



Council

Notice of Meeting

Date: Thursday November 12, 2015

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Place: RCH 306

AGENDA

Time	Open Session	Page	Action
4:30	1. Agenda/Additional Agenda Items		Decision
4:35	2. Chair's Remarks		Information
	Consent Agenda*		
4:40	BIRT Council approves and/or receives for information by consent items #3 and #4 of the agenda.		Decision
	3. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.	3	Decision
	4. Executive Reports	7	Information
	Regular Agenda		
4:45	5. Appointments & Resignations BIRT Council approves the appointments of new Councillors omnibus.		Decision
4:50	6. Q&A to Executive Reports		Discuss
5:05	7. UW Brand Refinement Consultation		Discuss
5:30	8. New Student Life Building Consultation		Discuss
5:55	9. GSA Long Range Planning Consultation		Discuss
6:20	10. Other Business		Info/Discuss
6:25	11. Confidential Session (<i>if required</i>)		
6:30	12. Adjournment		Decision

*To allow council to complete a number of matters quickly and to devote more of its attention to major items of business, the agenda has been divided between items that are to be approved and/or received for information by consent and those that are to be presented individually for discussion and decision and/or information. A consent agenda is not intended to prevent discussion of any matter by the council, but items listed under the consent sections will not be discussed at the meeting unless a councillor so requests. Councillors are supplied with the appropriate documentation for each item and all items will be approved

by means of one omnibus motion. The Council will then move immediately to consideration of the items on the regular agenda.

Matthew Perrone,
GSA Student Affairs Officer, Chair

November 5, 2015



COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday September 17, 2015

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: RCH 307

MINUTES

Attendance

Position/Department	Name	Present	Regret	Absent
Council Speaker	MATTHEW PERRONE, CHAIR	X		
President	Maya D'Alessio	X		
Vice President	Rachel Mitchell	X		
External Affairs-C	Kristen Leal	X		
External Affairs-O	Michael Makahnouk	X		
Director (2016)	Robert Henderson	X		
Director (2016)	Adeboye Oyegunle			X
Director (2016)	Michael Piazza		X	
Director (2017)	Vacant			
Director (2017)	Filip Budimir	X		
Director (2017)	Ghazal Memartoluie	X		
Director (2017)	Christopher Pugh	X		
Alumni Director (2017)	Marcel Humelnicu		X	
Kinesiology	Sara Scharoun	X		
Rec & Leisure	Julie Leeming		X	
SPHHS (+MPH)	Sonja Senthana			X
Digital Exp. Inn	Andrea West/			
Economics	Mohammed Ghaziaskar			X
English Lang& Lit	Morteza Deghani	X		
French Studies	Julien DeFraeye	X		
Global Governance	Antulia Rosales Nieves			X
History	Russ Freure	X		
Peace & Conflict	Adam Moreash	X		
Philosophy	Jamie Sewell			X
Psychology	Navio Kwok	X		
Public Service	Michelle D'sa			X
Religious Studies	Zabeen Khamisa			X
Accounting & Finance	Zac Hogg			X
Sociology&Legal St	Angela Willmot		X	
Chemical	Tim Leshuk	X		
Civil & Env	Sina: proxy to Rakesh Ranjan	X		
Electrical & Computer	Ahmed Abdel Aziz			X
Management Sciences	Jumana Shahzadeh			X
Mech & Mechatronics	Nicole Nagy			X
Architecture	Christina Chan			X
SEED + Global Gov	Chris Burke	X		
GEM	Aaron Thompson		X	
ERS	Jie Sie Ma			X
School of Planning	Richard Buchan			X
Applied Mathematics	Puneet Sharma/N. King			X
Computer Science	John Doucette	X		

Pure Mathematics	Anton Mosunov	X		
Stats & Actuarial Sci	Nathalie Moon	X		
Biology	(H. Bandukwala) Proxy Kate Sinclair			X
Chemistry	Ryan Amos	X		
Earth & Env Sciences	Ryan Truong			X
Physics and Astronomy	David Pomaranski			X
Optometry	Vivek Labhishetty	X		
School of Pharmacy	Shannon Callender/Sam Shortall proxy			
Samantha Shortall	At-Large			
Sepher Mohaddes	At-Large	X		
Richard Camman	CRO	X		
Alex Lavasidis	GOTV Coordinator	X		
Ian Evans	Geographers without Borders	X		
Logan Koeth	Guest	X		
Jacob Terry	Guest	X		
Theophile Thiberge	Guest	X		
Savio D'Silva	Guest	X		
Rose Vogt	General Manager, Minutes	X		

Quorum is achieved. The Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:34 pm. Vogt records minutes.

