the release of \$982 to the Geography Graduate Student Society in support of the Geography Graduate Student Research Symposium.

6:40 p.m. Discussion on redistribution of VP Internal duties and potential honorarium – Yusra Hasan, GSA President & CEO, and Ayush Chawla, GSA Vice President Finance

MOTION #6: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board ratifies the appointments of the Vice President Academic, the Vice President Community Engagement, and the Vice President Finance to fulfill the responsibilities of the vacant Vice President Internal position for the months of March and April.

6:50 p.m. GSA Executive W26 By Election Proposed Dates – Ayush Chawla, GSA Vice President Finance

Stage	Dates	Time	Duration	Notes
Nomination Period	February 26 – March 19, 2026	Closes 4:30 PM	3 weeks	Candidates submit nomination forms
Campaign Period	March 20 – April 7, 2026	Closes 4:30 PM	2.5 weeks	Approved candidates campaign
Voting Period	April 9 – April 10, 2026	Closes 11:59 PM	2 days	Online voting open to all graduate students
Results Announcement	April 11 – April 14, 2026	—	—	Results verified and announced
Transition Period	April 14 – April 30, 2026	—	2 weeks	Knowledge transfer and onboarding

Term of Office	May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027	Begins May 1	12 months	New Executive assumes office
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MOTION #7: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves the proposed Winter 2026 (W26) GSA Executive Election dates as per the above schedule.

7:00 p.m. Discussion on removal of GSA Executive one-month (May) transition period – A. Chawla, GSA Vice President Finance

MOTION #8: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves the removal of the one-month (May) transition period, thereby adjusting the executive transition timeline accordingly.

7:10: GIC Investment Discussion – A. Chawla, GSA Vice President Finance

MOTION #9: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves an additional investment of up to \$150,000 to the existing GIC investment of \$200,000, bringing the total authorized investment to a maximum of \$350,000.

7:20 p.m. Department and Committee Updates

7:30 p.m. Executive Updates:

7:30 p.m. President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

7:40 p.m. VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

7:50 p.m. VP Academic – Olivia Gibson

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

8:10 p.m. In-Camera Session

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

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

Adjournment.



GSA January Board Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid Teams Meeting

ATTENDEES PRESENT

GSA Executives	
Yusra Hasan	President and CEO
Yuxin Hu	Vice President, Internal
Ayush Chawla	Vice President, Finance
Olivia Gibson	Vice President, Academic
Spandana Cherreddy	Vice President, Community Engagement
General Director	
Kathleen Nolan	Chair
David Bahrami	Biomedical Science
Mavis Opoku	Black Student Representative
Michael Capperault	Chemistry
Lokesh Kumar	Computer Science
Himashree Ponrajan	Engineering
Hrishikesh Patil	
Sarah Kingsley	Environmental Science
Jenna Scharnowski	
Ruitian (Sky) Chen	International Student Representative
Grace Goderre	LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative
Barbara Hyde-Lay	Human Health and Nutritional Sciences
Zayd Al Kassem	
Erin Howard	Pathobiology
Samantha Dobson	
Amna Jaleel	Population Medicine
Ishrat Zahan	Plant Agriculture
Staff	
Harrison Barretto	GSA Administrative Assistant
Guests	
Benjamin Bradshaw	Assistant Vice President Graduate Studies
Megan De Roover	Educational Developer – Office of Teaching and Learning

Regrets (with notification): Michelle Morris, GSA Business Operations Manager; Juno McGowan, LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Representative

Absent (no regrets received): Nicole Loyola Andrade, Biomedical Science

5:30 p.m. | Call to Order: Kathleen Nolan, Chair

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair shared the personal land acknowledgement statement.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION #1: B.I.R.T. The Agenda for the January 21st, 2026, GSA Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motioned by M. Capperauld, seconded by Y. Hasan. *Motion carried.*

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION #2: B.I.R.T. The GSA Meeting Minutes of December 17th, 2025, be approved as presented.

Motioned by S. Chereddy, seconded by M. Capperauld. *Motion carried.*

5:32 p.m. | CUPE 3913 Update: Grace Goderre, Vice President External

G. Goderre provided the following updates:

- **CUPE Membership (Semesterly) Meeting:**

The meeting will take place at the Bullring on January 29 from 7:30–9:00 p.m. It has been advertised via CUPE social media and the newsletter. The GSA has been invited to attend and is asked to RSVP if attending in person. The meeting will also be offered in a hybrid format via Zoom, with links provided. The event is open to all.

- **Snow Day survey – Impacts on Students:**

CUPE circulated a survey via social media to gather feedback on how the snow day impacted students. CUPE has been in communication with university administration and other campus unions to discuss the circumstances leading to the snow day and potential measures to prevent similar situations in the future.

- **Draft Statement Regarding Incident at the Aggie Pub:**

- A statement condemning the incident is being finalized and is expected to be released by the end of the week. The statement will be shared with campus unions, community groups, and University of Guelph–affiliated organizations. It will call on the administration to address the issue promptly through policy revisions to prevent

future incidents. The GSA Executive has been requested to sign on to the statement and engage further on the matter.

- **Additional Note:**

S. Chereddy noted that she will be attending the CUPE Executive Meeting this month as a GSA representative.

5:36 p.m. | Faculty of Graduate Studies: Dr. Ben Bradshaw, Assistant Vice President (Graduate Studies)

B. Bradshaw provided the following updates:

- **Tuition Payment Plans:**

Dr. Bradshaw noted ongoing challenges related to tuition payment plans and shared that the Faculty of Graduate Studies continues to address these concerns on behalf of the GSA. A guide was shared to assist students in understanding their pay statements. An administrator from Financial Services provided an update on payment plan details and the flexibility currently available (link provided by Dr. Bradshaw).

- A prior request for a five-installment payment plan (instead of three) is unlikely to be supported. However, flexibility within the second and third installments remains available and is expected to better support students.

