

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Agenda



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

Attendees: Ehimai Ohiozebau (President), Izabela Vlahu (VP Academic), Steve Jimbo (VP External), Kiri Staples (VP Operations and Communications), Mohammad Rafati (VP Finance), Reanne Ridsdale (VP Student Affairs)

Regrets: Aboriginal Liaison

1. Call to order – 5PM
2. GSA Awards Gala - Keynote speaker (list attached)
 - Need someone with ties to University still
 - Should also be somewhat geographically close to Saskatoon
 - First option is Lorne Babiuk, second is Gary Kachanoski
3. GSA Congress
 - Held interviews last week and hired a coordinator for Congress
 - Received sponsorship from President's office
 - Deadline for abstracts is January 10th
 - Might be a good idea to go to each department and talk to student association presidents
 - Need to tell students that we have funding for the conference and are extending deadline for abstracts to January 31st, 2014
 - Want to set goal for getting 20 abstracts by the next Executive meeting
4. 2014 UPASS Referendum
 - Committee has agreed with terms that we want, so it's now in the hands of the City
 - January 17th is deadline to submit referendum question to Council

- Terms and outcomes of the referendum will be made as clear as possible prior to referendum
 - Have stakeholders willing to look over question to see whether it's clear
5. Winter Orientation
 - Will be playing games, providing a light snack, information session, etc.
 - Executives should be there, for as long as they can manage
 6. Provost presentation on TransformUS on GSA Council
 - Need to decide whether we want just provost to attend Council meeting, or other members of the committee as well
 - Will invite Provost, but if other members would like to attend that would be fine as well
 7. Alumni engagement
 - Offered to partner with us to collaborate more in the future
 - We are willing to do this, can discuss this with them in March because we will be busy with GSA Congress until then
 8. University of Ottawa issue
 - Students at University of Ottawa have issue with their University that they've taken to the Supreme Court – they have contacted us and want us to write letter of support and encourage CFS to do their job
 - Contacted CFS, but they've never heard of this case, so there's not much we can do – this is their jurisdiction
 9. Updates from Reanne
 - Should we have GSA fees for the summer term?
 - Could suggest this at the AGM through Budget Review Committee in February
 - Post-docs can opt-in to the GSA
 - Want system where they go to Student Central, pay voluntary fee and get services so that they can't pick and choose fees
 - Will talk to post-doc representatives to encourage them to discuss this further
 - If the referendum passes, we will implement voluntary fee for off-campus students so they can get services (health and dental, PAC, etc.)
 - Even if the referendum fails, we might suggest doing this so that students that come here can still access services
 - Might need to come up with document for best practices and guidelines for being an employee to improve workforce planning
 10. Computer in office
 - If anyone has documents stored on the old computer, please let Allison know so she can arrange it
 11. Newsletter

- Am working on newsletter – let VP Ops know if there is anything you want to include in it
12. Note-takers
 - Will be hiring committee note-takers next week – please ensure they are used at your meetings
 13. Vending machine
 - Machine is in place, needs to be stocked
 14. Upcoming meeting reminders
 - January 15th, 11:30AM – TransformUS meeting at GSA Commons
 - January 16th, 3:30 PM – meeting with Dean
 15. Adjournment – 6:48PM