Dear Members of University Council,

In this report, we focus on two main areas that we are currently working on:

1. Enhancing activities related to mental health and wellbeing in our campus community
2. Support of the Teaching Preparation Certification program and the Graduate Career Skills Training Assessment initiative

1. Enhancing activities related to mental health and wellbeing in our campus community
We continue our efforts to create activities that help us create a sense of community and support the wellbeing of our graduate students. The GSA had a very busy month, preparing activities related to mental health and wellbeing as well as other networking activities, which are for the ultimate benefit of our graduate students. The GSA is also busy with the fall 2019 Need-Based Bursary selection having received more than 130 applications. All graduate students were eligible to apply; however, students who are ineligible for scholarships and demonstrated financial need, good community involvement and academic performance have more preference for this bursary. Moreover, the GSA Executives are working towards the organization of our annual gala, three minute thesis competition, Graduate Research Conference, as well as other events.
2. Support of the Teaching Preparation Certificate program and the Graduate Career Skills Training Assessment

The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, with partnership from the CGPS, is creating a new Teaching Preparation Certificate program that will benefit graduate students and post-doctoral fellows by providing opportunities for teaching and leadership experiences, which otherwise may be challenging to achieve. The GSA fully supports the Teaching Preparation Certificate program and looks forward to partnering and collaborating in the creation of this program. Teaching builds confidence and ensures our graduate students are able to reflect, analyze and deepen their understanding of their field of study. The GSA also supports the Graduate Career Skills Training Assessment, another initiative that is currently in the beginning stages. We look forward to partnering and collaborating to enhance our understanding of career skills and reflecting on the needs of our graduate students.

We will continue working on these and other initiatives that support the academic success of our graduate students and campus community as a whole. The GSA is open to discuss any concerns, ideas or initiatives that faculty member and the campus community may have.

Mery Mendoza
President, Graduate Students’ Association