5:41 p.m. | Black History Month (BHM) Presentation and Discussion: Akierah Binns

A. Binns presented the following information:

- Each year, Cultural Diversity, in collaboration with the GSA and other on-campus partners, organizes several events throughout February to mark Black History Month (link provided).
 - **2026 Theme:** *"All in our Blackness: Our Stories, Our Legacies, Our Futures."*
 - All activities will be centered around this theme.
 - Events are supported by a range of students and staff.
 - All members of the University community are encouraged to participate.
- **January 30:** Opening night concert at PCH at 6:30 p.m., featuring the artist *Cadence Weapon*.
- **February 11:** Black-owned vendor market, taking place throughout the day in the UC Courtyard.
- **February 24:** Keynote address by Dr. Andrew B. Campbell (University of Toronto).
- Additional events throughout February include a dance class, textile workshop, and cooking workshop.
- S. Chereddy sits on the BHM committee and has been supporting planning efforts on behalf of the GSA.

- General Directors were asked to share the GryphLife event link with their departments.
- Promotional materials will be shared with the GSA team for distribution.
- Graduate students are encouraged to volunteer by contacting cultural.diversity@uoguelph.ca.

5:44 p.m. | General Director Appointment Motion(s) - Yuxin Hu, GSA Vice President Internal

Candidate – Jenna Ford (Department of Management)

Due to not being available for this meeting, J. Ford will be invited to attend the February Board meeting for consideration.

6:30 p.m. | Discussion regarding GSA general members' access to board meetings – Yuxin Hu, GSA Vice President Internal

Y. Hu provided the following overview:

- Over the past several months, the GSA has received requests from graduate students expressing interest in attending Board Meetings. Traditionally, graduate students have been welcome to attend, with the requirement that they exit during in-camera sessions.
- Y. Hu suggested exploring options to make Board Meeting information more publicly accessible and to better communicate that graduate students may attend, such as through a sign-up form or invitation process.
- Considerations raised included room capacity, attendance tracking, catering logistics, administration of in-camera sessions restricted to General Directors and Executives, and the additional administrative workload associated with sign-ups.

Input from Board Members included:

- K. Nolan suggested posting meeting links publicly and making virtual attendance the default option.
- M. Capperault proposed holding two meetings: one general meeting open to the public and one restricted to General Directors, staff, and Executives.
- S. Chereddy noted that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is open to all members and suggested a similar approach of holding one public Board Meeting per semester.
 - M. Capperault raised concerns that urgent matters (e.g., payment issues) may not be addressed in a timely manner if public meetings are limited to once per semester.

- K. Nolan cautioned that politically sensitive discussions could be taken out of context in public settings, potentially leading to conflict and challenges in maintaining a professional environment.
- H. Ponrajan suggested opening the meeting to the public for the first hour to allow for input.
- K. Nolan noted that Board Meetings are already scheduled for three hours, and opening meetings to the public could extend meeting duration.
- A. Binns shared that, as a graduate student not serving on the Board, she would welcome the opportunity to contribute and believes it is important that graduate students have avenues to participate.
- A. Chawla supported providing a public access link, noting that any issues arising with this could be addressed as they occur.
- Y. Hu noted that the Bylaws do not currently reference general member attendance at Board Meetings. Concerns were raised that increased attendance could affect quorum and proxy voting, similar to challenges experienced at AGMs.
- Y. Hu summarized that a commonly supported approach involves separating general and in-camera sessions, with general members attending only the general session, preferably virtually.
 - K. Nolan suggested including an option for limited in-person attendance on a first-come basis, subject to room capacity.
- Y. Hu confirmed that the GSA team will prepare a proposal for consideration, with a motion to be brought forward at the next Board Meeting.
- K. Nolan inquired whether Board Meeting Minutes are posted publicly. S. Chereddy clarified that while Board Meeting Materials are posted, the minutes are not.
- H. Ponrajan suggested holding college-level meetings prior to Board Meetings, allowing General Directors to represent departmental concerns.
 - Y. Hasan expressed strong support for this idea and noted that, if implemented, General Director honoraria may need to be reviewed for equity.
 - It was noted that not all departments currently have General Director representation.
 - A. Chawla stated that increases to honoraria cannot be explicitly committed to at this time due to legislative uncertainty related to Bill 33.

6:02 p.m. | PDR: Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference - Megan De Roover

M. De Roover presented the following information:

- **Conference Theme:** *Conditions for Learning* - including meeting basic needs, ensuring safety, fostering belonging, empowerment, and purpose.

- These conditions were noted as having a significant impact on the broader campus community.
- **Proposal Submissions:**
 - A strong number of proposals have been received, with notable interest from graduate students.
- **Conference Structure (Two-Day Format):**
 - **Day 1 (In-Person):**
 - Hosted in Peter Clark Hall (PCH).
 - Features concurrent presentations and interactive sessions, including 20-minute presentations, workshops, roundtables, and collaborative sessions.
 - Provides opportunities for networking, learning, and professional development.
 - In the previous year, attendees represented 19 institutions, with the majority from the University of Guelph.
 - Breakfast and lunch will be provided, along with an end-of-day social event featuring poster presentations.
 - **Day 2 (Virtual):**
 - Includes concurrent virtual presentations and interactive sessions.
 - Opportunities for networking and question-and-answer periods will be incorporated within each session.
- **Keynote Address:**
 - The keynote will be delivered in person and recorded. Registered participants will be provided access to the recording.
- **Previous Year Participation (2025):**
 - A total of 88 proposals were received from approximately 79 primary authors.
 - Of these, 38 proposals were submitted by students, including 15 doctoral students, 14 master's students, and 9 undergraduate students, accounting for approximately 43% of total submissions.
 - Thirty-two graduate students attended the conference, with higher attendance anticipated for the upcoming year.
- **Current Year Submissions (2026):**
 - At least 22 proposals have been submitted by primary authors identifying as graduate students.
- **Graduate Student Support Process:**

- Discount codes will be advertised for graduate students who are not financially supported through other means.
- Students will be asked to first seek financial assistance through their college or supervisor.
- If unsuccessful, students may contact the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) by email, providing proof of student status and indicating whether they will be presenting at the conference.
- A registration link or code will then be issued to allow registration at no cost.
- If more than 30 students require assistance, priority will be given to student presenters and authors showcasing their work over attendees.
- In the previous year, all students who requested support were accommodated.
- **GSA Sponsorship Recognition:**
 - Recognition will be provided through acknowledgement on the conference website, conference slides, and verbal acknowledgements during the event.
 - The GSA is also welcome to display relevant materials at the conference, such as posters or other visual recognition items.

