

University of Saskatchewan -Graduate Students' Association



Executive Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 22, 2015 - GSA Commons

Present: All. Rajat Chakravarty (President), Dana Carriere (Aboriginal Liason), Ziad Ghaith (VP Operations and Communications), David Bennett (VP Finance), Hardi Shahadu (VP Student Affairs), Natalia Terekohova (VP External), Jebunessa Chapola (VP Academic).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:07PM.

2. Approval of Chair

The President asked if any one was interested in chairing the meeting. Seeing no interest the VP External and the VP Academic moved that President Rajat Chakravarty chair the meeting. All in favour. President will chair the meeting.

3. Approval of Minute Taker

The VP Finance offered to do this onerous task. The VP Ops noted his appreciation. All in favour. VP Finance Bennett will take the minutes.

4. Approval of the Agenda

President requests to add the approval of the Executive retreat minutes to the Agenda as item 6. There was no objection.

The VP External requests to add a discussion item (9.1) Discussion on CFS to the agenda. There was no objection.

The VP Student Affairs assisted by the VP External wish to add a discussion item (9.2) on Sexual Assault Awareness Week. There was no objection.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the GSA Executive Meeting on June 16, 2015.

Moved by the VP Operations. Seconded by the VP External. All in favour. Motion Passes.

6. Approval of the Executive Retreat Minutes.

The President has uploaded these documents. Moved by VP Operations. Seconded by VP Academic. All in favour. Motion Passes.

7.1 GSA Office Manager Contract renewal and update. (The document has been available for review in the main office).

Moved by VP Finance. Seconded by VP Operations.

VP Finance states that this is a renewal of contract with a modest increase in salary commensurate with all the hard work that she does and in line with the target midpoints that apply to ASPA and CUPE 1975 bargaining units on campus.

VP Student Affairs requests that this matter be tabled in order to review it more. He would like to take a copy home and also have a copy to review at all times. VP Student Affairs further wants to know why this was not circulated in advance.

VP Finance notes that there is some confidential information in the contract and taking a copy is not an acceptable option and that he tried to provide a blacked-out copy to the in the past.

VP Operations suggests that Exec. members sign a non-disclosure agreement.

A list of duties and responsibilities (with no personal or confidential information) will be circulated via email for possible input. The VP Finance and seconded by the VP Operations will send out a further motion via electronic mail with salary information. This information is confidential. This must be completed by Monday the 27th at 5:00PM.

7.3 Orientation Planning Updates

Brought forward by VP Student Affairs and President.

VP Student Affairs notes that things are a bit behind where he had hoped they would be as a coordinator hasn't been hired to help yet. He provided a document with some further information. He notes that the date will be Sept. 2nd. There will be a BBQ, expo, scavenger hunt. There will also be food trucks present during the day.

VP Ops asks how many volunteers will be needed. VP Student Affairs says as many as possible. The President indicates that he had approx. 50 last year but he also didn't have a coordinator.

VP Ops further notes that we have received 19 applications for the position. He forwarded them to VP Student Affairs for review.

VP Student Affairs states that he wants the group to work as much as a team as possible. Noting that it isn't just his event but it is everyone's event.

VP Ops suggests that the VP Student Affairs sends a shortlist of preferred candidates for the position. The President notes that the decision is for the VP Student Affairs but there ought to be a committee so his decision doesn't appear biased no matter how objective it actually is.

VP Student Affairs wants a shortlist by the 1st. He is unsure if he wants interviews at this point.

VP Operations notes that interviews are important to make sure they have a compatible personality. The President notes that it can be a short interview.

The VP External wants to know where the GSA booth will be. The VP Student Affairs notes it will be in the bowl.

The VP Finance notes that the budget proposal is already quite high and it doesn't include any 'surprises' as of yet, this is not a great starting place. The VP Student Affairs notes that we may need to spend more even into a shortfall.

The VP External wants to know about who organizes the scavenger hunt. The VP Student Affairs states that it is the University.

The President notes that he will speak the University orientation as well as the CGSR orientation. The VP Student Affairs notes that everyone will have to help but he needs more time to figure out specific details.

The Aboriginal Liason notes that AIGSC will have a meet and greet potluck. The ASC will also host an event in September.

7.4. Payment to Lawyer

President Rajat had a conversation with several members of Admin and they indicated that they were willing to provide some help to the GSA in this matter. There are still several scenarios in how this event plays out.

The VP Operations asks that the President keeps us as updated possible.

8. Motions

8.1 Motion: Transnationalism Working Group Funding

WHEREAS the Transnationalism Working Group in conjunction with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity and the Department of History is hosting an event entitled “Beyond Borders: A workshop on Transnationalism WHEREAS the History Graduate Students’ Committee has agreed to sponsor the morning coffee break at the cost of \$100. Whereas this workshop/event will benefit not only graduate students in the Department of History but also related areas of study in HUMFA and the social sciences

BIRT that the GSA contribute \$100 to sponsor the afternoon coffee break as requested by the organizer. BIFRT that the GSA logo be utilized and sponsorship be appropriately acknowledged

Moved by VP Finance . Seconded by VP Academic.

The VP Academic notes that this event looks interesting and will be of benefit of many graduate students in the social sciences and humanities.

All in favour. Motion passes.

9. Discussion on CFS.

The VP External notes that as she is on the National Executive of the CFS the GSA will need a different representative for certain matters. The VP Student Affairs is interested in this position. All were supportive of his desire. This will allow for two GSA members to attend CFS meetings now.

10. Discussion on Sexual Assault Awareness Week and Other Campaigns

The VP Student Affairs and the VP External have attended meetings on this topic. Sexual Assault Awareness week will be at the end of September and it is desired the GSA be a stronger stakeholder in this matter.

Ideas discussed include the use of social media, the GSA hosting a town-hall meeting and discussion with a panel of experts. Setting up an semi-permanent information booth in the GSA Commons

The President suggests to get in touch with CASA (Coalition Against Sexual Assault). The GSA can become more actively involved in this group.

The VP External notes that in November there will be mental health week. There will likely be some activities that the GSA can assist with. She suggests a focus on student/supervisor relationships as it is a mental health issue.

11. Other Discussion Items

The President notes that the above are all good campaign ideas. He notes that the federal election is coming up on October 19th and the the GSA can possibly host a debate.

The President also notes that the GSA needs to start recruiting counsellors from all the departments. He suggests sending emails to all departments and also notes that the GSA can come and talk at departmental orientations, bring handbooks, help with constitutions, etc.

The VP Ops notes that the ratification process is complicated and perhaps it can be simplified.

The VP Student Affairs suggests that the Office Manager be delegated this task of emailing all the departments to talk with department heads, grad chairs, grad secretaries.

The President said he would assist in this matter. He also noted that there is a possibility of having a 'Robert's Rules workshop in September for new (and old) councillors.

12. Adjournment.

President moves to adjourn the meeting. All in favour. Motion passes and meeting is adjourned at 5:29PM.