1. The GSA President has an additional agenda item about an upcoming event, and Ghazal Memartoluie, Graduate Athletics liaison has an update. Both items will be added to "Other Business".

"BIRT Council accepts the agenda as circulated with the noted additions."
(Pugh/Budimir) Approved

2. Chair's Remarks
Chair welcomes returning and new Councillors to the meeting. A brief overview of procedures was given.

CONSENT AGENDA

"BIRT Council approves and/or receives for information by consent items #3 and #4 of the agenda." (Doucette/Leal) Approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on July 30, 2015.
4. Executive Reports.
 - a. Business arising from minutes and reports. Q&A
 - i. The Graduate Student Handbook will be discussed at the next Council meeting and there may be a need for a committee to be formed. Council will make a decision as to whether the GSA should move forward with this project.

- ii. A question was raised whether the Council can help regarding hiring support staff to research positions and/or policy development. This will be addressed with the GSA Board.
- iii. President elaborated on a report item regarding a meeting with the FEDS. Tuition for international students, especially undergraduate students, saw a 9% increase from previous year. The rate of increase for graduate students is not as rapid, but this is an issue for FEDS. Student Leaders are proposing a method to allow the current student and future incoming students a limit to tuition increase they will experience during their course of study.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Appointments and Resignations
 - a. The GSA Officers and present Directors are introduced to Council.
 - b. The GSA thanks the resigning Councillors for their service to graduate students. They are: Phil Miletic, DJ Houle, Nawaz Ahmed, and Gah-Jone.
 - c. The GSA welcomes newly appointed Councillors. They are: Morteza Dehghani (English), Navio Kwok (Psychology), Shannon Callender (Pharmacy), Aaron Thompson (GEM), and Vivek Labhishetty (Optometry).

“BIRT Council approves the appointments of new Councillors omnibus.”
 (Leal/Henderson) Approved unanimously

6. CRO Appointment
 Richard Camman is recommended for appointment as Chief Returning Officer to the Board of Directors. This position will be held until April 30, 2016.
7. Funding Opportunities, Student Affairs Officer
 Council heard a presentation and explanation of how to obtain funding for departmental social events, clubs, and charitable donations. Student Affairs Officer will assist any eligible club with their organization, writing a constitution, elections etc.
 Councillors were shown the applicable webpages found on the GSA website.
8. Geographers Without Borders, Ian Evans
 Council heard a presentation from Ian Evans about a newly recognized club. GWB is affiliated as the Waterloo chapter of a larger organization that was initiated at McMaster University. All students at Waterloo are welcome to join the club and take part in the services and events.
9. Get Out the Vote campaign (GOTV),
 External Affairs Officer, Kristen Leal and GOTV Coordinator, Alex Lavasidis present the campaign and provide materials for Councillors to take to their departments for information. The thrust of the campaign is to encourage

students to participate in the upcoming federal election. The GSA held an event attended by local MP's in the spring term. A number of events will take place on campus up to voting day October 19.

10. Upcoming GSA Association Fee Increase

The President informed Council of the current services, benefits, and operations of the GSA. The costs breakdown was provided, and a written description of the proposal is included in the information package for the General Meeting. The proposed fee increase of 10% + CPI will be brought before members at the General Meeting on September 24th for approval.

11. Fall 2015 GSA/GSO Town Hall Events.

The GSA and GSO will be inviting graduate student leaders of departmental associations to talk about what issues they see within their departments. Following this, mini town halls are scheduled to talk to graduate students in each faculty. Last year the mini town halls focused on TA issues. This year the forum is open for graduate students to talk about negative experiences and positive experiences. Feedback boxes and online submissions will be available for students that prefer to remain anonymous.