Discussion:

- A question was raised regarding eligibility to present in the poster session. M. De Roover clarified that poster presenters will be limited to registered conference participants who are attending the event. This restriction is due to considerations related to catering, event logistics, and fire capacity regulations. While the possibility of allowing non-registrants to present or attend may be explored in the future, participation for this event will remain restricted to registrants.
- A question was raised regarding the eligibility of recipients for the GSA PDR Grant, specifically whether the funding would apply only to University of Guelph graduate students or also to graduate students from other institutions. M. De Roover noted that this decision would be at the discretion of the GSA, though the intention was for the grant to be directed toward University of Guelph graduate students. A. Chawla confirmed that the grant funding may only be used to support University of Guelph graduate students, as the funds are derived from graduate student contributions at the University of Guelph.

Post-Presentation Discussion:

- Drawing on prior attendance at the conference, Y. Hasan expressed strong support for the application, noting that the conference provides a highly valuable and impactful experience for graduate students. It was emphasized that the Office of

Teaching and Learning (OTL) fosters an inclusive environment and brings together participants from a wide range of departments, making it a worthwhile initiative for GSA support.

- A concern was raised regarding whether it would be more effective for the GSA to distribute funds directly to students. Y. Hasan, A. Chawla, and Y. Hu recommended that funding instead be provided directly to the Office of Teaching and Learning for distribution to eligible University of Guelph graduate students. This approach was supported on the basis that receipts would be thoroughly verified, and that OTL has the capacity to administer the funding appropriately and effectively promote the available support.

MOTION #3: B.I.R.T. The GSA Board of Directors approves the release of up to \$1,950 (\$65 per student for a maximum of 30 students) to the Office of Teaching and Learning in support of the 2026 Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference, with funding expedited and adjusted to the final number of registered graduate students.

- Stipulations:
 - Funding is to be provided exclusively to University of Guelph graduate students.
 - Any unused funds are to be returned to the GSA.

Motioned by Y. Hasan, seconded by M. Capperault. *Motion carried.*

6:31 p.m. | Clarification on the GSA executive vacation-related motion during the December 2025 board meeting – Yusra Hasan, GSA President & CEO

Y. Hasan provided the following clarification:

- During a recent Executive Meeting, a discussion was held regarding a sustainable amount of vacation time for Executives when they are not actively serving (excluding conferences and statutory holidays). It was agreed that Executives may take up to two weeks of vacation within a one-year term.
- With respect to conferences, if an Executive can continue performing their duties to some extent while attending (i.e., remains in a serving capacity), vacation days would not be required.
- It was noted that clearer guidelines will be developed to define what constitutes a “serving” presence for Executives.

Discussion:

- It was clarified that during an Executive’s two-week vacation period, their responsibilities would be assumed by the next Executive in the established hierarchy. If the workload is determined to be excessive for one individual, responsibilities may be distributed among the remaining active Executives.

- From a technical standpoint, there is currently no formal limit on the number of vacation periods an Executive may take; the proposed framework would introduce a defined limit.
- It was noted that this matter is to be brought forward for further discussion at the Bylaws Committee.

6:46 p.m. | Department and Committee Updates

General Directors provided updates on behalf of their respective departments and committees.

Department of Chemistry – Michael Capperault

- The department held its annual Christmas Party.

College of Computational, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences – Spandana Chereddy

- The seminar series is ongoing (poster shared).

Department of Engineering – Hrishikesh Patil & Himrashee Ponrajan

- Elections for a new President of the Graduate Engineering Association are expected to take place in the coming months.
- A graduate conference is scheduled for May, organized by the College of Engineering and open to students from other departments.

Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences – Zayn Al Kassem & Barbara Hyde-Lay

- A departmental seminar is scheduled for January 23.

International Student Representative – Ruitian (Sky) Chen

- Start-of-term international student party was held on January 16 at the Science Complex.
- International students were reminded to check the expiry date of their SIN and to renew it if necessary.

Department of Pathobiology – Samantha Dobson & Erin Howard

- The Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) is currently searching for a new Dean and has been hosting public presentations for students. Presentations were held on January 20 and are scheduled to continue on January 26 and 27.

- Students planning to defend a master's or PhD thesis this semester were reminded to submit their defence coordination requests by March 2 or March 30, depending on their defence timeline (further details available on the OVC website).
- The OVC Graduate and Research Support Team hosted a résumé development workshop on January 14.
- OVC posted a Research Officer position to support the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies; the application deadline was January 11.
- The deadline for nomination-based OVC internal awards has passed.
- The OVC Graduate Student Orientation was held on January 7.
- OVC General Directors introduced themselves to incoming students via the chat due to time constraints.

Department of Plant Agriculture – Ishrat Zahan

- A new graduate student orientation was held on January 20.
- The OAC Awards Celebration took place and was well attended by Plant Agriculture students.
- A weekly speaker series will begin next week, featuring invited speakers presenting on topics relevant to the department.
- A hiring event for new PhD and MSc representatives to the Graduate Student Committee will be held on January 22.
- Planning is underway for the department's Annual Sale, the largest event hosted by the department.

Department of Population Medicine – Amna Jaleel

- A staff-versus-student volleyball game is scheduled for February 11.
- An OVC Diversity Dinner and panel discussion on intersectionality in veterinary medicine will be held on January 22.
- A résumé development workshop hosted by the OVC Graduate and Research Support Team took place on January 14.

6:55 p.m. | Executive Reports

President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

Y. Hasan provided the following updates:

- Ongoing advocacy efforts with O. Gibson related to tuition payment structures, payroll concerns, and scholarship disbursement indicators in discussions with B. Bradshaw.

- An Executive Committee meeting was held.
- The Presidents of the GSA and CUPE 3913 are scheduled to meet later this month to review general conflict-of-interest concerns between the union and the association, with the goal of strengthening their working relationship and maximizing benefits for graduate students.

