

University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - GSA Commons 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Present: D. Bennett (VP Finance), H. Shahadu (VP Student Affairs), J. Chapola (VP Academic), R. Chakravarty (President), Z. Ghaith (VP Operations and Communications), D. Carrire (Aboriginal Liason), N. Terekhova (VP External)

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 5:11PM
2. **Approval of Chair.** The President asks if anyone wishes to be chair. Seeing no interest the President volunteers. Moved by VP Ops. Seconded by Aboriginal Liason. All in favour. The President will chair the meeting.
3. **Approval of Minute Taker.** The VP Finance volunteers to take minutes as he notes the VP Ops deserves a night off from minute taking. Moved by President. Seconded by VP Ops. All in favour. Motion carries. VP Finance will take minutes.
4. **Approval of the Agenda.** The VP Finance seeks to add Motion 7.2 a funding request from the Toxicology Graduate Students' Association. He notes that the motion and the supplementary information were distributed via email earlier today. VP Academic seeks to add item 6.5 on 3 Minute Thesis and Conference. VP Student Affairs seeks to add item 6.6 Student Advocacy. Moved by President and seconded by VP Ops. All items carried unanimously. The agenda as amended is adopted unanimously.
5. **Approval of the Minutes** of GSA Executive Meetings on November 25, 2015. No corrections or omissions are raised. Moved by President. Seconded by VP Ops. All in favour. Minutes are approved.

6. Items for Action/Information

6.1. Three minutes reports

[Execs]

VP Student Affairs moves to postpone the Three Minute Reports to the next meeting. President suggests that the reports be limited to two minutes this time. All in favour.

President:

President sent out the GSA newsletter and notes that preliminary feedback was good. GSA chaired the meeting of Student Forum and focused on tuition forecasting, sexual assault policies and procedures as well as follow up from the Building Reconciliation Forum.

He had a meeting with the Alumni Association. Asking AA members to sponsor internships for current Graduate Students. AA has expressed interest and providing GSA information on hiring practices and perhaps bringing in experts that will coincide with GSA week.

VP Finance:

The VP Finance notes that although it hasn't been long at all since our last meeting he have been busy and does have some matters to report on but he will be brief as we have some very important matters and motions to discuss.

The Fee Review Committee met and of importance to the GSA a a proposed increase of CFS fees of eleven cents (based on the CFS National Bylaws / Consumer Price Index) which was passed. Starting in September the new rate will be \$5.84 an increase from the previous \$5.73.

VP Chapola and VP Finance Bennett had planned on attending the Campus Safety Forum at the Residences that was being hosted by Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Patti McDougall and officials from Campus Safety but that meeting was cancelled due to lack of interest. It was indicated that they might try to organize another forum in the next term if there is an expression of interest from students. The other tasks that the VP Finance has been focusing on were preparing a distribution list for our holiday/Christmas cards and he offers his thanks to those that responded and contributed names and suggestions, he attended the first meeting of the Governance and Policy Review Committee as well as conducting the GSA's normal end of the month banking which is always labour intensive. The other focus that VP Finance has been working on it providing advocacy and information to GSA members who have been having

issues with their accounts (i.e. problems with billing or incorrect charges) that they aren't able to resolve quickly on their own.

VP External:

The VP External attended the first meeting of equity and internal committee of CGSR. It was an opening meeting and this committee hasn't met since 2013. Grad School health chat will be held December 16th with a topic on New Year's Resolutions and gingerbread people will be decorated so it will be fun event. She will be creating a FB event and asks us to share it.

VP Student Affairs:

VP Student Affairs attended the CFS meetings with VP External. He will discuss under its own agenda item. He has started drafting questions for the survey and he will be finished with a draft by mid-December.

VP Operations and Communications:

The VP Ops notes that not too much new to report. He is trying to draft updates to GSA Social Club policy. He notes that he also attended the Governance and Policy Review Committee. He is also working on updating the ratification forms for Councils and Councillors.

Aboriginal Liason:

Aboriginal Liason notes that term two registration for Campus Rec. sports is open as of Monday. She notes that lots of people have expressed interest. Gordon Oakes-Redbear Steering committee met where the focus was on moving and construction timelines. IGSC will be a tenant of that building. Aboriginal Liason will be given an office space there.

She with Aboriginal Team Leader Graham Joseph and Dean ABJ to hire an Aboriginal Graduate student to work on a comparative review of how Aboriginal engagement takes place across the U15. Also discussed were Aboriginal scholarships and more inclusion of Indigenous perspectives across different course offerings.

VP Academic:

VP Academic is working towards her Sunday event co-sponsored by the CFUW. She encourages everyone to support her with publicizing the event and attend the event if they are able. She is working on 3MT and Conference preparation. She met with TC and ABJ regarding the Conference and 3MT.

6.2. Meet and Greet with the President

[D. Carriere]

Aboriginal Liason notes that the Meet and greet with the President Stoicheff will be Tuesday December 7th at 7:30AM at the University Club.

President indicates just a 'get to know you' event but suggests we come up with talking points in advance in the meeting.

VP Finance notes that people ought to dress and be groomed appropriately. VP Academic would like to talk about conference funding. Aboriginal Liason suggests asking for money might not be the best way to start. It should be framed as an update on GSA Week. VP Student Affairs wishes to discuss student funding along with scholarship and awards.