12. Other Business

- a. A town hall meeting for all students is scheduled for Wednesday September 23, 2015 to discuss the Waterloo Strategic Plan. The GSA and FEDS Presidents will be sitting on the panel along with Waterloo Administrators. Graduate students are asked to attend and speak out about issues affecting them, such as graduate space, (office), funding, and resources.

- b. Ghazal Memartoluie updates Council on registration deadlines for Athletics instructional and pretrial activities.
The Black & Gold Day event organized with Student Affairs Officer was very successful. Approximately 30 grads participated. Similar events will be held monthly.

13. Meeting is adjourned at 5:55 pm.

MP:rv

**Report to the GSA Council
Maya D'Alessio, President
November 8th, 2015**

Summary of Meetings:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
Committees:		
HR Committee	September 14 th	Final meeting of the HR committee. Came to final recommendations for the Board.
Graduate Professional Skills Group	September 16 th	Met with partners from across campus to discuss the creation of a centralized graduate professional skills program, to be rolled out over the next 12 months.
New Building Committee	September 16 th	Met with architects to discuss the creation of preliminary plans for a new student building. Plan to have drawings for mid-October to show to students.
GSA Council	September 17 th	Presented on the upcoming General Meeting for a fee increase
Graduate Student Relations Committee	September 21 st	Discussed forming the supervisory task force, updates to two UW policies and graduate funding simplification.
Senate	September 21 st	Most important item was the approval of Terms of Reference for any mid-term break week, stating that graduate students are relieved from TA duties during that week.
Course Evaluation Project Meeting	September 22 nd	Discussed the newest draft of the recommendations, which will be sent for campus critique in a few weeks.
Graduate Student Space group	September 22 nd	Discussed plans on how to tackle space issues this year and prepared for the UW Space Town Hall.
PACT (Timetabling)	September 24 th	Serious discussion on work overload on the scheduling reps, and how to help alleviate this issue.
GSA General Meeting	September 24 th	Presented on a proposed fee increase, which was then passed.
TA Policy	September 25 th	Met with the GSO and HR to discuss how HR will be involved in the policy drafting process.
Course Evaluation meeting	September 29 th	Discussion on how to offer training and orientation on the recommended course evaluation instrument.
New Building Group	September 30 th	Met with architects again to see their initial drawings and provide feedback.
GSA executive meeting	October 7 th	Meeting of the executive to discuss on-going items
Building and Properties	October 9 th	Confidential – subcommittee of the Board of Governors. Discussion of on-going and proposed building projects
Policy 30 drafting	October 13 th	Committee has agreed on a skeleton of what is to be included in the policy, the writing of the policy is to be handed off to the Secretariat.
Toolkit team	October 14 th	Skype meeting to discuss ideas for support and training material as part of the new course evaluation

		instrument.
GSSAC	October 14 th	Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee- first meeting. Continuation of discussions last year around issues with the committee's oversight, mandate and process.
Associate Provost Grad Studies search committee	October 15 th	Confidential. Continued appraisal of internal candidates for the positions.
GSA Board	October 15 th	GSA October Board meeting. New policy on conflict of interest passed. Discussions around internal policy.
Student Building project	October 16 th	Met with UW, Feds and architects to make refinements to the building plan to be presented to students in the next month.
Senate	October 19 th	Called in to meeting. Passed a 3 year pilot of a Fall Break.
Course evaluation project	October 20 th	Sent regrets
Graduate Student Relations Committee	October 21 st	Called in to meeting.
New Student Building	October 22 nd , October 25 th , October 26 th , October 30 th	Meetings to continue to refine the building layout and programming. Getting close to what the building will actually look like! Negotiating inclusion of GSA office space and a graduate student focused lounge.
Space Information Advisory Group	October 26 th	Committee meeting to discuss the on-going space audit, the mandate of the committee in light of the new teaching and learning space committee and decide on focus for the next year.
Senate Executive	November 2 nd	Meeting of the senate executive to pass the agenda for the November senate. I brought up an issue with an item, which reflects a current deficit in practice. Things that affect grads do not always come to grad groups before senate, despite going through undergrad groups (ie. SUGC but not SGRC)
Associate Provost GS search committee	November 5 th	Met to further whittle down the list of names.
SSAC	November 5 th	First meeting of the cycle, met to prepare for the upcoming cycle and iron out some wrinkles from last year. This year's fee will have a decrease in the Athletics portion as grads are paying a smaller % of varsity costs.
Other:		
Space Meeting	September 14 th	Met with a Department Chair to discuss space issues in the department
Private Meeting with Chris Read	September 14 th	Confidential

