



John Montalbano  
Chair, UBC Board of Governors

August 12, 2015

**Re: Invitation to speak to UBC Graduate Student Society Council**

Mr. Montalbano,

I am writing to you today on behalf of more than 10,000 graduate students currently studying at UBC Vancouver. As president of the UBC Graduate Student Society (GSS) it is my primary responsibility to ensure the society fulfills its mandate to advocate for, promote, and protect the academic, social, intellectual, cultural and recreational interests of its members.

The GSS was surprised to hear the news of UBC President Arvind Gupta's resignation last week. In light of these recent events, I would like to invite you to speak directly with UBC graduate students about the recent change in UBC's leadership, and how this change will affect their work as researchers, students, and teachers.

It is my belief that a meeting of GSS Council, which is composed of dozens of graduate students from a wide variety of academic and social backgrounds, would provide an ideal forum for this conversation. The next meeting of GSS Council will be taking place on Thursday, August 20, at 5:30 pm. I invite you to join us in the GSS Ballroom, located at 6371 Crescent Rd. on the UBC Vancouver Campus. The GSS is committed to creating an atmosphere which will enable a civil and respectful discussion for all parties involved.

Should a prior engagement preclude your attendance at this meeting, we would be happy to arrange for an extraordinary council meeting at another date and time in order to accommodate any scheduling constraints that may exist.

I hope you will accept this invitation, and the GSS looks forward to further dialogue with members of the Board of Governors about UBC's future direction and leadership. Please reply to indicate whether you intend to be present at the meeting on August 20, or whether another date and time would be more suitable.

Sincerely,

Tobias Friedel  
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