

NBCGSS WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2020

Greetings UNBC Grad Students!

Welcome Back if you are a returning student, and Welcome to UNBC if you started your graduate degree this January.

The NBCGSS is working to represent you and your needs to the University. This newsletter provides quick access to information and events relevant to all UNBC Graduate Students.

Social Media Links: [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) [NBCGSS App](#)



BCFS Local 20

GSS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO NEW GRAD STUDENTS

First, congratulations on earning your seat in your graduate program at the University of Northern British Columbia. I am listing your current elected Grad Student Society representatives below. For detailed information on our roles & responsibilities and other NBCGSS led initiatives visit our website at www.nbcgss.ca.

President: Penina Sara-Lynn Harding	gsspres@unbc.ca
Vice-President: Audrey Faber	gssvp@unbc.ca
Director of Student Affairs – Sahar Ebadzadsahraei (Organizes Grad Student Social Events)	gssdsa@unbc.ca
Director of IT & Communications – Parima Sattari	gssdit@unbc.ca
CASHS Representative – Fatemeh Mohammadnejad	gsscashs@unbc.ca
Executive Director of the NBCGSS - Alden Chow (our only employee)	gssoffice@unbc.ca

THE STUDENTCARE PLAN – OPT-IN / OPT-OUT WINTER 2020 PERIOD:

Only new Winter semester students can enroll themselves and their spouse and/or dependent children **from January 3 – 24, 2020** for coverage from Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2020.


OPT-OUT DEADLINE January 24, 2020!

- Forms & other information: www.studentcare.ca OR <http://nbcgss.ca/health-dental-plan/>

DATES TO REMEMBER! UPDATED NOTICES WILL BE SENT/POSTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

NBCGSS Annual General Meeting (AGM): Thursday January 30, 2020 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm in The Bentley Centre (Rooms 7-170/172) Review New Bylaws – Vote to Repeal & Amend Full NBCGSS Bylaws at AGM: http://nbcgss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-11-15-NBCGSS-BYLAWSandCONSTITUTION-2019-FINAL.pdf <i>Food and Refreshments to Follow the AGM!</i> NBCGSS Semi-Formal: Friday January 31, 2020 Time: 6:00 pm – 1:00am Location: @ Ramada Hotel Ticket's \$10/each (Ages 19+) Cash Bar Dinner, Door Prizes & Games, Live DJ & Dancing	Winter 2020 Coffee House Sponsors January 10 Dr. Dan Ryan ✓ January 24 Indigenous Mentorship Network – Pacific Northwest UNBC Green Day Events – March 3, 2020 <i>Stay Tuned for More Details in February 2020</i> UNBC Research Week – March 2-6, 2020 Call for Abstracts website: https://www.unbc.ca/research/research-week <i>Deadline: January 24, 2020</i> 2020 Convocation – Valedictorian Nomination Nomination Period: January 17-Feb 21, 2020
Global U 2020 celebration - Feb 24th to Feb 27th - Organized by UNBC International Department Last year's event celebrated the UNBC global community with dance, music, talent shows, cultural education, art and much, much more. We are seeking interested groups to join us during this four day event. To see some photos from last year's event please follow the link: https://www.unbc.ca/international/global-u . If you have an idea for a display, event, or another form of participation, I'd love to hear about it. You can reach Laura Pyke at laura.pyke@unbc.ca , or call 250-960-5725.	


TRANSIT FUTURE ACTION PLAN: VISIT BC TRANSIT @ UNBC JANUARY 22 & 23




Since the adoption of the Transit Future Action Plan ridership has grown by

11%


TRANSIT future
▶ actionplan










51%

of all trips are made using the U-PASS



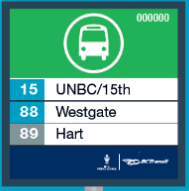







The three busiest routes, the 15, 88, and 89, account for


52%

of ridership




15	UNBC/15th	1477*
88	Westgate	1461*
89	Hart	1248*





*People boarding per day



15	UNBC/15th	1477*
88	Westgate	1461*
89	Hart	1248*

*People boarding per day



Visit BC Transit: @ CNC January 22 & 23! & @ UNBC January 22 & 23!