Meeting with new Science Dean	September 15 th	Met with the new Dean and discussed some upcoming GSA initiatives – why they are important and how the faculty can support them.
Prep meeting for UW Town Hall	September 15 th	Preparatory meeting to organize the panel members for the UW Space Town Hall
GSA Social	September 16 th	Hung out at the Grad House and talked to students that came by – great turnout and discussion!
GSA Office Event	September 17 th	Held event in the GSA office for fellow GSA employee
Met with Housing Director	September 21 st	Brought forward student concerns from CLV.
Math Faculty Grad Rep Meeting	September 23 rd	Met with 5 student representatives from Math, along with the GSO. Discussed any issues those students wanted to and collected information on their department cultures.
Executive Office Hours	September 23 rd	Spent time in the GSA office with the other Executive officers
UW Space Town Hall	September 23 rd	Acted as a panelist for the UW Space Town Hall. There were a lot of questions about graduate student space, which helped highlight the issues.
AHS Faculty Grad Rep Meeting	September 24 th	Met with 5 student representatives from AHS, along with the GSO. Discussed any issues those students wanted to and collected information on their department cultures.
Meeting with the Provost	September 24 th	Met with Ian Orchard and discussed Policy 33, the TA Policy (30), Ombuds office creation, graduate student space and the proposed tuition framework.
ENV Faculty Grad Rep Meeting	September 25 th	Met with 6 student representatives from ENV, along with the GSO. Discussed any issues those students wanted to and collected information on their department cultures.
SCI Faculty Grad Rep Meeting	September 28 th	Met with student representatives from SCI, along with the GSO. Discussed any issues those students wanted to and collected information on their department cultures.
ENG Faculty Grad Rep Meeting	September 29 th	Met with student representatives from ENG, along with the GSO. Discussed any issues those students wanted to and collected information on their department cultures.
Meet with SSO	September 28 th	Discussing an appreciation BBQ for all of the Orientation volunteers (Grad and Undergrad).
GH Staff	September 28 th	Attended the first part of the GH staff meeting to introduce myself and welcome all of the new team members.
Safety Reporting	October 13 th	Met with Kate Windsor from the Safety Office to discuss safety concerns around students working in the lab, and the current scope of policy on this issue.
Impromptu meeting	October 13 th	Met with the Feds and multiple on-campus partners to coordinate support for students in the wake of a serious student incident.

Brand Refinement	October 14 th	Had lunch with Dawn from MSC to discuss the UW brand refinement project and how to engage the graduate student opinion on the UW brand.
Arts Town Hall	October 15 th	First faculty town hall. Attendance was low, but good conversations were had with students who attended.
GSA and Athletics	October 15 th	Met with Athletics to discuss how the GSA and Athletics can work together to engage graduate students
Student Memorial	October 15 th	Attended a memorial service for a student who passed away
ENV Town Hall	October 16 th	Continuation of the faculty town hall series
ADDS workshops	October 16 th	Met with Ray Legge to discuss workshops the GSO is piloting for new faculty members on student supervision
Math Town Hall	October 21 st	Continuation of the faculty town hall series
Meeting at CLV	October 23 rd	Went to a graduate single council meeting for the graduate students that live in CLV-N. They had contacted the GSA previously with local issues and wanted representation at the meeting.
Space audit	October 23 rd	Walked around 3 science buildings and inventoried the number of labs that contained graduate student office space – information to be used in on-going work to move graduate students out of labs and in to office space.
Wet Lab Office Space	October 26 th	Met with Jim Frank and Scott Nicoll. Made minor amendments to the UW statement on grad student space to be sent to the Deans council for endorsement. Deans will begin addressing this issue in December and work to implement as much change as possible by the end of April.
Science Town Hall	October 26 th	Continuation of the faculty town hall series
Meeting with the Provost	October 27 th	Met with Ian Orchard to discuss on-going projects; graduate student space, TA policy, ombuds office
Meeting with Jim Frank	October 28 th	Regular meetings with Jim Frank to keep on-going communication and project momentum
Meeting with Chris Read	October 28 th	Confidential
CGPSS Survey	October 28 th	Met with IAP, SSO and GSO to discuss the upcoming CGPSS graduate student survey.
Debrief meeting	October 30 th	Met with Chris Read and phoned Chris Lolas to discuss the fee calculation for the new student building
Counselling services	November 3 rd	Met with Walter Mittelstaedt to discuss proposed changes to the management in counselling services and the merging of the counselling and health service units.
St. Patrick's day 2016	November	Met with the City, WRPS, UW and WLU to discuss

