

# Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Agenda



## University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Agenda Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:00 P.M -7:00 P.M GSA Commons

Present – Ehimai Ohiozebau (President), Izabela Vlahu (VP Academic), Steve Jimbo (VP External), Reanne Ridsdale (VP Student Affairs), Kiri Staples (VP Operations and Communications), Mohammad Rafati (VP Finance), Claire Gosselin (Aboriginal Liaison/Rotating Chair), Bryan Bilokreli (Director of Capital Planning)

1.0 Call to Order - 5:02 PM

2.0 Concerns about space for graduate students

- “Hotelling” issue will only become more pressing as graduate student enrolment increases
- Health Sciences D wing – moving students into the building, but building is more full than they thought it would be because of increased graduate student numbers
  - Doing renovations in other wings, so more space will be available in the future
- College of Pharmacy and Nutrition will move to Health Sciences building – will provide opportunity to re-allocate space in Thorvaldsen building
  - This allocation has to be strategic because if you have graduate students in one building, and their disciplines in another, it creates issues
  - They also need to be near their advisors
- Transform US
  - Is unclear what exactly this will do, but programs will be diminished – when this happens it might provide opportunities for space relief, but won't know until spring
- Natural Resources Innovation Complex will be developed
  - Will be more bookable groups spaces
- Would like to look at changes to Library, though plans are still being developed – would like to do graduate student teaching area in the future

- Would like to know how to get graduate student input
  - Might be able to ensure we have institutional graduate student representation – could work with GSA to figure out how that would happen
- Renew US
  - Opportunity to get graduate student feedback
- “Hotelling” – is not ideal, but can work
  - Has been done in Arts Building, Edwards School of Business, Kirk Hall – is relatively new , but in certain disciplines it doesn’t work
  - We don’t know enough yet about how it would work with certain disciplines
- In Arts and Science, the main issue with hotelling was the nature of their studies because they need a lot of book space
  - Is practically difficult to have to pack your things every time
  - Two people can fit, so if three people are assigned it might work, but with flexibility to switch to unoccupied offices
  - Propose that a number of offices be assigned to a certain departments, overseen by graduate secretaries
  - Could also have students that share supervisors in the same offices
  - Need common space for both faculty and students to come together
- There is no work space around residences – if there was it might alleviate pressure on office space
  - Are starting to talk about what we are doing in the existing residences and this can be brought forward
  - Next step will be multi-family housing, and this might be something we can include
- Need to change Library to meet more current needs as well (i.e. space for reading on computers)
- Have smaller capital projects that they are looking for funding for to improve graduate student space in two buildings
- Would be good to have this type of presentation at the GSA Council
  - In the past gave presentations on the capital side at the University – could do this and also talk about graduate student spaces

### 3.0 Insurance for GSA Commons

- Current contract ends November 5<sup>th</sup> – VP Finance has been working to renew this plan
- Premium has gone up due to increase in our revenue and to include GSA councils and social clubs
- Motion to approve VP Finance to spend additional \$200 to renew GSA insurance
- Motion carries

### 4.0 Attendance of meetings

- Besides emergencies, need to make it a priority to attend meetings

- If anyone wants to meet with Executives, invite them to present at Executive meetings

#### 5.0 Funding for Crop Science Christmas party

- Need budget before decision is made detailing how much they want from the GSA and specific budget items

#### 6.0 GSA Website

- Send feedback and any information you want updated to Sherri

#### 7.0 Meeting with the Minister of Advance Education

- The reason for the GSA meeting with the Minister of Advance Education is to continue our advocacy that students with advance degrees from Saskatchewan post secondary institutions, most important U. of S., be included in the provincial Graduate Retention Program (GRP)
- We are waiting for official communications from their office to set up specific date

#### 8.0 GSA ad for USSU TV screens and holiday cards

- Were supposed to do this in September – will set up date to take picture

#### 9.0 GSA Commons

##### 9.1 Bathroom

- Will put up signs letting people know there is a bathroom in a basement

##### 9.2 Chair for Office Administrator

- Motion to approve up to \$300 on this item
- Motion carries

##### 9.3 Office keys

- Need to better determine policy for giving out keys – in addition to asking for deposit, could also put together form to ensure people are aware of responsibilities

#### 10.0 Financial update

#### 11.0 Campus climate survey

#### 12.0 GSA Newsletter

#### 13.0 Adjournment 6:56 PM