



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors**



**Notice of Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 1 August, 2017, 18:00 – 19:30**  
**Administration Building Room C210**

**Agenda**

		<b>Pages</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<b>OPEN SESSION</b>		
6:00	1. Agenda / Additional agenda items		Decision
6:05	2. Introductions and Remarks from the Chair		Information
6:10	<b><u>Consent Agenda</u></b> <b>Motion:</b> To approve and/or receive for information by consent items 3 and 4 below.		
	3. Minutes from the 1 August, 2017 Board Meeting	3 – 4	Decision
	4. Reports from the Executive	5 – 15	Information
	<b><u>Regular Agenda</u></b>		
6:15	5. Business arising from the minutes		
6:20	6. President's Update	Oral	Information
6:30	7. Other Business		
	<b>CONFIDENTIAL SESSION</b>		
6:35	8. Minutes from the 1 August, 2017 Board Meeting		Decision
6:40	9. Business arising from the minutes		
6:45	10. Update and Feedback: Governance and Policy Development		Input / Discussion
7:10	11. RAAC Agreement (signed)		Information
7:15	12. Other Business		
7:20	13. <i>In Camera</i> Session		
7:30	14. Adjournment		Decision

19 September, 2017

Robert D. E. Henderson, Chair

*Please convey regrets in advance to:*  
[deidra.aitken@usask.ca](mailto:deidra.aitken@usask.ca)

*Questions and comments should be sent to:*  
[gsa.chair@usask.ca](mailto:gsa.chair@usask.ca)

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**Note:** All meetings of the board are closed to the general membership, where only members of the board, senior staff, or individuals invited by the chair may attend. Confidential sessions are normally restricted to attendance of board members, the recording secretary and individuals invited by the chair for specific items. Agendas and minutes from “open” sessions will be made available electronically to the general membership. It is understood that content and discussions from confidential or *in camera* sessions may not be distributed to or discussed with anyone but current councillors, directors and/or the office manager. No record will be kept of discussions *in camera*.

To allow the board to complete a number of matters quickly and to devote more of its attention to major items of business, the agenda has been divided between items that are to be approved and/or received for information by consent and those that are to be presented individually for discussion and decision and/or information. A consent agenda does not aim to prevent discussion of any matter, but is intended for items that are likely uncontroversial, or relatively minor in nature, and will not be discussed at the meeting unless a member so requests. Members are supplied with the appropriate documentation for each item and all items will be approved by means of one omnibus motion. The board will then move immediately to consideration of the items on the regular agenda.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### Board of Directors

Tuesday, 1 Aug, 2017, 5:00 – 7:00pm  
Administration Building, Room C210

**Present:** Ziad Ghaith (GSA President); Jordan Bonkowski (VP Operations & Finance); Arinjay Banerjee (Council appointee); Isaac Pratt (transition\* appointee); Levi Johnson (director, 2-year term); Wanda Seidlikoski-Yurach (director, 2-year term); Robert Henderson (Chair\*); (Remote) Chris Maierhoffer (Council appointee)

Sherri Rohovich (GSA office manager, non-voting, resource to the board)  
Brenda Byers (non-voting recording secretary);  
Guest: Anastasia Stadnyk, Policy Development

### Regrets:

Logan Pizzey (director, 1-year term); Jaylene Murray (transition\* appointee); *Alumni seats (2, pending appointment at AGM);*

### OPEN SESSION

#### 1. Agenda / Additional agenda items

- call to order 5:00pm
- call for changes to the agenda - none

#### 2. Remarks from the Chair

- A. Stadnyk is joining us again
- Election for VP External is complete and Naheda Sahtout has been elected, she is currently attending a conference for the GSA.

### Consent Agenda

**Motion:** To approve and/or receive information by consent for items 3 and 4 below. Arinjay

Call for discussion – the board appreciated the format and dash board format; the executives receive a slightly different format, since the board format is more goal oriented

#### 3. Minutes from the 11 July, 2017 Board Meeting

#### 4. Reports from the Executive

**Adopted by consensus**

### Regular Agenda

#### 5. Business arising from the minutes

Meetings dates for the fall should be decided and posted.

#### 6. President's Update

- overview of activities of the GSA executive was provided:
- The provincial lobbying efforts that the GSA was asked to join has been decided to be a good option and the GSA executive are now involved; the first meeting will be this Thursday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ziad hopes this will raise the profile of the GSA.
- Day to day planning has assured they are ready for the orientation - Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm start time
- Supervisor agreement - a new draft has been emailed to the University. Discussions with the dept heads and students have taken place
- Meetings have been conducted and feedback received on the MOU with the TA union.
- GSA has been invited by the IPA to participate in the tuition consultation. Information collection has been attempted but the executive also pulled feedback from the town hall last year. The document draft has been emailed to the board and feedback is welcome.

