

June 6, 2014

Dear GSA Council Members,

Please find the 2014-2015 Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) attached for your review. **This Plan was prepared by me along with the GSA Vice-Presidents and GSA Management to direct our efforts and identify areas where we can work with others in the University community.** The Board SWP both includes the platform and strategic goals of your new team of Directly-Elected Officers and was based upon the previous Board's SWP, which ensures continuity in terms of strategic goals, planning, and advocacy. **Important GSA initiatives, including enhanced professional development opportunities for graduate students and increased services for international graduate students are developed in this Plan.**

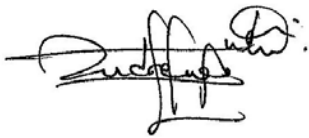
Alongside many continuing GSA initiatives, developed in the 2013-2014 Board SWP, this new version outlines several new strategic goals. **In brief, the key priorities that the GSA Vice-Presidents and I have identified for 2014-2015 are:**

- The creation of **first-rate professional development opportunities** for graduate students
- Sustained and **active engagement in tuition, mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIFs), and market modifier debates** as well as **engagement with University Administration and the provincial government on issues surrounding the financial support** of post-secondary education
- **Support a strong FGSR and maintain a strong graduate student voice in any proposed FGSR reforms** (also sometimes referred to as graduate studies reform) and continued work with FGSR and other groups to develop quality measures and an ambitious vision of graduate education at the University of Alberta
- **Increased services for international graduate students** (including lobbying for the creation of a Provincial Nominee Program stream for current international graduate students and the University's assistance with Permanent Residency applications)
- Further **development of the Department Liaison Initiative and working to actively engage with graduate students**
- Working with partner provincial GSAs to **finalize the creation of a new, strong provincial lobbying group** that, with well-developed bylaws and financial reporting structures, will remain functional and effective over time
- Maintaining a **strong provincial and federal advocacy** presence
- Continued work with the University on **education, compliance, and dispute resolution associated with the Collective Agreement** and the **negotiation of increased funding** for academically employed graduate students
- Continued **strong partnership in any implementation of the recommendations contained in the recently released final report of the Graduate Student Supervision Task Force**, a joint initiative of the Provost, FGSR and the GSA
- **Maintaining strong relationships with our partner associations** – SU, AASUA, PDFA, and NASA – and with the University President, Provost's Office and other Vice-Presidents, the Dean of Students, the Dean of FGSR, members of the Board of Governors, Governance, Senate, Alumni Association, service providers, and other key partners
- Continued **involvement with all initiatives associated with the PAW Centre**

As was the case with the previous GSA Board SWP, in implementing this Plan, we will strive for transparency, accountability, and reputation-building through regular updates to GSA Council and other stakeholders. Through this process, we hope to gain valuable feedback on how we can best achieve what we have set out to accomplish. We look forward to working with our many partners on the implementation of this Plan.

The GSA Board is interested in hearing your thoughts on the Strategic Work Plan. I look forward to our discussion on June 16.

Sincerely,



Nathan Andrews  
2014-2015 GSA President