



Graduate Students' Association

We acknowledge that we live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Executives Meeting(s) on April 22, 2026

Time: 5:00

Attendance: Laila Valila, Lindsay Carlson, Mandela Alema, Sunny Bui & Palash Roy

Guests: None

All executives approved all of these actions.

Prior to the meeting, it had been requested that each executive prepare ideas and select dates for events within their portfolio that they are planning, so that GSA can proceed with a complete event programming schedule.'

Announcements

- The Executive acknowledged that a Special Executive Meeting occurred on April 1, 2026. The meeting addressed a discrete governance and election-related matter and was not treated as an ongoing portfolio update for this meeting.

Agenda Items

1. Approval of Agenda

a. Agenda approval

- The Executive reviewed and approved the agenda items and meeting order.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

a. March 30, 2026 Executive Meeting Minutes

- The Executive reviewed the March 30, 2026 Executive Meeting Minutes.

3. Updates by Position

a. President

- The President noted prior academic conference travel from April 10 to April 18, 2026.
- The President provided an update regarding GSA Executive Meeting policy and related governance matters.

b. Vice-President Finance & Operations

- The Vice-President Finance & Operations reported that executives contributed items for consideration by the Budget and Finance Committee.
- A proposed budget for the next fiscal year was developed and approved by the Committee for presentation at the AGM.

c. Vice-President Academic & Student Affairs

- The Vice-President Academic & Student Affairs provided an update on Holiday Hangout sponsorship contributions.
- Contributions were noted from CGPS, the Vice-Provost Students and Learning, and the Sustainability Committee. USSU funding had been received, while an outstanding balance related to ISSAC remained subject to invoicing and follow-up.

d. Vice-President External Affairs

- The Vice-President External Affairs reported that the University Council presentation was completed successfully.

e. Vice-President Indigenous Engagement

- The Vice-President Indigenous Engagement reported on the Indigenous Engagement Initiative and contact with the Chair.
- The Executive also discussed the Indigenous Graduate Leadership Circle and noted a need to review land acknowledgement protocol.

4. Action Items Follow-Up

a. Operations Manager salary increase

- The Executive discussed a proposed salary increase for the Operations Manager.
- The Vice-President Finance & Operations outlined the Association's financial capacity to support an increase.
- **Motion:** That the Operations Manager's salary be increased by 3.5%.
 - **Vote:** 4 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.
 - **Status:** PASSED.

b. Red Swan Pizza outreach support

- The Executive received a status update regarding outreach support and distribution planning.

c. Black Graduate Student representative correspondence

- The President nominated the current Vice-President Academic & Student Affairs for consideration.
- Lecia and Mandela were identified to serve as Black Graduate Student Representatives to the Provost and Vice-President Academic.
- The Executive noted that relevant policy should be updated to reflect the involvement and appointment process.

d. Councilor Gala correspondence and invitations

- The Vice-President Academic & Student Affairs confirmed that correspondence had been sent to councillors and follow-up had occurred.

e. PEC agenda points

- The Vice-President Finance & Operations confirmed submission of three agenda items to PEC for the April 23 PEC/GSA year-end meeting.

f. Transition governance meetings

- The Executive received a status update regarding transition governance meeting scheduling.

5. Event Funding Applications

a. Plant Sciences Graduate Students' Association

- The Executive reviewed the Plant Sciences Graduate Students' Association funding application.
- **Decision/Outcome:** Approved for \$250.

6. Major Discussion and Decision Items

a. GSA Gala

- The Executive discussed the GSA Gala budget approval process, sponsorships, programming, outstanding planning items, and whether budget approval would proceed by email or through a meeting vote.

b. GSA Awards

- The Executive discussed award-category gaps, outreach, and remaining committee actions.

c. Student Experience Survey

- The Executive discussed draft survey questions, distribution timing, communication channels, transit-related questions, and Indigenous engagement wording.

7. PEC and Governance Planning

a. April 23 PEC/GSA year-end meeting

- The Executive reviewed final PEC agenda points and assigned speakers for the meeting.

8. AGM Planning and Transition Tasks

a. AGM arrangements

- The Executive discussed the AGM schedule, required documents, and executive roles.
- Sunny Bui and Lindsay Carlson indicated they would attempt to attend virtually.
- The Executive requested that the Chair consider rescheduling the AGM.

9. Other Business

a. Allegations concerning Vice-President Finance & Operations conflict of interest

- The Executive noted allegations concerning a potential conflict of interest involving the Vice-President Finance & Operations.
- No decision or further detail was recorded in the submission.

b. Conduct at the Special Council Meeting

- The Executive noted that formal complaints had been submitted by councillors concerning conduct at the Special Council Meeting.

c. Policy review before AGM

- The Executive discussed completing policy review work before the AGM.

d. GSA Chair performance discussion

- The Vice-President Academic & Student Affairs indicated disagreement with the conclusions regarding Chair performance arising from the Special Executive Meeting and referenced bylaw provisions related to formal training.
- The Vice-President Finance & Operations raised concerns regarding Vice-Chair communication and conduct in the Zoom chat, noting that it was not professional or conducive to the Chair role.
- The President noted the roles and voting responsibilities associated with the formal GSA Council position.

10. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

- Thursday, April 23, 2026 — PEC Meeting.

New Action Items

- **Vice-President Finance & Operations** to implement the approved 3.5% Operations Manager salary increase through the appropriate administrative process.
- **Executive** to update relevant policy language concerning Black Graduate Student Representative involvement and appointment.
- **Executive** to complete policy review before the AGM.
- **Executive** to confirm AGM scheduling, attendance arrangements, required documents, and roles.
- **Executive** to determine appropriate follow-up to formal councillor complaints relating to the Special Council Meeting.

Items for Next Meeting

- Update on the Operations Manager salary increase implementation.
- Final Gala budget approval, sponsorship status, and outstanding programming arrangements.
- Status of the Student Experience Survey and planned distribution.
- AGM scheduling and transition planning confirmation.
- Follow-up regarding Councillor complaints and related governance concerns.
- Progress on policy review before AGM.

Adjournment / Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27PM by VP External / President. The next meeting is to be determined.

Approved by: 2026-27 President, VP Finance & Operations, VP Academic & Student Affairs, VP External Affairs & VP Indigenous Engagement