

# Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes



University of Saskatchewan  
Wednesday, November 12th, 2014  
5:28 P.M. - 7:33 P.M.  
GSA Commons

Present: Izabela Vlahu (President); Xin Lu (VP Operations); Dana Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison); Rahwa Osman (VP External); Ranjan Datta (VP Academic); Rajat Chakravarty (VP Student Affairs)

Call to Order: 5:28

## 1. Discussion on October 28 Meeting Minutes

- 1.1. The president pointed out procedural errors with the Executive Meeting of October 28<sup>th</sup>. In the absence of the President, the VP Operations & Communications acts as the President. Since the VP Operations was unable to attend the meeting as well, the meeting had no presiding officer. The remaining executives confirmed that no process was followed to appoint a Chair for the meeting.
- 1.2. In the interest of time, the President proposed to send additional feedback via email. The item was tabled.

## 2. Meeting forms

- 2.1. The Executive agreed that agenda items for Executive meetings should be sent to the VP Operations 48 hours prior to meetings.
- 2.2. The agenda package is to be distributed 24 hours prior to meetings.

## 3. Gala

- 3.1. Updates from the VP External:
  - 3.1.1. Application for the President's fund is under process.
  - 3.1.2. Marquis hall has been suggested to as a venue for the event. VP External is comparing it with Sheraton Hotel in terms of pricing and conditions, and will update the executive via email.
  - 3.1.3. There is no gala report from the previous year; the report was just a checklist. Therefore, the VP External is asking the Aboriginal Liaison to help. In addition, the VP External will be asking the Office manager for help because of her experience in the organization of the previous two galas.
  - 3.1.4. This year's Gala will include photo booth with props, catering, and DJ. The VP External intends to have alumni performing, and she is asking for help from the Alumni Association.

- 3.1.5. CGSR will not provide sponsorship for the Gala, but will likely purchase tables.
- 3.1.6. Other funding sources are needed from outside the campus: BHP requires an online application. There are more external funders to explore and contact.
- 3.2. The President asked that an estimated budget be prepared with a list of revenues and anticipated expenses to be shared with the VP Finance.
- 4. GSA Conference Proposal**
  - 4.1. VP Academic is planning the GSA Conference for March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> under the theme Discovery. He is planning for paper presentation, poster presentation, roundtable discussion, and keynote speakers. The keynote speaker session will be in the evenings instead of the mornings. The Opening will have an Indigenous speaker.
  - 4.2. Abstracts are expected by the last week of January. First day: breakfast session and lunch session, and evenings will be keynote speakers.
  - 4.3. Abstract will be limited to 200 words.
  - 4.4. Call for conference coordinator will be sent out by Nov 20th, 2014. The VP Academic will write a call for coordinator position and send to the VP Operations. The Coordinator will help send emails, collect department fund, and do other jobs, and the VP Academic will work as a facilitator. Within one week, VP Academic foresees to have done all interviews and select the person.
  - 4.5. A proposal for funding will be sent to the President's office.
  - 4.6. A budget will be prepared and shared with the Executive as soon as possible.
- 5. Housekeeping Policy amendments**
  - 5.1. It was suggested that certain housekeeping amendments to the policies and the constitution should be made as soon as possible.
  - 5.2. The VP External needs to confirm if Council's approval is needed for housekeeping amendments to the policies and the constitution.
  - 5.3. All executives can contribute to the review.
- 6. A campaign against Tuition Hikes in November**
  - 6.1. The VP External proposed a campaign against Tuition Hikes. There is information that tuition may not be increased next year. However, it is important to put a face of who is affected.
  - 6.2. The Board of Governors will approve the fees on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - 6.3. The VP Student Affairs referred to Policy 9, "the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) at the University of Saskatchewan cannot support the notion of any future tuition increases for graduate students at this institution," to justify the Executive endorsement of the campaign.
  - 6.4. The GSA Executives unanimously agreed to the endorsement.
  - 6.5. The campaign will have two elements: a rally on Nov 21st and posters across the campus of how students are affected by tuition increases.
  - 6.6. The VP External is asking for volunteers on Facebook for photographs and will update the executives on the logistics.
  - 6.7. The Executives unanimously approved up to \$100 from the Executive Discretionary Fund for the campaign.
  - 6.8. It was pointed out by the President that we could invite all grad students as well

as Dean from CGSR and Provost for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss with students and keep our membership informed about tuition. This is not a part of the campaign.

**7. CFS Lobby Week**

7.1. The CFS Lobby Week will take place from Nov 17-21, 2014. The VP External will be going to Ottawa as the Provincial CFS Chair for the dedicated funding lobby for post-secondary education.

7.2. The travel expenses will be covered by CFS.

**8. Funding requests.**

8.1. The Executive approved \$300 for the request from “Tox on Tap”.

8.2. The Executive approved \$400 for the request from the “Soil Science Graduate Students Association”.

**9. Graduate Student Housing Committee**

9.1. The Committee was ratified at the AGM, and VP Student Affairs was mandated with calling the committee together and doing something with the committee.

9.2. Though there is no Terms of Reference yet, since the motion was adopted, the VP Student Affairs needs to pull the committee together regardless of who initiated its ratification.

**10. VP Finance**

10.1 The Executive can propose a name to Council.

10.2 We could go through elections, however it will be a long process with 6 months through the term. On the other hand, elections would give a chance to all graduate students.

10.3 It was agreed by all executives to wait after the Special Council Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> before revisiting the subject.

**11. Announcements to the Executive:**

11.1 The VP External will be away for the Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. She asked that other executives move and her motion on the ratification of Committees.

11.2 Callan Davey will come for the Health and Dental presentation on the Nov 18 Council Meeting. VP Operations will add this to the agenda.

**12. Adjournment—7:33 pm**