

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 21st, 2014 5:00 P.M -7:00 P.M GSA Commons

Present: Ehimai Ohiozebau (President), Izabela Vlahu (VP Academic), Steve Jimbo (VP External), Kiri Staples (VP Operations and Communications), Mohammad Rafati (VP Finance), Dana Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison)

Regrets: Reanne Ridsdale (VP Student Affairs)

1. Call to Order 5:04 PM
2. Considering renewal of contract with StudentCare

Presentation by StudentCare

- Goal of company is to ensure plan is sustainable in long term and be able to function independently so that Executives to have to micro-manage such a large service
- Action plan in 2011 was created to meet needs of gaps that GSA identified – to this end, StudentCare:
 - Did a survey of the GSA members → strong support from GSA members, made changes to visions and dental based on feedback
 - Took plan to market to ensure GSA is still getting fair price – from this were able to negotiate lower price
 - Network of practitioners that give students discounted rates – ultimately saves the GSA and students money
- Moving forward want to continue building on this relationship and making improvements
- Going forward:
 - Shoppers Drugmart signed on to offer pharmacy network (discounts to students on prescription drugs and certain products) – have been in trial for past year, but are now ready to launch this in Saskatchewan

- Work with University of Saskatchewan to get student e-mail addresses, which the university have thus far been reluctant to release – U. of S. is the only university that doesn't provide this to StudentCare
- GSA Gala and sponsorship contributions – want to ensure money is there for student-run and GSA-run events in the future
- We will StudentCare know as soon as possible as to what the decision will be regarding the renewal of the contract

Discussion

- At this time, we agree unanimously that renewing this contract is in the best interests of our members
 - Motion to renew contract for next 5 years – approved
3. Funding for U. of S. Table Tennis tournament
 - Approved
 4. Bursary Selection Committee
 - There is issue with difference between what the Constitution says and what our policy says for who is on the committee – will go with what the Constitution says until this can be fixed at the next policy review committee
 5. GSA Chair
 - New GSA has been appointed, pending ratification at next Council meeting
 6. GSA Conference
 - Will send e-mail to students next week to remind students to register and submit abstracts
 - Now have a Facebook page
 7. GSA Awards Gala
 - Categories for award have been decided on and call for nominations were sent out - at next meeting we will decide on remaining categories
 - Keynote speakers – still working on securing this
 - Will meet to decide on cost of tickets and timeline for selling tickets
 8. Adjournment 6:54 PM