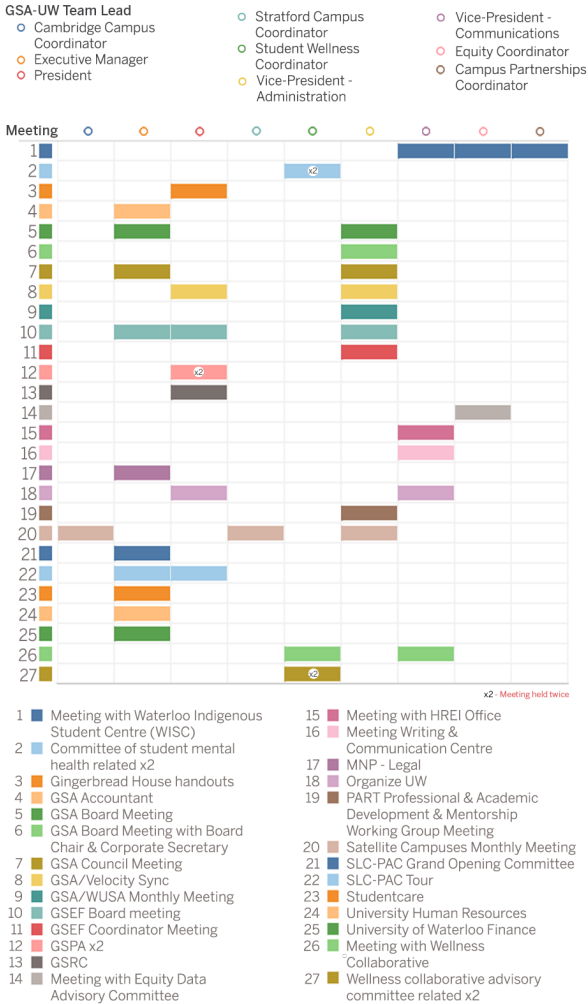


Graduate Student Association - University of Waterloo: December 2020 Report

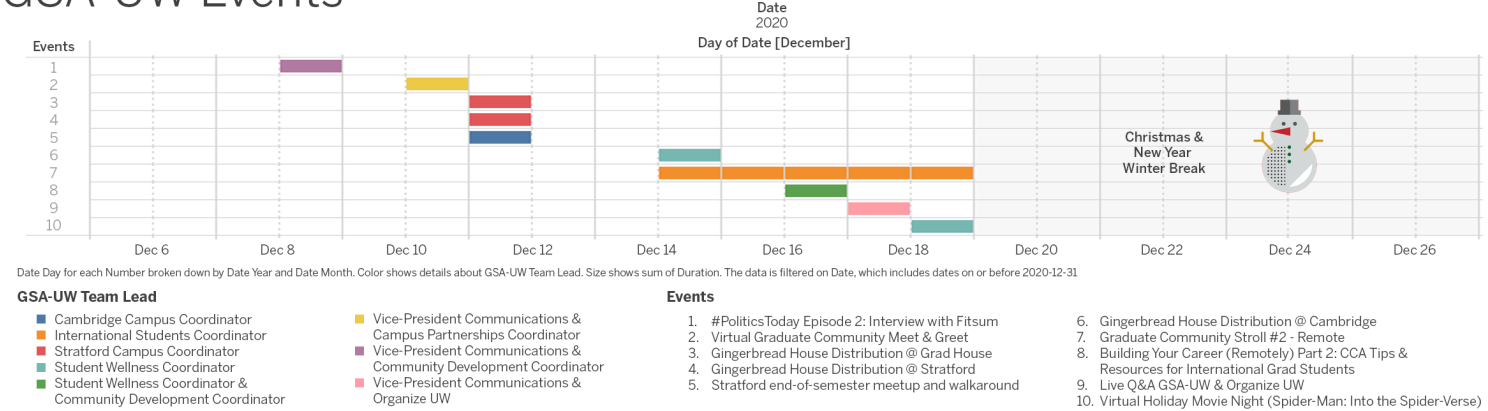
Executive Overview



Stakeholders Meetings



GSA-UW Events



Highlights

Meeting Highlights

Meeting with Writing & Communication Centre to create new workshops for graduate students, with a focus on support for Indigenous graduate students using Indigenous Research Methods, BIPOC graduate students. One of the proposed workshops is to provide support to graduate students who are required to include a positionality/social location research statement in their thesis/dissertation.

The GSA-UW is officially involved in the President's Anti-Racism Task Force (PART). The GSA-UW is represented on all working groups of the PART initiative:

- > **PART Committee** – Zabeen Khamisa, GSA VP of Communications
- > **Health & Mental Health** – Margaret Mutumba, GSA Community Development Coordinator
- > **Safety** – Aaron Francis, GSA Equity Coordinator
- > **Equity Data Collection** – Aaron Francis, GSA Equity Coordinator
- > **Race, Culture & Ethnicity Awareness** – Kevin Bonnell, GSA Student Engagement Coordinator
- > **Professional and Academic Development & Mentorship** – Cindy Yeung, GSA VP of Administration
- > **Educational Environment & the Development of Learners** – Jaydum Hunt, GSA Campus Partnerships Coordinator

Accomplishment Highlights

Funding for SLC-PAC: Secured \$4K from GSEF for graduate student space in the new SLC-PAC (Student Life Centre - Physical Activity Complex) expansion.

Launch of the Housing Experience Survey: In collaboration with the WUSA, we released a survey to identify what difficulties students may be having in relation to their housing experience and to determine how we can support safe and affordable housing for students. The survey is open to graduate and undergraduate students to complete and closes end of January.

Event Highlights

Building Your Career (Remotely) Series: Part 2 of this series featured a webinar presented by Centre for Career Action's (CCA) Career Advisor, Kira Bruschke. It emphasized about how to job search, network, and find employment and professional events in a remote environment and how the CCA can be a resource.

#PoliticsToday Series: Episode 2 featured a local journalist, activist, and a graduate student Fitsum Aregu, to discuss his experience as a writer/organizer, his take on critical engagement in community development in Waterloo Region, as well as how to have a social impact.

Gingerbread House Pickup & Decorating Contest: The GSA-UW purchased over 60 gingerbread house kits for grad students to decorate within their bubbles! We received a lot of wonderfully decorated houses and held a contest.

Community Stroll: For the first time, our regularly occurring strolls (about once a month) have turned remote! Grad students continued to get physical exercise by receiving stroll pack containing 3 trails within the area to choose from, a playlist of local artists, and a wildlife spot it game. We also opened up the option to be linked with a virtual strolling pal. Stay tuned to our social media channels for upcoming strolls and new trails!

The Graduate House

With the Graduate House closing in Winter 2021, we would like to thank our graduate student and UW community for their support over the past term. Once we're able to open again, we are excited to welcome you back to the Graduate House patios soon!



With December's Covid status moving from yellow to orange and quickly to red, we decided to not hold any events at all in the House.