Students, what does better transit service look like for you?

We're looking for your input to help guide transit decisions. BC Transit and the City of Prince George will be on campus on January 22 and 23 to ask you about how transit service UNBC can be improved.

Keep an eye out for posters with details!

NBCGSS NOVEMBER 2019 UPDATES FOR GRAD STUDENTS

Hello UNBC Graduate Students I am providing you with updates on the Grad Student Society from April - November 2019 with Plans for Winter 2020.

Penina Sara-Lynn Harding - NBCGSS President



GENERAL INFORMATION DURING FA JOB ACTION:

GSS President (Internal & External representation): gsspres@unbc.ca

OR General Inquiries: office@nbcgss.ca

GSS – Student Care Plan is NOT impacted by the Strike, Link to forms & plan information: www.studentcare.ca – type in 'NBCGSS' to search for our plan page on the website landing page.

Access to the NBCGSS Emergency Fund is currently administered through the UNBC Registrar's Office, Email: registrar-info@unbc.ca OR Call: (250)-960-6300 ****They may be understaffed****

24/7 Grad Student SWIPE & PIN access to the Grad Lounge 10-3016 will remain operational.

Grad Student SWIPE & PIN Access to the Grad Computer Lab & Shared Grad Offices are operational

- Unconfirmed – UNBC IT Services Department May or May NOT continue replacing computers in Grad Offices – could be impacted by Job Action activities via Solidarity efforts from CUPE 3799 <https://cupe3799.ca/>

Printing/Copying/Scanning should still be available on-campus – Crossing the picket line to continue graduate research is an INDIVIDUAL choice.

SPRING/SUMMER SEMESTER REVIEW:

I took office on Saturday April 6, 2019 and attended the GSS Executive and Graduate Council Orientation Day – reviewed the University Act, the Societies Act, the current Governance model of the GSS and we began identifying priorities for service provision to all UNBC grad students.

April – August: Took seats on the following committee's and Senate Sub-Committee's: Teaching Space Optimization Committee (TSOC); Space Allocation Committee (SAC); Transportation Working Group; Consent Campaign; Inspiring Women Among Us (IWAU); Senate Student Orientation; Convocation Committee; Senate Committee First Nations & Aboriginal People (SCFNAP); Student Care; Senate Review of the Awarding of Degrees and of Compliance and Integrity in the Degree Award Process; Joined committee in Establishing Graduate TA Union; Senate Student Caucus; Fall planning committee for Graduate Student Orientation; Academic Restructuring Town Halls; Meet with IT regarding GSS email list service; Sexual Violence Prevention Committee; Indigenous Scholars Gathering June 2020 planning.

In each of the above committee's and sub-committee's I was invited as a Graduate Student Representative or the duly elected President of the NBCGSS to represent The Society and Graduate Students.

FALL 2019 SEMESTER PLANS & UPDATES:

Maintained committee representation of UNBC Graduate students, seats taken in April – August 2019. Met with Office of Graduate Programs and the IT Department regarding

- GSS Email List Service access and worked to address confidentiality concerns the university admin had. Also
- reviewed and began plans for upgrading the computer towers and network system in the Grad Print Lab, and Computers assigned to Shared Grad desks that are administered by the NBCGSS;
- Finalized Printer Switch over in Grad Print Lab, change printing access from 250 pages per graduate student and printing in the Grad Print lab TO applying a 1-year TRIAL of \$5.00/semester per graduate student to their PaperCut student print accounts. Graduate students can now print in Black & White, Colour, Copy, Scan, and fax at ALL student printers on the main campus. This increases accessibility to printing for On-Campus grad students.