Discussion

- A concern was raised that only 20 students (approximately 2% of the graduate student population) have formally reported tuition and payment-related issues, limiting OGPS's ability to justify significant policy changes.
 - It was noted that the number of affected students is likely much higher, and it was suggested that the GSA circulate a survey to collect broader feedback.
- It was noted that requests have been made to increase the number of tuition installments, as there are currently only three, whereas in Winter 2025 there were six or seven.
 - Y. Hasan stated that she previously requested five installments in a meeting with B. Bradshaw; however, this request was denied.
 - An alternative suggestion was made to extend the time gaps between installments rather than increasing the total number.
 - Y. Hasan noted that this option was also raised in the previous meeting and indicated that she can continue to advocate for it.
 - S. Chereddy added that while the first installment deadline was extended, the remaining two were not.
 - Y. Hasan explained that this may be due to concerns that extending later installments could affect students' eligibility to register for the Winter semester.
- An additional concern was raised regarding OGPS's agreement to issue payments upfront so that students can manage tuition expenses.
 - Although this commitment was discussed and agreed upon during a previous Senate meeting, it was not referenced in B. Bradshaw's follow-up letter.
 - Y. Hasan noted that, as this issue relates to GTA payments, CUPE 3913 is now involved in the discussions.
 - She further added that some advisors may be unaware that they are permitted to provide larger lump-sum payments to graduate students conducting research under their supervision.
 - The GSA is working with OGPS to improve advisor awareness and to highlight the financial pressures faced by graduate students.

- It was concluded that continued discussions with B. Bradshaw will be required to address these issues.

7:07 p.m. | Vice President, Internal – Yuxin Hu

Y. Hu provided the following updates:

- The GSA website currently hosts the most up-to-date versions of the Association's bylaws and policies. These updates were completed in collaboration with the new GSA Communications Coordinator, Hannah.
- All General Director honoraria have been processed. An email containing deposit details, including the amount, access link, and password, was distributed by the Business Operations Manager, Michelle.
- The Executive team discussed potential changes to the Executive transition period, as well as the feasibility of providing public member access to GSA Board meetings (addressed earlier in the meeting).
- Y. Hu formally announced her resignation from the Vice President, Internal position earlier this month due to changes in her academic commitments. Her final day in the role will be **January 31, 2026**.

7:09 p.m. | Vice President, Finance – Ayush Chawla

A. Chawla provided the following updates:

- The Business Operations Manager is on vacation for the month; during this period, A. Chawla has taken responsibility for basic operational management.
- There has been a significant increase in applications for PDRs and other bursaries.
 - Historically, approximately 40–50% of available bursary funds were utilized by year-end; current utilization is now closer to 80–90%.
 - DEI bursary funds were almost fully exhausted by the end of the previous two semesters.
 - PDR applications have been received at a much higher frequency.
 - A. Chawla advised that departments planning to request event funding should notify him as early as possible, so appropriate allocations can be reserved.
- The next Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for **February 28**.
- Health insurance renewal will take place in April.
 - Executives were asked to forward any complaints or concerns to A. Chawla in advance.

- The insurance provider has begun reaching out to seek GSA feedback on existing terms and conditions.

7:12 p.m. | Vice President Academic – Olivia Gibson

O. Gibson requested that the Board members refer to her written report, included in the Board Meeting Materials, as she was unable to provide a verbal update due to being out of the province.

7:13 PM | Vice President, Community Engagement – Spandana Chereddy

S. Chereddy provided the following updates:

- She has joined the Judicial Committee on behalf of the GSA as one of eight members.
 - The committee investigates non-academic misconduct and malpractice cases and provides determinations where appropriate.
- The Equity Committee meeting is scheduled for **January 22**.
 - The agenda includes reviewing ongoing committee discussions.
 - An equity concern form or survey will be distributed to graduate students to identify equity-related issues they may be experiencing.
 - Further updates will be provided following the meeting.
- Information regarding MintOT Mental Health and Wellness collaborations - including cohort sessions, workshops, and co-working café opportunities - was shared in physical form with General Directors to pass on the information to their departments.
- Crystal Wyllie from Student Wellness Services has been offering one-on-one drop-in sessions every Thursday at the GSA Executive Office.
 - A booking link is available for students who wish to schedule sessions in advance.
- The GSA Executive Office has also been made available to the Graduate Student Support Circle (GSSC), in partnership with Student Wellness, for one-on-one drop-in support sessions.
 - These sessions support students with academic-related concerns and are not limited to therapeutic services.
- Ongoing management of bus pass opt-ins and opt-outs continues.
 - No inquiries have been received regarding access to the bus pass at this time.
- S. Chereddy is participating in the Black History Month Committee.
- An invitation was received to attend the **State of the City** address on **February 12 at 7:00 a.m.**

- The Mayor will outline the city's vision for the year and present the **2025 Mayor's Awards**, recognizing individuals for outstanding volunteer service.
- Any significant issues that the GSA Board would like raised at the event should be communicated to S. Chereddy in advance.
- Updates will be provided following the event.
- S. Chereddy tabled with CUPE 3913 on **January 21**.

7:18 PM | Existing Executives Sharing the Role of Vice President, Internal – Y. Hasan, GSA President & CEO

Y. Hasan provided the following update:

- The Executive Team determined that the most sustainable option would be for the existing Executives to share the responsibilities of the Vice President, Internal role for a three-month period beginning **February 1**.
- It was noted that training a General Director to assume the role would require approximately two weeks, after which they would only be able to serve for an estimated 2.5 months.
- Responsibilities of the VP Internal role will be distributed as follows:
 - The Vice President, Academic will assume the majority of the responsibilities.
 - The Vice President, Community Engagement will take on a significant portion of the role.
 - The GSA President & CEO will assume a partial portion of the responsibilities.
 - Specific task allocations will be determined at a later date.
- Y. Hu added that she is currently wrapping up outstanding items and compiling an ongoing list of essential tasks that will need to be addressed over the coming months by the Executives assuming the role.
 - She is also preparing a separate transition document for the position.
 - Y. Hu confirmed that she will remain available to provide voluntary support during the transition, if needed, until the end of the current term.

7:21 PM | Introduction of Newly Appointed GSA Event Coordinator and Communications Coordinator

The Board was introduced to the newly appointed **GSA Event Coordinator, Sanika Rozario**, and **GSA Communications Coordinator, Hannah VanLeeuwen**.

S. Rozario and S. Chereddy provided the following updates:

- Events for the Winter term have been planned and will be coordinated and hosted by S. Rozario.

- Any website updates or information requests should be sent to the Administrative Assistant at **gsa@uoguelph.ca**, who will relay them to H. VanLeeuwen.
- The GSA logo has been updated across the website and all GSA social media platforms.
- Additional website updates are ongoing.

7:24 p.m. | In-Camera Session

The meeting moved into an in-camera session at **7:24 p.m.** with only voting members present.

MOTION # 4: B.I.R.T. The GSA board meeting moved to an ‘in-camera’ session at 7:24 P.M., with only voting members present.

