

# Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Budget Proposals Survey

Thank you for taking a moment to share your views. The GSA is considering several proposals that affect our budget and membership fees. Your input on these proposals will help guide our final decisions.

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Not shared

\* Indicates required question

## GSA Conference Budget

### Background:

1. The GSA council approved the strategic work plan in June of 2024, which included the proposal for the peer-connect conference.
2. \$27,000 is budgeted for this GSA-led conference showcasing graduate research. Two winners each year would have their conference fees fully paid, with travel covered by the Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies (FGPS).
3. Some feel this conference helps highlight and celebrate grad students' work; others believe the funds could be allocated differently.

**Do you support continuing to allocate \$27,000 for the GSA research conference?\***

Yes

No



## AVP Labour (AVPL) Salary Adjustment

### Background:

1. The AVPL represents approximately 3,500 academically employed graduate students (compared to around 8,100 covered by other portfolios).
2. The position currently receives approx. \$40,000 as stipend with benefits, which is almost three and a half times higher than the same position with the University of Calgary Graduate Student Association.
3. In addition to fixed monthly stipend, the AVPL will receive extra compensation from PSAC for attending trainings, all bargaining sessions, and all conferences. This extra compensation is called "loss of pay" compensation. It's meant to make up for the hours they could have worked elsewhere (like as a GTA). The rate for this extra pay will be based on the hourly wage (at least \$48 per hour) for GTAs. The reason for this is that the AVPL isn't considered a salaried employee (meaning they don't get a set full-time salary), so they qualify for this kind of loss-of-pay reimbursement.
4. The position also has the support of two other paid student positions (Chief Steward & Outreach Coordinator), as well as support from our service partner PSAC.
5. A proposal suggests reducing the AVPL salary by \$7,000, redirecting the saved funds into the GSA strike fund. This would help ensure we're better prepared for future bargaining.

### Do you support reducing the AVPL salary to help fund the strike reserve?\*

Yes

No

## Staffing Costs for Union Work

### Background:

1. The Associate Director and Finance Manager help with the GSA's union-related work. One proposal is to cover a portion of their salaries directly from union dues to avoid increasing the membership fee beyond the standard CPI of 2.2%.
2. Another option: hire entirely new staff dedicated to union matters, which would likely necessitate a further increase in union dues, which are separate from the membership fee (potentially indexed to inflation/CPI for future years).



**Do you support covering the union-related salaries of the Associate Director and Finance Manager through union dues (instead of hiring new staff)?**

Yes

No

**Do you have any comments or thoughts you'd like to share about the proposed budget items or your responses above?**

Feel free to explain why you answered yes or no to any of the questions, or suggest alternative ideas we should consider.

Your answer

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