Questions?

Does the orientation raise awareness of the GSA? – awareness of the GSA is often late in the term or second term, how does the orientation help, and who is the audience? There is college, department, and student orientations etc.? This is specific to the GSA and is help in the bowl with free food and music; usually get 1000 to 1500 students. Also, the GSA participates in all other orientations including the College of Grad Students and Research as well as the ISAC orientation. Ziad invited the board to participate in some of the college orientations, since the executive can not attend them all. Ideally the council members can attend and speak about the GSA services, however due to the timing the position GSA council positions are not yet filled, but the invites could be sent to past reps if contact information is maintained.

## 7. Other Business

Board meetings times/ dates:

One will be held at the beginning of October and one in early November – a doodle poll will be sent this week and it will attempt to have the board meetings the same day as council meetings. The sooner the better.

The board needs to accomplish new board orientation and review the policy drafts.

*The board convened in confidential session.*

14. Adjournment 7:30pm



**Progress dashboard-September Board meeting  
GSA President**

\*\* Signed RAAC MoA

\*\* Attached Effective Tuition Consultation document (send to IPA on behalf of the GSA)

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Progress</i>
<i>Graduate Students representation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planned a meeting with the Provost and the Vice Provost Teaching and Learning to discuss this. The meeting was canceled at the very last minute as per the Provost request due to an “urgent matter”</li> </ul>
<i>Student Supervisor Agreement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scheduled a meeting with the new CGPS associate dean to discuss how to proceed forward, the meeting will take place later this month.</li> <li>- Scheduled a meeting with the new interim dean of the CGPS to discuss the possibility of corporation between the CGPS and the to run a campus-wide consultation with faculty and graduate students.</li> </ul>
<i>GSA/Union Relation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Met with the new Union President to update the first draft of the MoA based on the feedback we got from the union earlier this summer (a follow up meeting with him will take place later this month)</li> </ul>
<i>Recreation and Athletic Fees</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signed the MoA with the University and the USSU, the agreement. The GSA now (for the first time) has 2 seats on the Recreation and Athletic Council, a discussion on these fees for the upcoming year has already started.</li> </ul>
<i>Tuition policy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drafted (with the GSA Aboriginal Liaison) what so called graduate effective tuition consultation</li> <li>- Met with the Deans Council as per the Provost invitation (first time for the GSA) to talk about improving the tuition consultation for the graduate students.</li> <li>- Met with the Interim dean of IPA and his staff along the interim dean of CGPS to discuss how to take actual steps to improve the tuition consultation with the graduate students this year.</li> </ul>

## **GSA recommendation for effective tuition consultation with the Graduate students**

Based on the discussion and consultation with the graduate students last year, and based on the graduate students' leader perspective of an effective and meaningful consultation. The GSA suggests that the consultation with the graduate students should be based on four principles:

### **1. Transparency**

- a. Written reports on the tuition consultation with the graduate students should be available and accessible by the students, these reports should be written in consultation with the student leaders.
- b. Simple and meaningful budget should be available for the student, how much tuition the University collect, how the tuition money is used, and in particular how the international differential fees are used.
- c. Projection: the students should be able to project their tuition over their study period. Students who start three years program in September 2017 should be able to know how much they will pay in tuition during their 3 years in the University.

### **2. Communication and planning**

- a. Timing of the consultation should be early and well communicated with the students, and it should not be during the student busy time
- b. Decision making about any increase in the tuition should be similar to other universities (March not December)
- c. The consultation sessions should be publicly advertising, and if possible by email and including some information that help the students to be familiar with the University decision making structure, finances and with the goal of the consultation.
- d. Including student leaders in planning the consultation
- e. Having a moderator who is aware of university policy and structure

### 3. Meaningful

- a. The reason of the increase in the tuition should be clear, the University rank and the quality of the programs should be one of the major factors of any proposal of increasing the tuition.
- b. A holistic approach should be used when comparing U of S with other U15 i.e. TA rate, life expenses ... etc. should be used when it comes to comparability dimension in setting the tuition.
- c. Any success consultation should be done directly with the decision makers including the provost and some of the University Board of Governors members. This is in particular important for the graduate students as they have no seat and no access to the University Board of Governors.

### 4. Inclusiveness

- a. Including all types of graduate students: domestic, international, indigenous ..etc.
- b. Including university administration, faculty members and staff members.