Motioned by S. Chereddy, seconded by Y. Hu. *Motion carried.*

No motion was made to end the in-camera session, as quorum was not met.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at **7:43 p.m.**, and the next GSA Board meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026. Members are asked to submit any regrets by 12:00 PM on February 24.

Minutes Submitted by:	Minutes Approved by:	
 Harrison Barretto GSA Administrative Assistant	 Yuxin Hu GSA Vice President - Internal	 Kathleen Nolan Chair

GENERAL DIRECTOR APPPOINTMENT

Personal Statement – Jenna Ford, The Department of Management

When I reflect on my experience as an undergraduate student, my fondest memories stem from club involvement. Whether playing for the varsity lacrosse team or serving as Director of Events for the Guelph Entrepreneurship Society, every game and meeting was a chance to apply learnings alongside inspiring teammates. I thrive in collaborative environments and believe I can bring creative insights to discussions and initiatives within GSA. After nearly two years working in sales, I've returned to Guelph, though this chapter looks a little different. I'm a Master of Science Management student, assistant coach for varsity lacrosse and dare I say a tad wiser. Being on campus brings a sort of renewed familiarity and the only thing missing is a deeper connection with my peers. Joining the GSA provides a meaningful opportunity to engage, contribute and grow within the academic community and once again enhance the overall experience.

Jenna Ford

PDR GRANT PRESENTATION – College Royal, Emma Robinson

Activities Grant (PDR) Application Form	
Event Name College Royal	Event Date 03/14/2026
Contact Person	
Name Emma Robinson	
Department Agriculture	
Email erobin14@uoguelph.ca	Phone (519) 949-3946
Organization Information	
Organization College Royal Society	
Department Agriculture	
Email erobin14@uoguelph.ca	Phone (519) 949-3946
Audience Information	
Graduate Students Expected 1000	
Undergraduate Students Expected 1000	
Faculty, Staff and Community Members Expected 20000	

Total Expected 22000
Funding Information
Have you received funding from the GSA before? Yes
Please specify how the money was spent Towards events put on during the 12 days of College Royal. The organizers were the officers and executive of the 2024-25 year of College Royal. Everything went amazing and was on budget, and we would be so grateful for your support again!!
Amount Requested \$ 1,000.00 CAD

Financials

2024-2025 Statement			2025-2026 Budget		
Account Carry Over May 1, 2024		\$54,716.87	Account Carry Over May 1, 2025		\$49,281.65
Revenue			Revenue		
Sponsorship Events		\$37,984.61	Sponsorship		\$30,000.00
		\$10,785.00	Events		\$10,000.00
			Sales		\$150,700.00
Sales		\$205,632.9			
Total Revenue		\$254,402.6	Total Revenue		\$190,700.00
Expenses			Expenses		
Administration Donations			Administration Donations		
Events	\$23,591.37		Events	\$23,250.00	
Livestock	\$4,176.89		Livestock	\$9,225.00	
Open House	\$32,281.73		Open House	\$27,900.00	
PublicRelations	\$136,372.26		PublicRelations	\$114,650.00	
	\$11,012.25			\$8,400.00	
	\$13,787.98			\$15,000.00	
Total Expenses		\$221,222.48	Total Expenses		\$198,425.00
Net (Rev- Exp)		\$33,180.12	Net (Rev- Exp)		-\$7,725.00
Account Balance		\$49,281.65	Budget Account Bal.		\$41,556.65

PDR GRANT PRESENTATION – Geography Graduate Student Society Research Symposium, Madeline Medrano

Activities Grant (PDR) Application Form

Event Name

GGSS Research Symposium

Event Date

04/09/2026

Event Description

Annual department wide research symposium. This event provides graduate students in the department to present their research in three formats: three minute thesis, oral presentation, and poster presentation. Students will be evaluated by faculty in the department and best presenters will receive a prize for their efforts. An opportunity for students to seek feedback on their research, practice their science communication, and presentation skills. This event brings together the department and provides grad students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to connect and celebration graduate students hard work this year.

Contact Person**Name**

Madeline Medrano

Department

Geography

Email

mmedrano@uoguelph.ca

Phone

(647) 669-5905

Organization Information**Organization**

Geography Graduate Student Society

Department

Geography

Email

GGSS@uoguelph.ca

Phone

(647) 669-5905

Audience Information

Graduate Students Expected

35

Undergraduate Students Expected

0

Faculty, Staff and Community Members Expected

5

Total Expected

40

Funding Information

Have you received funding from the GSA before?

Yes

Please specify how the money was spent

The GGSS had requested funding twice this year for two events.

The first was a number of creative events, we requested \$460, received the funding, stayed on track with several graduate students attending our creative events and returned unused funds (\$186.02).

The second event is an Alumni Mixer, we requested \$239 and we have so far stayed under budget for this event.

The graduate student society previously requested funding for the geography graduate student symposium in spring 2025. Last year we projected around 85 individuals and requested \$2275 total. The geography graduate student society fully organized this event. We stayed on budget for the event last year, thanks to thorough planning prior to our previous funding application.

Amount Requested

\$ 982.00 CAD

LAST YEARS SYMPOSIUM								
Expense	Amount	Projected						
FOOD/CATERING								
Lunch	\$15/person	1125						
Snacks/coffee	\$5/person	350						
AWARDS								
Best Oral Award	2 awards	200						
Best poster	1 award	50						
3MTP	1 award	50						
MISCELLANEOUS								
Poster printing	approx. 15	450						
Other/Merch		50						
TOTAL EXPENSES		2275						
THIS YEARS SYMPOSIUM								
Expense	Item	Where to purchase	Cost Per Unit	Quantity	Cost	ATTENDEES		
Food/Catering	Fruit Tray	Metro	25	1		Grad students	35	
	The Sweet Fix	UofG Catered	5.35	35		Faculty	5	
	Bakery Deli Sandwiches	UofG Catered	12.85	35	449.75			
	The Snacking Social	UofG Catered	11.95	35	418.25			
	Cookies	Costco	14	1	14			
	Two-bite brownies	Costco	12	1	12			
Poster printing	Poster printing	Geography Dept	30	10				
Awards	Mug	UofG Bookstore	17	4	68			
	Gift Card	UofG Bookstore	10	2	20			
TOTAL SYMPOSIUM					982			
TOTAL EXPENSES REQUESTED FOR THIS APPLICATION					\$982			

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Animal Bioscience

Report:

Report by:

Biomedical Science

Report: No new updates to report.

