

Graduate Students' Association



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
GSA Executive Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 16, 2015 - GSA Commons
3:00PM – 6:00PM

Present: David Bennett (VP Finance), Hardi Shahadu (VP Student Affairs), Natalia Terekohova (VP External), Jebunessa Chapola (VP Academic), Ziad Ghaith (VP Operations and Communications), Rajat Chakravarty (President), Sherri Rohovich (Office Manager - Non-voting)

Regrets: Dana Carriere (Aboriginal Liason)

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:10PM
- 2. Approval of Chair:** Rajat Chakravarty was approved as a Chair.
 - 2.1. Moved by David, seconded Natalia. All in favour. Motion passed
- 3. Approval of Minute Taker:** Ziad Ghaith was approved as a minute taker.
 - 3.1. Moved by Rajat, seconded Natalia. All in favour. Motion passed
- 4. Approval of the Agenda**
 - 4.1. Moved by Rajat, seconded David. All in favour. Motion passed
- 5. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on May 25/2015**
 - 5.1. Moved by David, second by Natalia. All in favour. Motion passed.
- 6. Items for Actions/Information**
 - 6.1. GSA Office Manager Updates**
 - 6.1.1. Most of the overhead lightbulbs in the Commons were replaced, there are still some in difficult to access places that need to be replaced. All outside windows were cleaned.
 - 6.1.2. FMD will be steam-cleaning the carpets cleaned around July 20-24th – The GSA Commons will not need to be closed but it may cause some disruption.
 - 6.1.3. Faculty-staff picnic tomorrow from 11-2 p.m. David will go at 11.30 a.m.
 - 6.1.4. Aboriginal Round Table regarding Aboriginal veterans – on Friday. All should try to attend this event.

6.2. Report from Meeting with the Lawyer

- 6.2.1. VP Finance think this discussion should be moved in camera for confidentiality given that individuals are named in the legal papers. Voting for in camera discussion: In favour: 2, Opposed: 4. Discussion will not be in camera.
- 6.2.2. Short brief by GSA president: The GSA have received a letter from a lawyer asking to pay approximately \$8532 for legal services they provided to the GSA President over March and April.
- 6.2.3. GSA president, VP Finance, and GSA office manager (minute taker) had a meeting with the lawyer on 15th of June, to know what services his firm provided to the GSA. Taking into the account that this is an controversial issue, the lawyer indicated he is willing to give GSA some discount (no decision made regarding this discount).
- 6.2.4. VP Students Affairs thinks that we should not speak to the lawyer, rather we should use official communication to have official documentation. There was an animated discussion over the best course of action to take with the VP Finance indicating that the GSA should consider paying the bill and then filing a claim against Ms. Vlahu.
- 6.2.5. GSA president would prefer to refer to the council to form a committee to be responsible for this issue. He think we should have 1 executive and three councillors in this committee. Voting for the legal subcommittee: In favour: 5, Opposed: 1, Abstain: 1. VP Finance accepted to serve on this committee.

6.3. Communication Policy

- 6.3.1. GSA president: all the communications that falls within the communication policies, we can individually have it sent to VP Operations for distribution without the need for an executive vote. Any other sort of communications should be discussed between executives. VP Student Affairs feel that we need to discuss any proposal between executives to ensure transparency and information is shared. GSA president and VP Operations think this would create kind of bureaucracy.

6.4. GU15 meeting in Winnipeg

- 6.4.1. GU15 will take place in Winnipeg, the date will depends on the doodle voting.

6.4.2. If this meetings take place in July VP Students Affairs will attend it, if in August VP External Affairs will participate in it.

6.4.3. VP Finance raised the cost of transportation, VP External Affairs said that the flight ticket would cost around CAD300. The VP Finance recommended that least-cost alternatives including Via Rail or Greyhound be considered as well.

6.5. University Council Sub-Committee Assignments

6.5.1. VP External Affairs will set in International Activities Committee.

6.5.2. VP Finance will set in scholarship committee.

6.5.3. GSA President and VP Students Affairs were both recommended by members of the Executive to serve on The University Council Planning and Priorities committee. The VP Student Affairs stated that as the GSA President is already a de-facto member of the University Council that another member should serve on this committee to give another voice. The VP Finance stated that because of the importance of this committee and its wide range of tasks it was most suited for the GSA President. The VP Student Affairs felt that the VP Finance's objections were more of a personal nature. The VP Finance insisted that was not the case.

6.5.4. Voting: for VP Students Affairs: 3 votes, GSA President: 2 votes. Abstentions: 1. VP Students Affairs will sit in the Planning and Priorities Committee.

6.6. Meeting with the New Director of Transit

6.6.1. VP Operations: We received three excellent applications for council chairperson position. Executives will review these applications and send their recommendations to VP Operations who will present his nominee to Council for approval.

6.7. GSA Chairperson

6.7.1. VP Operations: We received three applications for council chairperson position. Executives will review these applications and send their recommendations to VP Operations.

6.8. Bursaries

6.8.1. The VP Operations updated the Executives about the summer bursaries. To the date GSA received 120 applications but only 30 applications are complete.

6.8.2. Bursaries committee will include (VP Finance, VP Academic, and three councillors) and will select the recipients using the established criteria in a 'blind fashion' (i.e. all names will be removed)

6.9. Brain Storm about Issues in Health and Dental

6.9.1. VP External Affairs briefly updated the executives about some issues related to health plans.

6.10. CFS Meeting Report

6.10.1. VP External Affairs briefly updated the executives about CFS meeting. Some issues related to health plan, and she presented a full report summarizing the meeting activities. This report will be presented in her report to Council.

6.11. Handbook updates

6.11.1. Handbook is ready to print out, VP External Affairs will send a copy of the handbook to the executives.

6.11.2. The VP Finance commended the VP External on exceeding her advertising sales target. This is the first time in many years that this has happened.

6.12. CGSR Funding Proposal

6.12.1. GSA President sent a copy of the CGSR funding proposal and he received some suggestions from the executives. GSA President will send out the final version of the proposal for the executives before the retreat.

6.13. Retreat

6.13.1. Retreat will take place on Saturday 20th of June. Location is dependent on the forecast.

6.14. June Council Meeting – Date Setting

6.14.1. Next council meeting will take place on Tuesday 30th of June at 5:00PM

7. Meeting Adjourn

7.1. Meeting Adjourned at 6:18PM