



# MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

May 2020

## NEWS & SERVICES

### **New GSA Website!**

If you don't already know, we have a new website! Our new website is: [gsauw.ca](https://gsauw.ca). Please note that links to our previous site are no longer active.

### **Spring 2020 Tuition Reduction – CTV News Kitchener Article**

Our President, Naima Samuel, and fellow graduate students were interviewed by CTV News Kitchener regarding our efforts to reduce Spring 2020 tuition. A link to the article can be found [here](#).

### **Upcoming Referendum: Legal Service Protection Program & Fee**

On April 27, 2020 we sent out official notice of the upcoming referendum. Please note that the referendum question has been updated to include the official question that was approved by the GSA Board.

The following (updated) question is presented to the GSA members for approval:

“Do you support the implementation of a fee for a GSA-UW administered legal protection service at an initial cost of less than \$30 per academic year, from which students may opt out within a change-of-coverage period?”

The referendum will take place via online ballot from **9:00 AM on MAY 11, 2020 to 5:00 PM on MAY 18, 2020**. All members are eligible to vote. Each graduate student can vote once. Here is a link to the [Legal Service Fee Referendum page](#) on our website for more information. Campaign information will be uploaded on our site, and the green “Vote Here” button will become live once voting begins.

### **Annual General Meeting 2020: Postponed**

The [AGM 2020](#) has been postponed until further notice due to COVID-19. [GSA Director Elections for 2020](#) have also been put on hold until a new date for the AGM 2020 has been determined. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

### **GSA Tax Aid Clinics & Personal Consultations**

This is a reminder that our general Tax Aid Clinic is available as a [free video seminar](#) presented by our Accountant. This video seminar and PowerPoint Presentation is designed to introduce you to income tax in Canada with a focus on those tax issues most applicable to students. After completing the video seminar, you should be somewhat comfortable with starting and hopefully completing and filling your tax return for 2019. The GSA offers additional support if you feel the need to clarify specific issues regarding your tax return. This support is in the form of a series of personal consultation tax clinics that will occur between April and the end of May. Through a one-on-one 15-minute phone call with our accountant, you will be able to ask any further questions you may have. Click [here](#) to book an appointment.

## **GSA Student Advocacy & Support**

The GSA-UW is here to help support graduate students who may be experience challenges. We offer confidential advising about navigating university policies, filing a grievance, appeal, or petition, and providing a support person for meetings. This service is managed by [Ashley, our Director of Student Wellness](#). Click [here](#) for more information about this service. To book an appointment, [contact us](#).

## **Empower Me**

Graduate students at the UWaterloo have access to Empower Me—a 24/7, 365 days mental health and wellness service that seeks to contribute to a resilient student community by supporting existing on-campus and Studentcare mental health resources. Empower Me allows students to connect with qualified counsellors, consultants, and life coaches for a variety of issues, in confidence. As a graduate student, you're entitled to sessions delivered in person, by telephone, by video-counselling, or by e-counselling. To connect with Empower Me and learn more, visit [here](#).

## **Vital Signs Survey 2020 & GSA COVID-19 Impact Survey**

Result reports will be made available on our website [here](#), in the coming days.

## **VIRTUAL EVENTS**

### **May 11 @ 12PM -1PM - LIVE Q&A on Zoom**

Join us for our first LIVE Q&A of Spring 2020! We're happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the GSA-UW, our services, the upcoming referendum, as well as grad student resources. While we will be answering questions live, we ask that you please email us your questions in advance so we can answer as many questions as possible. Please email your questions to [gsa-comm@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-comm@uwaterloo.ca) by **MAY 10 at 12PM**. Note: A link to the Zoom event will be sent to your emails. For security purposes, we have decided not to post the link and password to the webinar on our social media channels. This session will be recorded. We encourage our members to ask questions openly, and maintain frank communications. We will not be taking anonymous comments during the session, in order to improve the quality of engagement. The Q&A will be moderated to ensure as many different questions can be effectively answered as possible during the allotted time.

### **May 14 @ 7:00PM – VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT**

Join us for virtual trivia on our Instagram Live [@gsa.uwaterloo](#).

## **CAMPUS RESOURCES & INFO**

[UWaterloo COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Research Lab Access Request](#)

[UWaterloo Library Services & Operations – COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Join the conversation at a special President's Virtual Town Hall – May 20 @ 1:30PM – 3:00PM](#)

## **GET INVOLVED**

[Get involved](#) in campus life and join the GSA team!

**GSA Council Representatives:** [Represent](#) your department in our council meetings. Email [Sara, our Director of Student Engagement](#) at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) for more information.

The following departments require a Council representative:

- Public Issues Anthropology (ARTS)
- Catholic Thought (ARTS)

- Economics (ARTS)
- Public Service (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Sociology (ARTS)
- Theological Studies (ARTS)
- Master of Business, Entrepreneurship & Technology MBET (ENGR)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Computational Mathematics (MATH)
- Pure Mathematics (MATH)
- Biochemistry & Chemistry (SCI)
- Geography and Environmental Management (GEM) dept. (ENV)

## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

[gsauw.ca](https://gsauw.ca)

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @gsa.uwaterloo

Facebook: @gsauw

Twitter: @GSA\_UWaterloo

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