planning	4 th	the past 2 years efforts by the city to contain the party to a tent party on Seagram and decrease the impact to Ezra Street.
St. Patrick's day UW follow up	November 6 th	Meeting with Chris Read, Chris Lolas and Dan Anderson to discuss UW's role in the St. Patricks day efforts
Random Acts of Kindness	November 6 th	The GSA gave out muffins, cookies and fruit to graduate students across campus as part of the UW Random Acts Of Kindness day.

Regrets:

Since early September I had to send my regrets to:

- SGRC (double booked with another meeting)
- SIAG (my lab mate's thesis defense was at this time)
- A Grad Rep Faculty meeting (I was travelling)
- Senate Executive Committee (during Orientation and again while I was travelling)
- GSA Policy meeting
- Course evaluation project meeting (personal reasons)
- GSA executive office hours (personal reasons)
- AHS Town Hall (double booked)

Current Projects:

- New student building potential – this project started moving quickly, architects have been engaged to do initial drawings to present to student stakeholders for consultation
- TA policy – the Secretariat is now working on drafting an updated policy to include items identified by graduate students and agreed upon by the Policy 30 drafting committee
- Graduate student space has been a large part of my meetings lately. The AP-GS is presenting the UW Statement on Space at the Dean's Council and beginning discussions around how we can achieve these goals. Early plans indicate an official announcement of the effort to change the status quo will go out in late November, with a deadline of serious improvement by April 30th
- Meetings with student representatives from each faculty have been really excellent. We should endeavor to have these meetings every year with additional contact during the other terms.

Notes:

I have identified two committees that I think it would be beneficial to have other student representatives sit on (not the GSA President). These are the Space Information Advisory Group (SIAG) and Provosts Advisory Committee on Timetabling. I will investigate finding another graduate student to represent GSA members at these meetings. I have also discovered another committee we did not know about (Food Services Advisory), that I am looking for a graduate student to sit on. In addition, the University just developed a new committee – Teaching and Learning Space committee, which I will sit on.

Report to the GSA Council
Rachel Mitchell, Vice-President
November 8th, 2015

Summary of Meetings:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
GSA Council	Sept 17 th	
GSA Board	Sept 2 nd Oct 15 th	Fee increase discussions General Meeting feedback
GSA Committee		
HR Committee	Sept 14 th	Document to be presented to the board with committee findings.
Long Range Planning		Preliminary planning stages. A meeting will be called for the month of October
University Committee		
Graduate Student Relations	Sept 21 st	
President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability	Sept 30 th	Reviewing Campus Sustainability Report Plans for a Green Office Program SWOT analysis groups – Engagement, Finances, Academics and Operations
Orientation		Please see text below
Senate Executive		Sent regrets for both meetings - September (due to orientation) and October (out of the province).
Senate	Sept 21 Oct 19 th	Passed guideline on reading breaks – no TA related tasks to be given during these breaks. Passed Fall Study Days – coincide with Thanksgiving (two days)
Sexual Violence Working Group	Sept 3 rd Sept 22 Oct 29 th	Policy formulation meetings: overview of potential scenarios to identify pitfalls in policy and procedures. Survey questions to be included in Policy 33 survey or separate. Sent regrets (at CAGS)
Travel Planning and Policy	Oct 23 rd	Preliminary discussions surrounding priorities for the committee
Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee	Oct 14 th Nov 5 th	First meeting of the term.
GSRC	Sept 21 Oct 21 st	

