GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)  
Report to GSA Council for the October 23, 2017 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: October 20, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA NoC this month is a summary of discussions/decisions the GSA NoC has made since its last report, together with a list of all vacancies filled and those which will be filled shortly.

GSA Policy governing the GSA NoC is located in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating. As provided for in its Terms of Reference, the GSA NoC has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Early Call for Talent and Training**

GSA Bylaw and Policy states that “GSA NoC will be proactive in seeking out potential candidates for all Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) and Council-Elected Officer positions” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.1.5). It also states that:

“The GSA NoC leads an annual initiative each October called the Early Call for Talent and Training. During Early Call, graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to a get-to-know event and are encouraged to participate in a series of training sessions on such topics as University governance, GSA 101, budget and audit basics, collective bargaining, major GSA services, and more. Information is provided about the DEO portfolios and the time commitments involved. These sessions provide a basic set of information that the GSA sees as essential for the effective leadership of the GSA as a corporate entity and for the carrying out of fiduciary duties” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.7.7)

The 2017 GSA Early Call for Talent and Training is now in progress, after the initial advertisement went out through the GSA newsletter on September 29, 2017. The Get-to-Know Dinner is scheduled for October 25, 2017 and it is a great opportunity for GSA Council members and graduate students at large who are considering getting more involved in student governance at the GSA. This dinner gives graduate students the chance to get acquainted and have informal discussions with current and past Directly-Elected Officers. Training sessions on a variety of topics will begin on October 30, 2017 and graduate students are invited to attend those as well. As GSA Council members are aware, engagement from graduate students is key to the success of the GSA, and so I encourage all members of GSA Council to share this information with their colleagues and constituents and to please contact gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca if you are interested in attending the dinner on October 25.

**GSA Standing Committees**

1) **GSA Board (GSAB) (1 Non-Voting Councillor Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Council member was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of October 18, 2017. No nominations were received, so this vacancy will be advertised again in late October.

2) **GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 GSA Council Member, 1 Graduate Students)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Council member was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of October 18, 2017. No nominations were received, so this vacancy will be advertised again. The two (2) positions for graduate students were advertised at least twice starting with the September 29, 2017 GSA
newsletter with a nomination deadline of October 18, 2017. Three (3) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 7c – Nominees for GSA ERC.

3) **GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (1 Graduate Student Position and 2 GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Council members was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of October 18, 2017. No nominations were received, so these vacancies will be advertised again. The one (1) position for a graduate student was advertised at least twice starting with the September 29, 2017 GSA newsletter with a nomination deadline of October 17, 2017. One (1) nomination was received. The nominee was then interviewed by GSA NoC Chair Radim Barta and GSA NoC Vice-Chair Kenzie Gordon, both of whom have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Assistant Director Lisa Hareuther was also present. During the interview, the nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing his awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and his ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness). It should be noted that this nominee is also a nominee for the GSA ERC and as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.10.5, the graduate student has been informed that should he be elected for both positions, he would not be able to serve on both. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 7c – Nominees for GSA ACB.

4) **GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (6 Graduate Student Positions)**

These positions were advertised at least twice starting with the September 29, 2017 GSA newsletter with a nomination deadline of October 18, 2017. Eight (8) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 7b – Nominees for GSA ASC.

**External Committees**

1) **Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (Up to 13 Graduate Student Positions)**

These positions were advertised in the September 1, 2017 GSA newsletter with a nomination deadline of September 13, 2017. Nine (9) nominations were received. Istahil Abdullahi (Medical Genetics), Saleema Allana (Nursing), Hayden Danyluk (Surgery), Helen Doan (Nursing), Khushmit Kaur (Internetworking), Julie Mooney (Educational Policy Studies), Jonathan Mora (Surgery), Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering), and Vanessa Zembal (Human Ecology) were elected to serve on FGSR Council.

2) **Science Faculty Council (2 Faculty of Science Graduate Students)**

These positions were advertised in the September 29, 2017 GSA newsletter with a deadline of October 13, 2017. One (1) nomination was received. Brooke Biddlecombe (Biological Sciences) was elected to serve on Science Faculty Council. The remaining position will be advertised again.

3) **Arts Faculty Council and Associated Committees (8 Faculty of Arts Graduate Students)**

There are three (3) vacancies on the Arts Faculty Council, three (3) vacancies on the Academic Affairs Committee, one (1) vacancy on the Academic and Grade Appeals Committee, and one (1) joint vacancy on the Research Committee and McCalla Professorship Committee. These positions were advertised in the September 15, 2017 GSA newsletter with a nomination deadline of September 27, 2017. No nominations were received. These vacancies will be advertised again.

**Current Vacancies**

1) **General Faculties Council (GFC) (4 Graduate Student Positions)**

These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletter of October 20, 2017, and will be advertised a second time in advance of the deadline of November 1, 2017.
2) **Shell Enhanced Learning Fund (SELF) Adjudication Committee (1 Engineering, Science, or Business Graduate Student Position)**
This position was advertised in the GSA newsletter of October 20, 2017 and will be advertised a second time in advance of the deadline of November 1, 2017.

3) **Festival of Teaching and Learning Steering Committee (1 Graduate Student Position)**
This position was advertised in the GSA newsletter of October 20, 2017 and will be advertised a second time in advance of the deadline of November 1, 2017.

4) **Science Faculty Council (1 Faculty of Science Graduate Student Position)**
This position was advertised in the GSA newsletter of October 20, 2017 and will be advertised a second time in advance of the deadline of November 1, 2017.

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**Addendum – Election of GSA NoC Vice-Chair**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "two members (2) from amongst the five (5) voting members of the [GSA NoC] will be elected by the GSA NoC to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of their time on the GSA NoC or until they resign their positions as Chair and Vice-Chair. The persons elected will be reported to GSA Council" (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Section E.POL.4.1). On September 21, 2017, GSA Nominating Committee members were informed of the vacancy in the position of GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair and were invited to submit nominations for this position. One (1) nomination was received in advance of the deadline of September 27, 2017. As of October 3, 2017, GSA NoC members have elected *Kenzie Gordon (Humanities Computing)* to serve as GSA NoC Vice-Chair.