

Orientation 2020-2021

Mary Zhang
Vice President Student Life
Graduate Students' Association

Sept 1, 2020



GSA Executive Board of Directors 2020-2021

Kabita Baral – VP Finance & Services

Mary Zhang – VP Student Life

Christine Cao – VP External

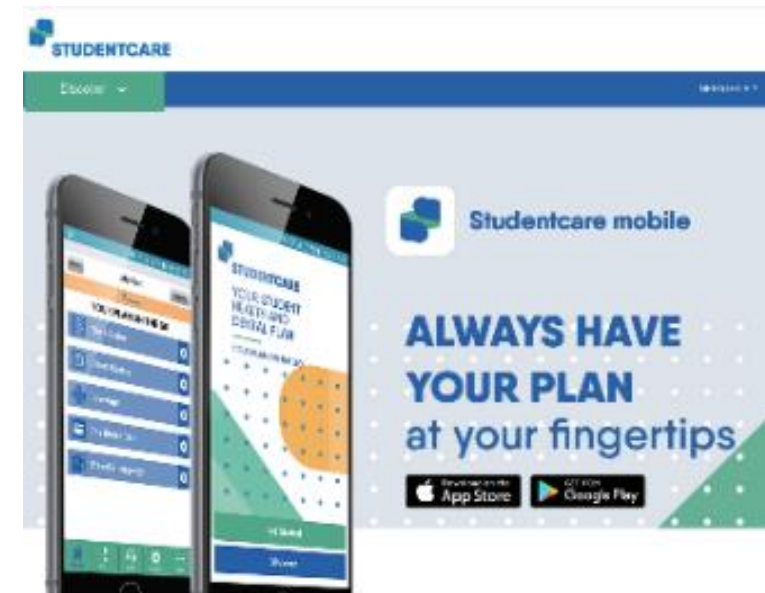
Alex Paquette – VP Academic

Tanille Shandro – President



Health and Dental Plan

- **Managed by the GSA to provide students with extended coverage**
- **All full-time students are automatically enrolled**
 - Part-time, distance, visiting, and Executive MBA students aren't automatically covered, but may be eligible to enroll in the plan during the Change-of-Coverage Period.
- **Add family members (Opt In)** or opt out if you have private insurance
 - Deadline: August 26 – September 25, 2020
- **Download: Studentcare app**
 - submit claims electronically
- **Did you know?**
 - **Empower Me** is a covered wellness services available 24/7
 - Recall exams, teeth cleaning, filling -> Up to 90%-100% covered!
 - Prescription drugs -> Up to 80% covered
 - \$150 off your eyeglasses and contact lenses



Awards and Bursaries

- **Bursaries**
 - Individual and Family Bursaries
- **Awards**
 - GSA Sustainability Award
 - Excellence Awards
 - Emerging Leader Award
 - Leadership Award
 - Graduate Representative Council Initiative Award
 - GSA Graduate Citizenship Award
- **Professional Development Grants**



Collective Agreement (CA)

- **Types of Graduate Assistantship covered by CA**
 - Graduate Assistant (Teaching) (GAT)
 - Graduate Assistant (Research) (GAR)
 - Graduate Assistant (Non-Teaching) (GANT)
- **Defines**
 - Remuneration (Salary + Scholarship)
 - Rights and responsibilities
 - Hours of work
 - Leaves (medical leave, parental leave, special leaves)
- **If your rights are violated**
 - Please contact **Labour Relations Committee** at lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca



Brit Paris
2020-2021 AVP
Labour

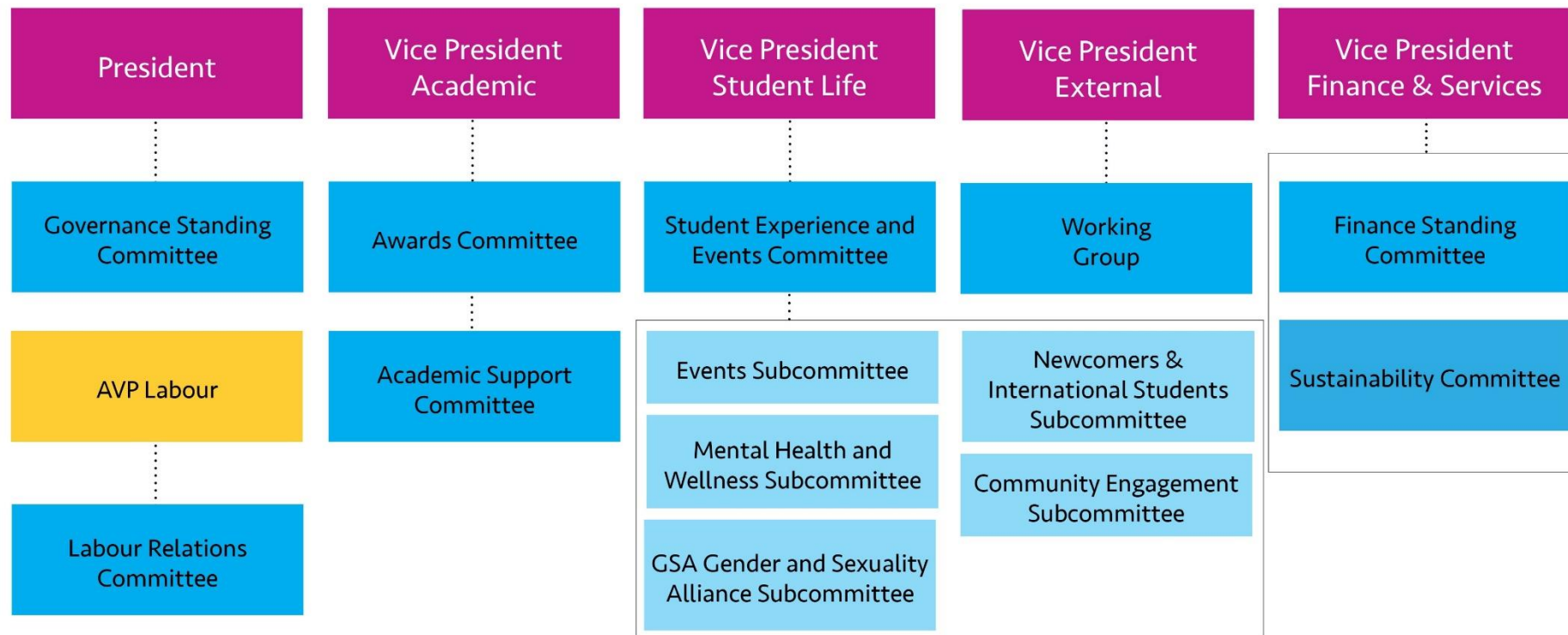
Student Experience

- **Online Events**
 - Instagram trivia, Paint nights, Yoga, Dance Crew, Strength Training, Book Club, etc.
 - Holiday events
- **Discounted ticket sales**
 - Cineplex Movie Code
 - West Edmonton Mall
 - Calgary Zoo
 - Royal Tyrrell Museum
 - Online Escape Room
 - More to come!
- **Thesis Talk Thursday**
- **Research Image Competition**
- **Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium**



Get Involved!

GSA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



Get Involved

- **Departmental Graduate Associations (DGA)**
 - Each department has their own student leaders
 - Host social/academic events
 - Sit on department committees
 - Represent your department at GRC
- **Graduate Representative Council (GRC)**
 - Monthly meetings
 - Voting member
- **Graduate Student Groups (GSG)**
- **Volunteer Recruitment Program**
 - Less time commitment
 - The GSA connects you with organizations extending external volunteer opportunities.

Advocacy

- **University of Calgary**
 - Board of Governors
 - University Senate
 - Faculty of Graduate Studies
 - General Faculties Council
- **External**
 - **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)**
 - Sustainable funding for graduate students
 - Streamlining processes for Permanent Residence
 - Regulated tuition and fees for domestic and international students
 - **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)**
 - Tri-council scholarships
 - Study permits for international students
 - Funding for work integrated learning (internships, co-ops)



Connect with us

- **Website:** gsa.ucalgary.ca
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/gsacalgary
- **Instagram:** @gsacalgary
- **Twitter:** @gsacalgary
- **Weekly News and Views** (Sign up on GSA website)

Questions?

- Updated information always available on the GSA website
- **Get involved!**
 - We have many volunteer opportunities, please contact vpsl.gsa@ucalgary.ca
- For general inquiries, please email askgsa@ucalgary.ca