

**President**  
**Report to GSA Council for the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
 From: Bishoi Aziz  
 Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I cannot imagine that I am half way through my term as president. I would like to report to you on my advocacy work over the past month.

**PhD guaranteed minimum funding**

- We had the confirmation of the previous FGSR Dean, Dr. Roger Epp, that the proposal is coming soon. The faculty is currently discussing the funding amount with the departments. There is a discussion item around the proposal in the FGSR council on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. We don't have any details on the proposal yet.
- However, there are plans that the Provost's Office will support the project financially during the transition period. The university will encourage the departments to work with the students to improve their performance in attracting external funding.

**Supporting international students**

- In our meetings with the senior University Administration and Governors, we continue to explain the difficulties faced by international students. We discuss their precarious financial situation and the lack of need-based funding available for them. We also highlight the social barriers they face including the lack of support from families and the less equitable environment on campus. We emphasize that the university's plan to increase international enrollment will only worsen these challenges and that the university needs to rethink how they are supporting international students if the university's plan is to succeed.

**People Strategy Steering Committee**

- Recently, the university released the results of a survey on employee engagement. The university acknowledges the low morale on campus and the broken communication between employees and their supervisors. In order for the university to address these findings, the university embarked on developing a People Strategic Plan to enhance engagement. The university will soon start the consultation process with the different employee groups on campus, including academically employed graduate students, to realize their needs.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board and management meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

17 Oct	Meeting with J Smith, Chief of Staff
17 Oct	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) Meeting #2
18 Oct	Financial Statement Review
19 Oct	MSc Rehab Medicine - Augustana Discussion
19 Oct	Meeting w/ Provost Office
23 Oct	Graduate Students & Tutoring Services
24 Oct	Meeting w/ R Epp, Interim Dean FGSR, GSA President, and VP Academic
24 Oct	Meeting w/ Chancellor Garritty and GSA Execs
25 Oct	In-Person Meeting - Board of Governors Chair
26 Oct	SEAP Accountability Framework

26 Oct	Meeting with Bill Flanagan, UofA President
26 Oct	In Person: Course-based Masters Initiatives at CNAS Meeting
26 Oct	Meeting with J Zinken and E Plume
30 Oct	BFC - Fall Statements and ATB investment Review
31 Oct	People Strategy Steering Committee
31 Oct	Meeting w/ K Peters, H Richholt, and F Billo
3 Nov	MNIF Joint Oversight Committee Meeting #3
6-10 Nov	61st Annual CAGS Conference
13 Nov	Meeting w/ M Ross-Graham & G Bridgeman
14 Nov	Meeting w/ T Ravio, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR
14 Nov	GSA & DoS Monthly Meeting
15 Nov	GFC APC Meeting
16 Nov	Meeting w/ M Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment)
17 Nov	Meeting w/ A Sharman
17 Nov	GSA Executives & VPER Monthly Meeting