Reunion Committee	Sept 2 nd Oct 14 th	Preparation for Reunion (Oct 3 rd) Reunion Feedback meeting – sent regrets
Joint Health and Safety		Filip Budimir will be taking over for me on this committee. Regrets sent to first September meeting.
Policy 33	Sept 18 th Oct 20 th Oct 30 th	Identifying top five current concerns that have emerged from committee discussions and consultations Policy drafting meeting Sent regrets (at CAGS)
Policy 30	Sept 1 st Oct 13 th	Continued discussions HR Consultations
Meetings: - Executive	Sept 2 nd Sept 9 th Oct 7 th	Exec office hours Orientation debrief General meeting debrief and town hall prep
Long Range Planning Committee	Oct 27 th	First committee meeting. Overview of timeline and SWOT for the committee.
Bi-Weekly Meeting with Jim Frank	Sept 16 th Sept 30 th Oct 14 th	Student concerns regarding paying for transcripts Faculty/Dept meeting debrief Discussions surrounding Faculty Town Halls
Brand Engagement	Oct 14 th	Consultation meeting surrounding grad student engagement in University brand project
Athletics Partnership meeting	Oct 15 th	Preliminary discussions on how the GSA and Athletics can support each other
Meeting with the Provost	Oct 27 th	Discuss top student issues: continued discussions on ombuds office, and student space issues

Comments and updates:
GSA Exec Retreat August 24-26

Further information from meetings:

Current Projects:

- Long Range Planning

Events:

- “Can I Kiss You?” event run by the Equity Office was a huge success
- Attended the Grad House Staff Introduction meeting
- Attended the FEDS Open House
- GSA Social Sept 16th

Orientation:

Grad Student Orientation was a huge success with over 900 students registered. The information sessions were very well attended and students seemed to thoroughly enjoy the grad house social.

Department Meetings:

Matt, Maya, myself and the GSO completed a series of department meetings with each faculty in preparation for the upcoming town halls. We met with student leaders from each department in faculty specific meetings to discuss TAs, RAs, student space, funding, among other things. The meetings were well attended, and participants provided excellent feedback. Thank you to all who attended!

Town Halls: Stay tuned for full report

Maya, Matt, myself, and the GSO met with students from each faculty to discuss issues at the faculty and department level. Turn out wasn't stellar but the feedback and individual interactions were very valuable. We will be compiling all the anonymous feedback and the GSO will be taking it to the Deans and Assoc Deans. Stay tuned for updates on action items.

Spin For Mental Health:

Part of Mental Health Awareness day – GSA put a team together to support awareness and engagement in mental wellness on campus.

Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (conference Oct 30th-Nov 1st)

Report to be circulated upon completion. Matt and myself attended alongside UW associate deans, and members of the GSO. The conference was very valuable. Great networking opportunities with other GSAs, especially the Ontario schools. More details will follow in the official report.

Random Act of Kindness Day – Nov 6

The GSA participated in this campus and community event, handing out cookies, apples, and mini muffins to grad students in labs, offices, and study spaces. Awesome opportunity to get out into the departments and engage with GSA members.

GSA Dodgeball

Hugely successful event put on by Ghazal and Matt. Great turnout, spirited games, and lots of fun! Congrats to everyone that participated, and to our event organizers for their hard work.

