

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association

November, 1 5:00 P.M -7:00 P.M
GSA Commons

Present: Xuo Yao, Ehimai Ohiozebau, Ranjan Data, Steve Jumbo, Sunisha Neupane.

Regrets: Mohamed Hamid Mohamed and VP Aboriginal

Call to order @ 5:10 PM

Approval of Agenda

Motion: BIRT agenda for November, 1 2011 GSA executive meeting be adopted with relevant amendments. Motion moved by Steve and seconded by Ranjan. All supported, non opposed.

September, 13 Executive minutes

Motion: BIRT minutes for September 13, 2011 GSA executive meeting be adopted with relevant correction. Motion moved by Ehimai and seconded by Ranjan. All supported, non opposed.

America Society for Quality (ASQ)

"American Society for Quality (ASQ) is a global community of people passionate about quality, who use quality tools, their ideas and expertise to make our world better"-ASQ 2011.

The ASQ requested the GSA to sponsor one of their events-Quality Essay Competition-which will feature in their annual Global Voice of Quality program. The executives, haven taken a critical look at the request, agreed to partly sponsor one of the events. Its decision to sponsor the event was based on the fact that the ASQ members are largely graduate students and the GSA executives saw the need to engage and encourage their initiatives. Before approval however, some executives cautioned that the GSA should have a rigid criteria it uses to appraise associations before it decides to sponsor them to

avoid arbitrary release of funds. It was eventually agreed by the house to sponsor the event with \$200.

U-Pass

The VP External updated the house on her progress on getting U-pass for graduate students. She met with Saskatoon transit U-pass manager-Ross Dickson-and there, it was agreed that graduate students who live in the university residents will have the option to opt out from the proposed policy. Furthermore, the VP External informed the executives that her next line of action will be to conduct a survey to know how many graduate students will be interested in the scheme and at the same time, sample their residential distance from school. The executives however suggested that instead of having a survey, then a referendum, the VP External should get the relevant data from the school, come out with her proposal and go straight for a referendum. She agreed to this and promised to get the relevant information soon. The executives envisaged a possibility of having a referendum sometime in term 2.

CFS AGM

The VP External expressed her regret of not been able to attend the annual CFS AGM. She wanted to know if any executive was available to attend but none seemed to be available in the week of the event (November, 22-25 2011). She was consequently advised to request any member of course council to represent the GSA at the event.

GSA Booking Policy

As a follow-up from the previous meeting, the VP External made some enquiry regarding the constitutional and policy amendment procedures. She wanted to know to what extent she can suggest possible policy changes and constitutional review. It was the opinion of the executives that the review should be as far reaching as possible. It is mainly the decision of the VP External and that of the members of the constitution review committee to make necessary recommendations in line with their convictions and it is up to course councillors to accept the proposed changes.

Executive Honoraria

As a follow-up to the previous executive meeting, those executive members who are registered graduate students for the 2011 Fall Term confirmed receiving the Graduate Student Fellowship award from the CGSR.

The VP Academics (Ranjan) then briefed the house of his meeting with Dr. Heather Luckey (the director of awards CGSR). He reported that it is the opinion of the CGSR that the GSF for executive members was to act as some sort of school fees credit for executive members and as such, those executives who are not paying school fees should not benefit from it. The CGSR then discouraged the GSA from providing a complimentary fund to non-benefiting executive members. The issue was discussed extensively by executive members and it was agreed to go with the advice of the CGSR.

GSA Conference

The VP Academics (Ranjan) briefed the house of his preparedness for the forthcoming GSA Academic conference and reiterated that he in collaboration with the VP Operation and Admin. will soon hire a new staff to coordinate the event. The staff is expected to start work in first week of January 2012.

Adjournment 6:35pm-Steve and Sunisha.