Report by: David Bahrami

Black Student Representatives

Report:

Report by:

Business Administration/Management

Report:

Report by:

Chemistry

Report:

Report by:

Clinical Studies

Report:

Report by:

Computing & Information (Computer Science)

Report: CCMPS is in search of a new dean, with a committee working on it.

Report by: Lokesh Kumar K M

Economics and Finance

Report:

Report by:

Engineering

Report:

1. There was our annual **Engineering Career Night** on February 11, 2026 at the Thornbrough Atrium.
2. STEM Grading Workshop took place on February 13th, 2026.

3. **“Food Recalls 360: Integrating AI & IoT for Prevention and Early Detection”** on Thursday, March 12, 2026. Registration form: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=K6Fivq0soUml-oX08xVqfZxWhdM1moNKpcd1dwlnEDdURTNGU1haUzk4V09HOUIJNDZYRjdWMjY1TC4u&route=shorturl>
4. A virtual book launch event for **Bold Women, Sustainable Futures: Leadership Lessons for STEM, Business & Sustainability in an Age of Resistance** by Supriya Verma is happening on Friday March 13, 2026 at 11:30 am. This is the event link to register: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/28e4ed77-2e3e-4204-aac5-6cacfdee7da3@be62a12b-2cad-49a1-a5fa-85f4f3156a7d>.
5. The abstract submission deadline is approaching (1 March, 2026) for Canadian Food Engineering Conference 2026 (CFEC’26), taking place May 14–15, 2026 at the University of Guelph.
6. Upcoming Webinar organized by the Canada India Research Centre for Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE): Monday, March 09, 2026, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM ET (8:00 PM – 9:00 PM IST) | **Human and Policy Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) ourFeatured Speaker: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chair, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), India & former Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO).**
<https://canadaindiaresearch.ca/events/2026/03/antimicrobial-resistance-amr-and-agri-food-systems-webinar-series-human-and-policy>

Report by: Himashree Ponrajan

English & Theatre Studies

Report:

Report by:

Environmental Design & Rural Development

Report:

Report by:

Environmental Science

Report:

1. SES Graduate Symposium – March 6th
2. Abstracts due – February 20th (will be extended to the 25th)
3. Talks of changing how QE’s in our department is conducted
4. SES GSC hosting Bi-weekly Seminar series for graduate students to present their

research

5. SES Photo competition – TBD

Report by: Sarah Kingsley & Jenna Scharnowski

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: Nothing to report!

Report by: Barbara Hyde-Lay

Indigenous Student Representatives

Report:

Report by:

Integrative Biology

Report:

Report by:

International Student Representatives

Report:

1. 2026 Orientation Volunteer Application is open

- Looking for volunteers to support **START International Fall 2026** and **Orientation Week (O-Week) 2026**
- Register at
<https://gryphlife.uoguelph.ca/submitter/form/step/1?Guid=006a9efe-af69-43a1-a00d-b50436727eb9>

Report by: Sky Chen

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:

Upcoming Events:

- **OVC Grad Student Workshop: Identifying and Responding to Microaggressions**
 - Originally scheduled for January 27th
 - Rescheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd, 10am-11:30am

- **Lunch Talk - Know Your Rights: Studying and Working in the US**
 - February 27th from 12:30 - 1:20 pm in ECLA 1720, lunch is provided.
 - This session will provide information particularly relevant for LGBTQ+ DVM and graduate students exploring study or work opportunities in the United States, including an overview of legal rights, workplace protections, and practical considerations.
 - To register, click [here](#).

Events that have passed:

- **Piloting a co-working cafe for Pathobiology students.**
 - “Pilot” session will be February 12th 11:30-1:30 in PAHL 4838
 - GSA Activities Grant has been applied for to fund ongoing coworking events
- **OVC STAFF VS STUDENTS Volleyball Game**
 - Gryphons Athletic Centre (West Gym) on Wednesday February 11th from 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- **Pathobiology Activities Survey**
 - Department graduate student representatives circulated a survey about what events are of interest for the semester (closed)
- **Visiting Fulbright One Health Researcher Presentation Feb 24th**
 - Title: Sentinels in the Canopy: What mantled howler monkey health reveals about One Health and antimicrobial resistance
 - Presented by: Kari Brossard Stoos, PhD, Fulbright Canada Research Chair in One Health
 - 3:00-4:00 pm, OVC PAHL 1800
- **AHL Valentines Day Raffel**
 - 5/\$5 or 15/\$10.
 - Purchase your tickets from AHL admin on behalf of the Social Committee Tuesday February 3rd until Friday February 13th at 12pm. The draw will take place at 1:30pm.
 - All proceeds go to the United Way
- **Graduate Student Workshop on the Publication Process**
 - February 23rd from 10:30-11:30 am in ECLA 1725 and on Team
 - OVC faculty members who are experienced as editors for academic journals will give a behind-the-scenes look at the academic publishing process.
 - Link to register [here](#).
- **OVC Dean Candidate Feedback**
 - Feedback is due by February 17th at 4:00 pm.

- o A new survey has been finalized to provide an additional mechanism for confidential feedback on OVC Dean candidates.
- o For more information and to access the survey, click [here](#).

Report by: Erin Howard & Sam Dobson

Philosophy

Report:

Report by:

Physics

Report:

Report by:

Plant Agriculture

Report:

Academic and Research Recognition

The department recently celebrated the publishing success of its graduate cohort during the Graduate Prize for Publishing presentations. Held on February 17th in the Bovey Greenhouse Cafe, the event recognized outstanding peer-reviewed work published throughout the 2025 calendar year. It was a great opportunity to recognize the hard work our students put into their 2025 publications while catching up over coffee and treats.

Upcoming Speaker Series

The Plant Agriculture Speaker Series continues through the winter semester. The session is open to the public, with a remote attendance option provided via Zoom.

Graduate Student Engagement and Social Initiatives

Several initiatives have been launched to foster community and support student wellness. The Plant Agriculture Graduate Student Liaison Committee (PA-GSLC) has established a recurring monthly Coffee Break in the Bovey Greenhouse Cafe, held the first Monday of each month to encourage networking and peer support.

