

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association

January, 6 5:00 P.M -7:00 P.M
GSA Commons

Present: Xue Yao, Ehimai Ohiozebau, Ranjan Data, and Steve Jimbo.

Regrets: VP Aboriginal, Mohamed Hamid Mohamed and Sunisha Neupane.

Call to order @ 5:15 PM

Approval of Agenda

Motion: BIRT agenda for January, 6 2012 GSA executive meeting be adopted. Motion moved by Ehimai and seconded by Ranjan. All supported, non opposed.

December, 2 Executive minutes

VP Opad. explained that he has been preparing for his Ph.D. qualifying exam and as a result, could not prepare the minutes of previous meeting but promised to get it ready by next executive meeting.

Proposed 2012/2013 GSA FEES

The need to send the 2012/2013 GSA fees proposal to course council was discussed. The house first wanted to identify areas in the 2012/2013 financial year that would demand extra expenditure before recommending any proposal for GSA fee. The VP Academics (Ranjan) explained the urgent need for the GSA to have a paid Ombudsperson position while Yao suggested we add childcare space to 2012 to do list. Having seen the various issues that need to be factored into the 2012/2013 budget, it was agreed that the house defer decision on the 2012/2013 GSA fees to next executive meeting. This will enable everyone investigate the financial implications of the GSA 2012 policy plan. Furthermore, the house agreed to wait till the VP Finance (Mohamed) is able to make contributions on the financial implications of some of the proposed projects.

Proposed 2012/2013 GSA Executive Honorarium

Considering the foregoing that:

- (1) Most executives spend an average of thirty (30) hours a month on GSA related activities;
- (2) Course council passed a motion in October 2011 to pay all GSA staff a minimum of \$17.02/hr;
- (3) GSA executives have demanding schedule from the GSA and as such, are unable to take up other responsibilities like TA jobs in their respective disciplines;
- (4) Executive honorarium has not been increased in the past five (5) years or more;
- (5) Graduate students need to be given incentives to serve in the GSA as executive members

BIRT executive pay for GSA vice presidents be set at \$550 and president at \$650. This will be effective from May, 01 2012. Motion moved by Yao and seconded by Steve. All approved, non opposed.

This motion will be forwarded to the next general assembly of the GSA in March for approval.

GSA Staff

The VP Opad. (Ehimai) informed the house that the association was about to recruit new staff to fill in for the Office Manager who will soon proceed on her one month annual leave. Executive members were encouraged to volunteer and help in interviewing applicants. The president promised to join the VP Opad. and Office Manager in the interview process. VP Student affairs gave suggestions on how best to go about the interview process.

GSA Conference

The VP Academics (Ranjan) gave a briefing on how far he has gone in preparing for the GSA annual conference. He reported that a new staff has been recruited for this purpose and that they are working together to organize an eventful program. He however explained that finances may be a limiting factor in organizing the program. He requested funding from the GSA. The house advised him to bring his budget proposal to next executive meeting for consideration. Concerning the proposed date-second week of February-, it was the opinion of all that he reconsider the said date as it was too early. Graduate students need to be given time to prepare for the conference. Ranjan eventually agreed to move the conference date to March, 7 and promised to bring a written budget proposal for the conference to next executive meeting.

VP External

The VP External (Sunisha) wrote the president that she had relocated to Edmonton for a job but that she is still a graduate student at the U of S. Sunisha explained that though there were some aspects of her job that she will be unable to execute because of distance, she would be willing to still serve as the VP External and respond to GSA

related email. She further explained that she was willing to abdicate some of her responsibilities to others executives in line with GSA policy 8.3.1.6. After deliberation, the house agreed to her request and delegated some of her duties to other executives. The VP Student affairs is to going forward handle UPass negotiation for graduate students. Others are; VP Opad. to be in charge of constitution and policy review and the President to attend conferences and committee meetings.

Adjournment 7:00pm-Ehimai and Ranjan.