President has invited him to the GSA Holiday Social as a chance to meet with graduate students. VP Academic suggests we give information about what we do in each our portfolios at the GSA.

6.3. CFS report

[N. Terekhova]

VP External attended the CFS along with VP Student Affairs. Chair of the Saskatchewan component is from FNUC and the treasurer is from UofR. We need to meet and decide what we are going as a provincial component. VP Student Affairs notes that an emergency motion was passed at the CFS to provide the provincial component with more support from the National Component to lobby the Provincial government for more post-secondary funding to coincide with the Provincial election. They will send us a spreadsheet of numbers that the Provincial Account and from our local since 2008. VP External will provide an update on this in the new year. VP Student Affairs notes that this is the first time the Sask. Component has been active and engaged since 2011. VP Student Affairs notes there was important discussions on issues of racialized peoples, Aboriginal peoples, gender, as well as people with disabilities. There will be a national Caucus meeting on racialized peoples where people can come together and share their experiences and plan on how to move forward. This will be occurring in March. He is also

expecting an update from the National Treasurer from the CFS. President asks how we can use the money in the CFS Sask. account. VP External notes that it will be a collaborative decision with all CFS Sask. members. The Provincial Component needs to be registered as a non-profit Saskatchewan Corporation to operate independently apart from the National body. The VP Student Affairs will share information he learned and experienced about Islamophobia with the rest of the Executive and how that can be implemented at UofS by the GSA.

VP Academic suggests we organize a campaign around Islamophobia. She is hosting an event on March 21st that will discuss elimination of racism and prejudice that may coincide with this event. She has also become engaged with the Open Door Society and would like to provide donations for Syrian refugees who have already arrived in Saskatoon. President and VP Ops will organize this by Friday. The rest of the discussion will be carried forward by interested execs.

6.5 3 Minute Thesis and Conference

[J. Chapola]

VP Academic requests more GSA involvement with Global Village. In regards to 3MT had a meeting with TC and he is expecting a to see the GSA take a leading position during the 3MT. ABJ is expecting full involvement of the GSA as well. VP Academic expresses her nervousness and excitement in managing these events. She asks for input and support from GSA Execs.

President asks if one exec. should focus on the Conference and a separate exec. should focus on 3MT. VP Academic is not afraid of responsibility but just requests support from colleagues. CGSR has hired a Coordinator to help run 3MT. VP External suggests we bring her in on the planning of GSA week.

VP Academic has had discussions on the naming of the week. VP Ops suggests using Graduate Student not GSA. VP External suggests Graduate Student Achievement Week. VP Academic suggests name of actual conference will not be curiosity. VP Student Affairs notes that this is a good conference for first-time presenters and we should not screen people out too harshly and a peer-review process would not allow for this. VP Academic notes that as it stands the GSA Conference doesn't have a high academic clout or value for certain students and a peer review process could improve that. She is considering charging a registration fee for Conference participants. VP Ops suggests we should not be charging a fee for graduate students. He further suggests peer review of abstracts will increase quality of papers. VP Academic suggests that

perhaps there will be prizes and awards given out at the sessions to presenters. VP Finance suggests getting a keynote speaker to increase clout of the conference. President suggests we should cater to our members who may not have the chance to go to other national/international conferences and doesn't see the benefit of peer review process. VP Student Affairs suggests judges to give prizes and provide feedback to the Conference participants. President requests a funding proposal from VP Academic and VP External as soon as possible.

6.6 Student Advocacy

[H. Shahadu]

VP Student Affairs notes that there will be a meeting with the USSU to discuss this item on Monday from 6PM to 7PM. A student requested that the GSA provide information Student Bill of Rights related to student/supervisor relationship. He notes that we need to do more on this issue and he encourages all to attend this meeting.

7. Motions

1. Whereas the Local Organizing Committee of the Women in Physics Canada (WIPC) Conference is hosting a national conference at the University of Saskatchewan that will benefit graduate students in various disciplines (physics, biomedical engineering, geophysical sciences, etc. and the Local Organizing Committee is comprised primarily of UofS graduate students from the above fields. Whereas the WIPC has sent a formal request for support (to be distributed at meeting). BIRT pending ratification as a social group the WIPC Local Organizing Committee be granted \$500 from the GSA. BIFRT that the pending availability and operating hours the GSA offer the usage of the Commons at no charge for the hosting of any reception or colloquia associated with the conference. [D. Bennett] Moved by President. Seconded by VP Finance. All in favour. Motion Carries.
2. Whereas the Toxicology Graduate Students' Association (TGSA) is duly ratified group within the GSA. Whereas the goal of the TGSA is to develop programming, build positive relationships, offer support, and present a unified voice for all graduate students associated with the interdisciplinary Toxicology Centre. BIRT the GSA provide \$300 in funding to support the TGSA event (Funding request circulated in advance via email). [D. Bennett]. The President and VP Ops move to amend the amount to \$250.00. All are in favour of the amendment. Motion as a whole is moved by VP Finance and VP Ops. All in favour. Motion Carries.

Adjournment. Call for adjournment at 7:02PM. All in favour. Meeting is adjourned.