DATE: April 2023

To the general membership of the Graduate Student Association

I certify that the information contained in this report is factual.

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Julian Surdi
President & CEO
Graduate Student Association—University of Waterloo
Please accept this update on the activities of the GSA-UW. I would like to highlight the following recent activities of our team:

**GSA Services ([GSA Services Webpage](#))**
The GSA-UW currently offers the following services to graduate students:

- GRT & ION Transit UPass
- Legal & Tax Aid
- Academic Support
- Student Advising and Advocacy
- Health & Dental Supplementary plans (Including Mental Health through EmpowerMe)
- Graduate House
- Funding Options through GSEF
- Graduate Student Space

**Services Updates:**
- GRT fees will increase from $113.30 beginning Fall 2023
- Dental plan fee through StudentCare is under review

**GSA Structure Overview ([Our people & Organizational Chart](#))**
The GSA-UW currently serves around 5500 students, having 1 president, 3 vice-presidents (Administration, Advocacy and Communications), a Board of Directors with 12 members, a Council with approximately 45 members, and a team of staff and volunteers. The current portfolios managed by the GSA are:

- Advising
- Equity
- Student Engagement
- Labor
- Housing
- International Students
- Events
- Communications
- Social Media

**Recent Accomplishments by the GSA-UW:**
- **Internal Changes:**
  - Hired a new General Manager (Jeyas Balaskanthan) in October 2022
  - Implemented internal review system for casual staff members
  - Increased training for casual staff to improve quality of deliverables
- Publishing the completed Policy 30
• Contributing to Policy 42 review process
• Expanded new graduate orientation events to improve new student transition
• Negotiating a Funding Increase of 3.86%
• Maintained the Graduate House operational for 1 consecutive year free from COVID-19 shutdown

Current initiatives by the GSA-UW:
• Internal Operations Manual
• Workshops and Events
• UW Committees’ participation
• BIPOC Collective
• International Student Discord and Blog
• SLC Office and Lounge Operation
• Graduate House Operation

Current Advocacy Initiatives (See Advocacy Website):

• Ombudsman Office
• PhD Scholarship for Black and Indigenous Students
• Labor
• Housing
• Food Security
• Counselling Services
• Minimum Funding Increase

Ongoing Partnerships:
• Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (GSPA)
• WUSA
• Writing and Communications Centre
• Alumni Office
• City of Waterloo
• StudentCare
• Grand River Transit
• Organize UW
• Graduate Student Endowment Fund (GSEF)
• Student Success Office

Future planned initiatives (Starting until December 2022):
• Develop equity-focused scholarship
• Improve Graduate House infrastructure
• Strengthen Advocacy Initiatives and Partnerships
• Draft new policies or guidelines: RAs and Sessional version of Employment Policy 30
• Work with GradReady to include GSA-UW
• Development of new GSA Strategic Plan 2024-2027