**Progress Dashboard – VP Finance & Operations  
September 17, 2017**

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<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Progress</i>
<i>Adopt New Bookkeeping System</i> <i>Assist in Audit Efforts</i> <i>Develop Budget Procedures</i>	- <b>2016-17 and other years are still underway.</b>
	- <b>Presently have a list of questions sent.</b>
	- <b>Budgeting progress has been put on hold due to other unforeseen problems in the VP Finance portfolio</b> - <b>I will attempt to make headway with the course prior to the end of 2018. Focus is presently on completion of the review engagements and audits</b>
<i>Grad Student Email List</i>	- <b>Have met with CGPS Dean Executive Assistant Lori Lisitza regarding email framework and will continue to work on these efforts</b> - <b>Inquired about receiving access to PAWS announcements, this request was subsequently denied</b> - <b>Still need to touch base with Russ Isinger of the University registrar, and Deena Kapacila of the USSU</b>
<i>Bursaries</i>	- <b>Dates for the Fall bursaries have not been announced yet</b> - <b>I intend to touch base with the current bursary committee prior to end of September regarding meeting dates, however the committee's membership may change following the September 26 Council meeting</b>
<i>Commons A/V Equipment</i>	- <b>Have received a quote.</b> - <b>Reached out to companies for comparative quotes, but have yet to arrange for a consultation due to lack of responses</b>
<i>Website Maintenance</i>	- <b>Website is being updated as needed – unfortunately updates that should have happened prior to my term are still being dealt with</b> - <b>The Executive have discussed developing a website / domain that is independent of the University, but this will likely not be possible within my tenure due to other projects</b>





Iloradanon Efimoff  
 Progress on Annual Plan  
 September 16, 2017

Indigenization Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing efforts by meeting with Aboriginal Student Centre (ASC) Team Lead (Graeme Joseph) to discuss SAGE (an Indigenous grad student program) implementation at U of S;</li> <li>• Attended Aboriginal Student Centre welcome to encourage new students to pursue graduate studies</li> <li>• Met with Indigenous Student Council (undergraduate Indigenous student group) again to discuss collaboration for the year;</li> <li>• Hosted an Indigenous Graduate Student Meet and Greet, in collaboration with the ASC to welcome new graduate students, and encourage their involvement in the GSA;</li> <li>• Provided the GSA executive with information regarding an International and Indigenous student leadership retreat hosted by ISSAC as to ensure graduate student representation, in collaboration with the VP Student Affairs; and</li> <li>• Registered myself and another Indigenous graduate student to attend the CFS Racialized and Indigenous Student Experience (RISE) conference. Conference aim is to challenge racism and colonialism by sharing ideas and creating a common vision.</li> </ul>
GSA Guppies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created and distributed advertisements for the Guppies;</li> <li>• Received and responded to dozens of inquiries about the team;</li> <li>• Organized students onto teams based on sport preference and availability;</li> <li>• Registered co-rec recreational soccer team; and</li> <li>• Assigned captain for the soccer team.</li> </ul>
Sustainability Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working in collaboration with VP External and two graduate students to host a “carbonless concert” at the GSA on September 30<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
GSA Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No movement.</li> </ul>
GSA Twitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tweeting with the GSA handle where appropriate (during the U of S One Health conference and NSERC Funding Announcement).</li> </ul>
Health Chats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action yet (first session in Fall).</li> </ul>
GSA Graduate Student Achievement Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action yet (events not until April/March 2018).</li> </ul>
Social Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action yet.</li> </ul>

Please let me know if you have any questions.  
 Háw'aa,  
 (Thank you)  
 Iloradanon Efimoff

University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association

Progress dashboard-September Board meeting  
GSA VP External

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<i>ThinkGrad</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attended the conference on August 3 – 4 in Montreal.</li> <li>- Assigned the role of taking the lead on the White Paper.</li> <li>- Currently in the process of gathering data to include in the paper.</li> </ul>
<i>Suicide Prevention Workshop</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Room has been booked and advertising material has already been prepared and distributed for publishing on facebook and on PAWS.</li> <li>- Peer Health has already placed this as part of Mental Health Awareness week.</li> <li>- Wanda has already placed an order for the manuals for the class.</li> </ul>
<i>Health Chats</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Met with Rita from Peer Health with regards to having these started in October.</li> <li>- Will meet with the students in the next week or so to initiate discussions on when these will be held and the topics for each one.</li> </ul>
<i>Gala</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Currently working on the tickets and the poster for advertisement as well as the letters of invitation and sponsorship and lucky draw.</li> <li>- Awards nomination information is scheduled to be distributed to graduate students in November.</li> <li>- Have contacted Delta with regards to booking the ballroom.</li> </ul>
<i>Faith Leader Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Had a meeting with Meera Kachroo from the Office of Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning to discuss having a multi-faith prayer room. Was told that there</li> </ul>

	<p>is currently an initiative taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expressed interest in being a part of this council. She will be in touch, as they are still in the stages of getting religious leaders for the council.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Campus Companion</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contacted Saskatoon Open Door with our willingness to participate and with further information regarding where to get volunteers.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Brand Ambassador</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have been in constant communication with Mysha with regards to her position.</li> <li>- Expecting a report by the end of this week with regards to her progress the past 2 weeks.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Netwoko - Inter-University Student Network</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have contacted the organisers for more information and have discussed this in the executive meeting.</li> <li>- Will work with the staff in order to prepare an account and have constant updates.</li> </ul>

University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association

September 2017

**RE: VP External Report to the Board**

Dear Members of the Board,

Please find below the initiatives I would like to complete this year.

