



<b>Title:</b>	President's Report 2018	<b>Created By:</b>	Tim van Boxtel
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Dear Members,

I'm pleased to be writing this to you as the 2017-2018 term of the GSA winds to a close with our Annual General Meeting. I can say that it has been a very productive year, with much change having been enacted and much more foreseen on the horizon. Your GSA has collectively been very engaged with many levels of the university and other student leaders on campus and around the country to ensure that the graduate students needs are being met, meaningful solutions are being found and ultimately membership impact is being maximized.

Internally, there have been many small adjustments to how we operate and all done in the spirit of maximizing membership value. We are running much more effectively, doing more with less. There is still more work to go, but it has been a great start. This has allowed us to reallocate a very healthy amount of our budget towards student services. We have several new endeavours on the horizon that will be taken care of this upcoming year. A priority for us is going to better service our international student population. At present, there are huge gaps in which all levels of administration have fallen short in properly serving our international students. We are working actively with our own International GSA, School of Graduate Studies and other levels of the university to come up with much a more comprehensive suite of international student services. Our social events have been very well attended this year and we are looking to expand these going forward. We are also expanding our travel awards and community sponsorship packages by a healthy margin. We are taking on more clubs all the time and are going to be expanding their finding budget accordingly.

I want to take the opportunity here to recognize the excellent Council that we had this year. It was full of extremely bright and engaged members, chalked full of great ideas and enthusiasm. We had a strong presence from our faculty associations, demonstrating first hand the value in the model. We also have dedicated international student representation who represent, the International GSA, another great new addition that is demonstrating itself to be a very effective model. I look forward to furthering the spirit and optimism of this years' Council in the coming term.

The Phoenix has seen an extremely healthy resurgence in its operations, thanks in no small part to strong new management. Previous years have been very challenging for the Phoenix, with the ultimate cost falling back to the graduate student body to ensure the doors stay open. I find this model completely unacceptable. An effective and profitable Phoenix allows for an expansive array of new services that the GSA can begin to offer, expanding our role and relevance as an organization. I look very forward to seeing what the future has in store for our beloved



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restaurant and bar in serving the entire campus community. A quick win we can report is to have introduced a graduate student discount on all food purchases. The discount currently sits at 10% and will be bumped up periodically until we hit our target of 25% off. It's our bar, time to start acting like it! Be on the lookout for continued changes at the Phoenix with much more to come.

Wrapping up, I can say it has been an extreme pleasure serving the graduate student membership this year and I am proud of the work that has been accomplished. The future looks very bright for the GSA and I am eager to see what next year holds. As always, we are available to answer questions or concerns you have in your graduate studies. We understand the university machine well and can help you navigate it as painlessly as possible. Finally, if you are interested in getting involved, we are very eager to bring on new people at all levels. All levels of engagement such as committees, Council, and Board of Director positions all need filling, be sure to reach out to myself or our staff with any questions on how you can contribute.

Have a great year, all!

Tim van Boxtel

**GSA President | 2017-2018**