Comments:

Motions:

N/A

Report to GSA Council
Matthew Perrone, SAO
November 8, 2015

Summary of Meetings/Events:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
GSA Executive Retreat	Aug 24-27	Discussed the roles and goals of the executive for the rest of the year
Policy 30 Committee Meeting	Sept 1	Continued to discuss considerations for the policy. It was decided to consult Human Resources
GSA Board Meeting	Sept 2	Discussed GOTV, CRO, and confidential matters
Grad Orientation Day	Sept 8	Facilitated the events.
GSA Executive Meeting	Sept 9	Discussed Orientation Day.
GSA Black and Gold Day Event	Sept 12	Attended women's rugby game with 30 GSA members
Meeting with Jim Frank	Sept 16	Planning upcoming GSA/GSO faculty town hall series
GSA Social Event	Sept 16	Socialized with GSA members at the Grad House
GSA Council Meeting	Sept 17	Discussed GOTV, upcoming Association fee increase, and Town Hall Series
Meeting with student	Sept 18	Discussed social event opportunities
Grad Student Relations Committee Meeting	Sept 21	Discussed simplifying grad awards, Policy 34 updates, and Policy 60 updates.
Meeting with Ghazal Memartoluie	Sept 21	Discussed athletic/well-being initiatives
MATH Rep Town Hall	Sept 23	Met with MATH student associations/ reps
Teaching, Learning, and Community Space Town Hall	Sept 23	Panel answered questions relating to space on campus.
AHS Rep Town Hall	Sept 24	Met with AHS student associations/ reps
GSA General Meeting	Sept 24	Approved an increase in the Association fee
ENV Rep Town Hall	Sept 25	Met with ENV student associations/ reps
SCI Rep Town Hall	Sept 28	Met with SCI student associations/ reps
Grad House Team Intro Meeting	Sept 28	Introduced to the Grad House Team for Fall 2015
ENG Rep Town Hall	Sept 29	Met with ENG student associations/ reps
Meeting with Jim Frank	Sept 30	Discussed the current Town Hall Series.
ARTS Rep Town Hall	Oct 1	Met with ARTS student associations/ reps
Ontario Council on	Oct 2	Discussed accessibility and internationalization with

Grad Studies Meeting		Grad Deans and student reps from universities across Ontario
GSA Executive Meeting	Oct 7	Discussed current projects and progress
Orientation Steering Committee	Oct 9	Discussed the recently completed Orientation Day
Policy 30 Committee Meeting	Oct 13	Finalizing the considerations for the policy.
Meeting with Jim Frank	Oct 14	Discussed the current Town Hall Series and the upcoming CAGS Meeting
Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee	Oct 14	Discussed the history of the committee and began discussions on the 2015/2016 Graduate Student Financial Support Recommendation to the Provost
Arts Town Hall	Oct 15	Met with Arts students
GSA/Athletics Meeting	Oct 15	Discussed relationship between GSA and Athletics (sent regrets)
GSA Board Meeting	Oct 15	The major topic discussed was human resource practices. However, the details are confidential.
Env Town Hall	Oct 16	Met with Environment students
Think Pink Football Game	Oct 17	Attended the Men's Varsity Football Game with grad students
Spin for Mental Health	Oct 20	Participated in an on-campus initiative to raise mental health awareness. GSA members rode stationary bikes for 20 minutes in the SLC
Math Town Hall	Oct 21	Met with Math students
Grad Student Relations Committee	Oct 21	Topics included guidelines for learning resources and field trips (updates), UW Strategic Plan, and upcoming surveys
AHS Town Hall	Oct 22	Met with AHS students
Math GSA Meeting	Oct 23	Met with Math students to discuss opportunity to create Math GSA
Science Town Hall	Oct 26	Met with Science students
Eng Town Hall	Oct 26	Met with Engineering students
GSA Long Range Planning Committee	Oct 27	Committee discussed the long range plan project, timeline, and identified organizational deficiencies
Meeting with Laurier GSA	Oct 27	Met with Executive from Laurier GSA to discuss the recent OCGS Meeting and strengthening relationship between the two associations
Meeting with Jim Frank	Oct 28	Discussed the completed Town Halls, future initiatives, and upcoming CAGS Meeting
CAGS Annual General Meeting	Oct 30-Nov 1	Travelled to Calgary to meet with other student association representatives and deans from other universities. Topics included better preparing grad students for "non-academic" careers, professional skill development, student-supervisor relationship, and wellness

Completed Projects:

- Town Hall Meeting Series
 - Student Association/Rep meetings (1 for each faculty)
 - General meetings with all students (1 for each faculty)

Current Projects:

- Updating Council List for the new year
 - Filled 16 vacant Councillor positions since taking office
 - Continuing to reach out to departments without Councillors
- Starting new Department GSA's/Clubs
 - Helping Math explore the opportunity of creating a Math GSA
- Preparing Council Meetings
- Collecting Student Feedback
 - Meeting with Councillors to discuss student issues
 - Discussion topics include student fees, student space, TA issues, funding, opportunities for grad students to meet, athletic/recreational initiatives, and GSA long-range plan
- Long Range Plan (replaces Student Handbook)
 - Create a short-range, mid-range, and long-range plan for the GSA

Upcoming Projects:

- SAO Reference Manual
 - Create a document that can be used as a reference for future SAO's

Comments:

I'm happy to answer any questions.

Report to the GSA Council
Kristen Leal, External Affairs Officer - CASA
November 12th, 2015

Summary of Meetings:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
Exec meeting	Oct 7	Discussed the AGM and different on-campus events/partnerships
Grad Council	Oct 13	Discussed different CASA policies (long form census, fast track residency, tri-council funding opportunities)
GSA Board	Oct 15	Discussed issues pertaining to the board.
CASA Policy Committee	Oct 16	Discussed and approved amendments to many CASA policies
SJU Co-curricular launch	Oct 19	Attended launch of co-curricular record at St. Jerome's University
ELECTION DAY!!	OCT 19	THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVED
Spin for Mental Health	Oct 20	Participated in 20 minute spin class in support of Mental Health Awareness Day
CASA Policy Committee	Oct 26	Approved final policies for Policy and Strategy next month
Lunch with Alex	Oct 29	Debrief on GOTV campaign

Comments and updates: Well. Its finally over. After 2-3 months of hard work, our Get Out the Vote campaign is finally done. I'm not going to take any credit though- our GOTV coordinator Alex was an absolute rockstar who knocked it right out of the park. I supported her as best as I could but she really owned it all on her own. While she was busy with GOTV I was up to my ears in policy. Later in November all the CASA members will be gathering in Halifax for Policy and Strat. Its at P&S that CASA will set their advocacy priorities for the year so its an important few days that we have together. In preparation for that, the two CASA committees I sit on (Policy and Grad) have been reviewing all the updated policies, proposing amendments, and drafting new policies to bring forward to the membership. I personally worked on a few grad student centered policies (A34, fast track residency and I03, tri-council funding opportunities). I'm really happy how both those policies turned out.

Moving forward in November will be a lot of prep- VP Rachel is coming with me to Halifax so I will be getting her up to speed on CASA so she can evaluate the organization from her frame of reference. It is my intention to write a comprehensive review of our membership in CASA before my end of term so the more people I can involve in the organization, the better.

I also want to take the time to introduce our new KW MP's. Waterloo's MP-elect Bardish Chagger was recently appointed as the Minister of Small Business and Tourism. I'd also like to welcome Kitchener Centre MP Raj Saini. Both Saini and Chagger are new members of parliament and I wish them well. I'd also like to thank Peter Braid and Stephen Woodworth, outgoing MPs, for years of dutiful service to the KW area. Both Braid and Woodworth were passionate student advocates and they will be missed.

Current Projects:

- Preparing for Policy and Strategy (Nov 19-22)
- Establishing a relationship with the new KW MP's.

External Affairs Officer – OGSA

Report to Board and Council – November 2015

The policy committee met on October 7 and will be meeting again shortly. This work has seen some delays as my wife gave birth to our son on October 26th. I have been off work for two weeks to help our family get settled at home. Our son spent four days in the neonatal intensive care unit.

As mentioned in my October report, the OGSA has been engaged with Yvan Baker (MPP, Etobicoke Centre) to discuss his private members bill: *Pathways to Post-secondary Excellence Act (Post-secondary Education Report)*. MPP Baker tabled his PMB bill in the Ontario legislature on October 7th, and I participated in a press conference at Queen's Park. A press release has been posted on the OGSA website (www.ontariogsa.com), and includes a picture from the press conference.

On October 22nd, MPP Baker's private members bill was debated in the legislature. The OGSA will be supporting MPP Baker on this bill, should it go to committee for further review.

I look forward to speaking to council about my report.