**1) ThinkGrad**

On August 3 – 4, I attended ThinkGrad in Montreal. ThinkGrad is an excellent initiative that allows for GSA's across Canada to discuss best practices, consult on policy's and access resources that would be beneficial to the graduate student members of all campuses. As members, a representative of our association, namely the VP External, will attend two meetings per year. The VP External will also be in constant communication with the other members on initiatives that would be decided on every year. These initiatives include things such as gathering literature on graduate student tuitions, stipends, salaries, well-being across Canada so that all members can have access to this information.

This year, I will be in charge of creating a White Paper, which is a literature review that highlights the problems faced by graduate students across Canada. By the end of the year, we need to decide whether we would like to be members of ThinkGrad. I see future benefit and potential for our GSA and I hope that the GSA will as well. Although meetings only happen twice a year, members will be in constant communication via email and live chats.

**2) Health and Wellness**

Throughout the year, the GSA will host health chats once a month, starting in October. With the help of Peer Health, these health chats will focus on topics that are of importance to graduate students. This year, Peer Health has asked students in the School of Public Health to assist us in organising these chats. The students will;

- Conduct a literature review on the unique health needs of graduate students and how campuses are addressing health and mental health concerns of graduate students
- Plan monthly wellness activities for graduate students. Work with the GSA VP External and graduate student volunteers to carry out term one activities.
- Present research findings with recommendations in late November or early December

The GSA will also have other workshops, as the need arises, that could be of great benefit for students to attend. On October 4, 2017, the GSA will host a Suicide Prevention Workshop facilitate by Wanda.

### **3) Gala**

This year, we hope to have the Gala on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Delta Bessborough. Nominations for graduate awards will be distributed later this year.

### **4) Other Initiatives**

I will continue to assist in any initiative that I feel may benefit and increase the visibility of the Graduate Students' Association, including the following.

- a) The GSA received information about a new initiative from Simon Fraser University called the Netwoko - Inter-University Student Network. The network, which is funded by NRC/IRAP (National Research Council Canada), was launched a year ago to establish networking ties between university students/groups and to share each portfolio with the general public and industries. I will work with the GSA staff to initiative an account and to update information periodically.
- b) I will work with Darla Mitchell from CGPS to advertise student success and GSA activities on the available poster boards in Thorvaldson, once she confirms that they belong to CGPS.
- c) I will continue to work with the Brand Ambassador that has been hired by CFS for the duration of her term.
- d) I have contacted the Office of Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning to see the progress of a Faith Leader Council. The council is being set-up to promote diversity and inclusiveness of a multi-faith campus and to develop a multi-faith prayer room that can be accessible to multiple faiths. I will continue to follow up on the progress of this council.
- e) The Saskatoon Open Door Society has contacted the GSA with regards to help in a Campus Companion Program. In this initiative, high school student newcomers are paired with university students and as a group they have biweekly coffee meetings and possible outings (free of charge). We have confirmed that we are willing to ask our council members to see if there is an interest in volunteering once we receive the promotional material with regards to this initiative.
- f) I will work with the GSA president on identifying how to initiate discussions for new potential scholarships that graduate students can access.



**Graduate Students' Association**  
**Ali Kiani**  
**VP Student Affairs Report**  
**September 28th, 2017**

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**Orientation and Hiring Coordinator**

I am pleased to report that so far the GSA orientation which was held on September 6th, 2017 at the Bowl in the U of S, was very successful as there were lots of graduate students (about 1000 people) that came out, food and GSA promotional material were plenty for all the people, and most of the invited faculty to give a speech attended the invitation.

**Workshops and social event**

I have plan to have Chees and Wine on September 29th at 6pm.

I am working closely with ISAC to have a workshop at the GSA common on October about immigration. I know this most important subject for the graduate student.

I had a meeting with the Program Specialist, Student and Young Alumni about Student Partnership Opportunities. We agreed to have few workshop and panel at the GSA for grad student. She will send me details of panels and workshop until end month.

**Academic Advocacy**

I have meeting with a head of departments regarding one of student issue. Also still I am dealing with different active cases, involving academic and non-academic issues.

**Regular Committee Meetings**

I have been participating in different meetings with the following committees:

- GSA exec meeting
- Meeting with different students about their issues
- Breakfast with President of university
- Student advocating
- Attend Federal Funding Announcement at the University of Saskatchewan
- Working on Graduate student survey