WINTER 2020 SEMESTER PLANS:

"PRINTING" NEXT STEP's: Address Full Student Body printing access for Off-Campus Grad Students, regional students – Terrace, Wood Innovation Design Centre, Fort St. John, and Quesnel.

IF passed through the GSS Annual General Meeting – work to prepare for full transition from the old GSS Constitution & Bylaws (Executive and Graduate Council model) to the newly adopted GSS Constitution & Bylaws (Board of Directors model). We must prepare for full implementation launch by the beginning of March 2020, in time for the election of the New Board of Directors & Chair. The new Board of Directors & Chair governance model will be active April 1, 2019 or after the newly elected Directors & Chair Take Office.

Continue addressing regional student, off-campus student needs and Building a Sense of Community through Social Events & Activities. I am preparing documents and forms that will assist Off-Site/Regional grad students with planning and delivering events which support UNBC Graduate Students. This includes identifying changes that need to be made for grad students to access basic services at regional locations, such as, Terrace, Fort St. John, and Quesnel.

Addressing Fees charged to graduate students who are attending UNBC under the Western Dean's Agreement.

FIVE-FACULTY TRANSITION AT UNBC – IMPACT ON GSS

As you may have seen through UNBC Administration emails to all students – UNBC is actively transitioning to a Five-Faculty Model and away from the Two-College model. This transition is impacting every department, student-led organization, and community service providers who operate within UNBC.

The current Two-Colleges are the College of Science & Management (CSAM) and the College of Arts, Social & Health Sciences (CASHS).

The new Five-Faculty's will be: Faculty of Business and Economics; Faculty of Human and Health Sciences; Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities; Faculty of Environment; & Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Prior to the FA Job Action – The GSS was asked to identify and appoint graduate students to join the Dean's Hiring Committee's for each of the new Five-Faculty's – that work began August 28, 2019.

Immediately following the end of the FA Job Action – the GSS will appoint THREE graduate students to join the Academic Restructuring Working Group – ONE of those Three grad reps MUST be a Ph.D. Candidate. I (Penina Sara-Lynn) was in the process of vetting these reps in the days prior to FA Job Action. I have a list of interested Master's and Ph.D. Candidates and will connect with them November 18-22, 2019 via the gsspres@unbc.ca email to follow up on the process.

Should other Committee Work be available, I will post it to the NBCGSS Social Media platforms and hopefully via a permanent Grad Student Email list AFTER the FA Job Action.

The Northern BC Graduate Student Society is responding to the transition from two-colleges to the five-faculty model with efforts to MODERNIZE the NBCGSS Constitution & Bylaws. The new bylaws are establishing a Board of Directors in place of the out-going two council (Executive Council & Graduate Council) model. The Board of Directors will be smaller, each member of the BOD will be eligible to receive an honourarium, the responsibility of representing the UNBC Graduate Student body will be more equally dispersed among all BOD members. The new, proposed Constitution & Bylaws will be shared with the entire grad student body in November, PRIOR to the NBCGSS Annual General Meeting on November 29, 2019 4:30-7:30pm in UNBC Senate Chambers. UNBC Graduate Students will be given 14 days to review the proposed Constitution & Bylaws, then will cast a vote AT THE AGM to repeal the old by-laws and adopt the New Bylaws.

IN THE EVENT OF ON-GOING FACULTY ASSOCIATION JOB ACTION - THE NBCGSS WILL POSTPONE THE AGM UNTIL AFTER A BARGAINING AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED.

Information on the Academic Restructuring Process: <https://www.unbc.ca/academic-planning/unbc-academic-restructuring-frequently-asked-questions>

CUPE 2278 - GRADUATE TA UNION-LED INFORMATION

Website: <https://cupe2278.ca/contact-us/> General Inquiries: advocate@cupe2278.ca

CUPE 2278 Chair: Paige Wilson, unbc@cupe2278.ca

Graduate TA's are members of CUPE 2278 and are eligible for STRIKE PAY.

For MORE INFORMATION email advocate@cupe2278.ca.