

# Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes



University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association

October 19, 5:00 P.M -7:00 P.M  
GSA Commons

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

Regrets: Rebecca Major.

Call to order @ 5:00 PM

## **Approval of Agenda**

Motion: BIRT agenda for October, 19 2011 GSA executive meeting be adopted with relevant amendments. Motion moved by Mohamed and seconded by Sunisha. All supported, non opposed.

## **September, 13 Executive minutes**

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

## **Insurance Renewal**

The VP Finance (Mohamed) informed the house of the need for the GSA to renew its common's insurance. He further reported that the insurance premium had increased by about 6% because of increase in GSA membership but explained that such increased was factored in the GSA 2011/2012 fiscal year and encouraged the executives to retain the present insurance company because under the current policy, the GSA is covered for liquor use.

Motion: BIRT the GSA renew its insurance policy for the 2011/2012 fiscal year with the current insurance provider. Motion moved by Mohamed and seconded by Ehimai. All supported, non opposed.

## **Health and Dental Proposal**

Mohamed informed the executives of his meeting with Drew Martins. Drew Martins is a representative of CIC Insurance. CIC Insurance is seeking to manage the UofS graduate students Health and Dental Plan. The VP Operation (Ehimai) had planned to meet with Drew but could not because he was out of town and requested Mohamed to meet with Drew which he (Mohamed) obliged. With the new proposal, the CIC will be providing a plan to graduate students which in the long run will be cheaper and with a faster turn around time. It was agreed that Drew Martin should be invited to present the proposal to Course Council in January while in the meantime, the VPs Operation and Finance as well as the President meet with Amanda of the studentnet/care and discuss the modalities of changing insurance provider. It was also agreed that the issue be presented in the next Course Council meeting (November, 19) and that the bidding process be opened to other insurance providers.

## **Tanvi Bansu**

This is a classified information as it is a matter that deals on confidentiality. Ehimai and Mohamed were directed to take the necessary action.

## **GSA Booking Policy**

The executives commended the Office Manager (Sarah) for painstakingly drafting the framework for booking policies and in line with GSA Policy 3.5.1.1 "The Vice President External shall perpetually review the constitution, policies and bylaws to ensure that they remain accurate, relevant and current", The VP External was directed to read the proposed policy and make the necessary input with a view of recommending it to Course Council for necessary approval. In line with that, the VP External was reminded of the need to set up a constitution review committee. She promised to set up a review committee in the shortest possible time.

## **International Student Identity Card (ISIC)**

The VP External informed the house of Canadian Federation of Student's request to station an ISIC printing machine in the GSA Commons for the sole purpose of printing ISIC for graduate students. This was seen by the executives as extra responsibilities on the GSA and its staff. It was however agreed that graduate students should make use of the ISIC machine at lower Place Riel and that the GSA will step up its publicity on the availability of ISIC machine in Place Riel. Such publicity should mainly be through the GSA newsletter and website. The VP External is to follow up with this.

## **Executive Honoraria**

The VP Student Affairs (Steve) informed the executives that the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) was in the process of granting a sort of school fees credit to GSA executives in form of Graduate Service Fellowship (GSF). The award is to encourage service and compensate for the weekly hours an average executive invest in the GSA. This however will only be given to executives who are full time students. The executives resolved to propose to Course Council that the GSA provide a matching fund for any post doctoral fellow who is an executive member at the GSA as the CGSR's GSF cannot be awarded to non full time graduate students. Negotiations with the school authority for a permanent remuneration to future GSA executives was still ongoing and the executives agreed to meet again for a strategic session on this issue.

## **VP Aboriginal**

Issues relating to the Aboriginal Liaison Officer was discussed. This is largely confidential and the President was directed to take appropriate action pending when the issue is resolved by the Course Council.

## **Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies.**

The executives agreed to a monthly meetings with the dean of graduate studies. Issues that are of mutual interest and student concerns are expected to be discussed at such meetings.

## **Student Forum with Dean of Graduate Studies**

The executives agreed to organize a graduate student forum with the Dean. The forum will be semi formal and graduate students will be encouraged to interact with the Dean. The date however will be sometime in winter term. In the meantime this term, the Dean will be invited to the next Course Council meeting slated for November, 10. This first meeting is expected to be an interactive session with Course Councillors.

## **Workshop Pizza**

Deferred to next meeting.

Adjournment 7:05pm Steve and Sunisha