On the broader OAC level, the Graduate Student Council recently coordinated a Valentine's Day fundraiser through the sale of candy grams to support student programming. Looking ahead, a Pub social is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, February 24th, at The Shakespeare Arms. This event, hosted by the OAC Graduate Student Council, serves as a cross-departmental networking opportunity for the graduate community.

Report by: Ishrat Zahan

Political Science

Report:

Report by:

Population Medicine

Report:

Report by:

Psychology

Report:

Report by:

Sociology & Anthropology

Report:

Report by:

PhD in Social Practice and Transformational Change (SOPR)

Report:

Report by:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alcohol & Substance Abuse Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Animal Care Committee

Meeting date: Feb 6, 2026

Report: Nothing new to report!

Next Meeting: March 5, 2026

Report by: Barbara Hyde-Lay

Athletics Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

By-Laws & Constitution Committee (GSA)

Meeting date: N/A

Report: No meeting this month.

Next Meeting: Not set

Report by: Sam Dobson

Co-Curricular Experiential Learning Integrity Committee (CELIC)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Code of Ethical Conduct Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Compulsory Fees Committee (CFC)

Meeting date:
Report:
Next Meeting:
Report by:

Digital and Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting date:
Report:
Next Meeting:
Report by:

Equity Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:
Report:
Next Meeting:
Report by:

Finance Committee (GSA)

Meeting date:
Report:
Next Meeting:
Report by:

Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee (GSA)

Meeting date: N/A

Report:

Next Meeting: Next Early March

Report by: Sky Chen

Health & Dental Plan

Meeting date:
Report:
Next Meeting:
Report by:

Hospitality Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

Meeting date: January 28th

Reports:

- Creelman 2026 satisfaction survey completed: students have been happy with the

increase in hours and satisfaction with food options and quality improved

- Discussions of plans for new residence building with dining hall at 78 College: 1250 students housed, large dining hall comparable to Creelman, potential 'just walk out' market
- Surveys from other dining halls are still in progress

Sustainability Sub-committee:

- Campus-wide sustainability survey was sent out to learn more about how students view hospitality sustainability initiatives on campus. Survey ends late February so results will be discussed in March
- Brainstormed new ideas to improve student engagement with sustainability initiatives

Next Meeting: March 4th

Report by: Jenna Scharnowski

Human Rights Advisory Group

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Judicial Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

OUTline Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next meeting:

Report by:

Student Food Security Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Student Life Award Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Student Wellness Advisory Group

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Student Wellness EDI Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Student Experience Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

Transit Committee (GSA/CSA)

Meeting date:

Report:

Next Meeting:

Report by:

EXECUTIVE & STAFF REPORTS

President & CEO – Yusra Hasan

Hello Folks,

I hope you are all well! It has been a productive month serving the graduate community during this particularly busy period. I meaningfully participated in SLAM meetings, where I advocated and added to raised concerns for student accessibility throughout the winter season, including ploughing sidewalks and parking lots, and ensuring facilities have functioning wheelchair door openers. I made suggestions in this meeting, including having automatic University of Guelph Library doors and using Peter Clark Hall in the University Center as a study space during off-peak times as well. I also voiced concerns regarding on-campus spaces that could be used more efficiently as study spaces, as well as the equitable provisions of graduate student funding packages.

Presidents of CUPE 3913 and the GSA met to discuss conflicts of interest generally and to strengthen working relationships. It was a good meeting.

I participated in the SLEF application reviews and the SEC. I also called and chaired a Special Executive Committee meeting in January to discuss the vacant VP Internal role and to draft role breakdowns.

Additionally, had lunch with the University of Guelph President, Provost, Vice-Provost, and CSA/GSA executives to build relationships and discuss student needs.

I took part in a Compulsory Fees Committee meeting and a Governance and Management Committee meeting.

I called and chaired the February Executive Committee Meeting, during which the executive team provided reports. Agenda discussions included the VP Internal vacancy (finalizing materials to further discuss at the Board meeting), MintOT, GSA future accreditation feasibility, the AGM, the 2026–2027 Executive Election, and GIC.

I have been working on a long-term, sustainable Executive Training Familiarity Questionnaire to foster culture, support fluid communication, and develop stronger relationships within incoming teams.

Over the past month, I advocated regarding the 15 GB OneDrive storage limits and proposed sustainable solutions, which the administration\university personnel have taken into

consideration with some promising indications.

The GSA Business Operations Manager was invited to assist the executive team with the AGM and to share experience, given the time-sensitive nature of the election period due to the VP Internal executive vacancy.

The Grad Lounge Sustainability Committee is to occur soon, and I am looking forward to schedule and chair that meeting.

Preparations for the March AGM are now underway, and a dedicated planning meeting has been scheduled.

Have a lovely month everyone and thank you so much!

Best regards,
Yusra

VP Internal

Vacant position

VP Finance – Ayush Chawla

Hello Everyone,

In anticipation of the upcoming Annual General Meeting, I have spent the past month consulting with members of the executive team regarding the renewal of our GIC. Our objective is to secure the most competitive interest rates available while safeguarding the organization's financial stability. I will be meeting with representatives from major financial institutions to assess and compare our options.

With the VP Internal position currently vacant, I have worked closely with the executive team to redistribute its responsibilities. I have also assumed oversight of records management and payout processing, with the support of our Business Operations Manager. I would like to sincerely thank our office staff for their assistance in making this transition both efficient and manageable within a limited timeframe.

Over the past month, I have also:

- Assisted several students with PDR grant applications.
- Processed and released a significant amount of DEI and travel grant funding.
- Initiated adjustments aimed at reducing cash expenditures as we prepare for potential financial uncertainty.

A substantial portion of my work at this time is focused on cash flow scenario planning and ensuring we are well-positioned to respond to the upcoming regulatory changes associated with Bill 33.

Additionally, I continue to compile student concerns for discussion at the next Health and Dental Committee meeting. I encourage board members to share any relevant concerns or student feedback with me at gsavpfin@uoguelph.ca.

Please feel free to reach out if you would like further details on any of these items.

Best,

Ayush Chawla, GSA VP Finance

VP Academic – Olivia Gibson

Hello all,

It has been a busy month! I hope you all are doing well so far in the term.

Since our past meeting, my work as VP Academic has focused primarily on participation in academic governance processes and individual student support.

Board of Graduate Studies

I participated in discussions and voted on Board of Graduate Studies matters brought forward to Senate, including new graduate program proposals, graduate curriculum changes, and policy recommendations affecting admission standards and academic requirements. I contributed a graduate student perspective to ensure decisions related to degree approvals, faculty appointments, and graduate educational policy upheld academic quality and supported student success.

Institutional Statement Guidelines - Working group: Offered graduate student representation for a working group tasked with developing guidelines around institutional statements on global and local events of public interest. These can include geopolitical conflicts, natural disasters, social justice, observances, and other developments.

Senate: I reviewed and voted on key motions related to new graduate programs, graduate work experience programming, and curriculum changes, ensuring they aligned with graduate student academic interests and standards.

Consultations for the Academic Plan: Held a meeting to discuss SLAM and a proposal from a participant about a graduate student focus group.

Student Consultation: I provided individual support and guidance to graduate students experiencing academic difficulties, including concerns related to current global events and difficult relationships with advisors.

Upcoming: A&P (Admissions & Progress) Meeting, in person student support hours, meetings with GSA president & Ben Bradshaw, SLAM.

I wish you all the best in the upcoming semester. Please take care of yourselves, and good luck.

Warm regards,

Olivia Gibson

Vice President Academic

VP Community Engagement – Spandana Chereddy

I hope everyone is doing well and holding up through the winter season. Below is a summary of my activities and engagement over the past month.

Governance, Representation, and Committee Engagement

- Attended the CUPE Executive Committee Meeting, representing the Graduate Students' Association.
- Participated in the Executive Meetings on January 30 and February 17, 2026, contributing to executive planning, operational discussions, and upcoming GSA initiatives.
- Contributed to identifying and confirming appropriate timelines and key dates for the GSA election schedule and nomination period, supporting governance and continuity planning.
- Coordinated and supported ongoing Bus Pass opt-in and opt-out processes, assisting with communication and ensuring clarity for graduate students.
- Attended the Provost/Vice-Provost/CSA Executive/GSA Executive Lunch on February 10, 2026, strengthening collaboration between student leadership and university administration.
- Chaired Equity Committee Meeting – January 22nd

University and Community Engagement

- Attended the SLAM event on January 26, 2026, engaging with student leadership and community partners.
- Participated in the St. Patrick's Day Planning Committee Meeting on January 27, 2026, contributing to event coordination and graduate student engagement efforts.
- Coordinated support for the Graduate Drop-In Session, including facilitating access to the GSA Board Room for event use.
- Continued coordinating and supporting planning efforts for the Let's Talk Grad Life Event, in collaboration with Student Wellness and campus partners.
- Attended the State of the City Address on February 12, 2026, hosted at the Delta Hotels by the Guelph Chamber of Commerce, representing the GSA. The address highlighted key priorities including housing, infrastructure, and community safety. The recognition of community members through the Mayor's Awards was a meaningful reminder of the importance of civic engagement and service.

Student Engagement, Outreach, and Communications

- Participated in tabling activities with CUPE on January 29, 2026, supporting student outreach and engagement.
- Continued weekly coordination with the GSA Listserv, supporting communication and dissemination of relevant opportunities, announcements, and student resources.
- Coordinated and supported planning and logistics for various GSA initiatives and events.

Transit Committee Representation and Advocacy

- Attended the Transit Committee Meeting on February 6, 2026, representing graduate student interests.
- Key discussion items included:
- Improving bus stop signage to clearly indicate routes that connect directly to the University.
- Addressing cleanliness concerns, including seating conditions and bus stop infrastructure.
- Enhancing visibility and clarity of bus stop schedule boards and timing information.
- Discussion of potential implementation of digital transit signage at bus stops to improve real-time information accessibility.
- Review and acknowledgement of the Schedule of Fee Acknowledgement under the UPass framework

Fee schedule

Semester	City's Fee per Eligible Student	GSA Retained Administration Fee	Eligible Student Total
Summer 2026	\$162.00	\$1.10	\$163.10
Fall 2026	\$165.20	\$1.15	\$166.35
Winter 2027	\$165.20	\$1.15	\$166.35
Summer 2027	\$165.20	\$1.15	\$166.35
Fall 2027	\$168.50	\$1.15	\$169.65
Winter 2028	\$168.50	\$1.15	\$169.65
Summer 2028	\$168.50	\$1.15	\$169.65
Fall 2028	\$171.85	\$1.15	\$173.00
Winter 2029	\$171.85	\$1.15	\$173.00
Summer 2029	\$171.85	\$1.15	\$173.00
Fall 2029	\$175.25	\$1.15	\$176.40
Winter 2030	\$175.25	\$1.15	\$176.40
Summer 2030	\$175.25	\$1.15	\$176.40

Best,
Spandana Chereddy

Business Operations Manager – Michelle Morris

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all doing well.

I'm back after a few weeks away and currently catching up on work.

Our focus over the next month will be supporting the team with the upcoming W26 Executive Elections and Annual General Meeting. At the same time, routine operational and financial tasks will continue as usual.

Thank you all for your continued support and collaboration.

Best,

Michelle

Communications Coordinator – Hannah Vanleeuwen

- Continued to maintain GSA website and amended the PDR Grant Application form
- Compiled and organized weekly newsletters
- Transitioned social platforms to new GSA branding
- Worked alongside Sanika to advertise social events on Instagram and GryphLife

Best,
Hannah

Events Coordinator – Sanika Robert Rozario

Below is an updated Events Report outlining completed events, and upcoming programming.

Completed Events

- **Thursday Trivia Nights**

Ongoing weekly event held every Thursday from 6:00–8:00 PM at The Lookout, focused on student engagement and community building.

- **Bingo Night**

A casual social event designed to encourage participation and connection among graduate students.

Date: January 27, 2026

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Venue: The Lookout

- **Valentine's Dance**

A social evening with a live DJ, giving graduate students a chance to relax, dance, and connect. **Date:** February 13, 2026

Time: 8:00 – 11:00 PM

Venu

e: The Lookout

Upcoming Events

- **Board Game Night**

A relaxed social evening centered around board games and peer interaction.

Date: March 17, 2026

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Lookout **Venue:** The

- **Paint Night**

A creative social event providing graduate students with an opportunity to relax and engage in guided painting.

Date: March 31, 2026

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Venue: The Lookout

Prepared by:

Sanika Rozario

Events Co-ordinator

Graduate Students Association (GSA)