

Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 16, 2016 - GSA Commons 05:02 P.M. – 07:23 P.M.

Present: Z. Ghaith (President), K. Sharma (VP Finance), C. Gaspar (VP External), A. Kiani (VP Academic), S. Sapal (VP Student Affairs), Dana Carriere (VP Aboriginal Liaison).

Regrets: N. Absher (VP Operations)

1. Call to Order

1.1. Meeting is called to order at 5:02 pm.

2. Approval of Chair

2.1. Ghaith nominated himself, seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. Motion carries.

3. Approval of Minute Taker

3.1. Ghaith nominated Sapal, seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Approval of the Agenda

4.1. Ghaith amends the agenda.

4.2. Ghaith moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. Motion carries. The agenda is approved as amended.

5. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:

5.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on July 19th, 2016

5.1.1. Ghaith moved a motion to approve the May 15 meeting minutes, seconded by Sapal. All in favor. Motion carries.

6. Items for Actions/Information

6.1. Three Minutes Repots

Sharma:

- There will be financial literacy workshops on 13th September in GSA commons. The workshop will be focused on personal budgeting strategies. RBC bank manager will be also bringing food during the workshop along with visa gift cards and freebies for the graduate students.
- RBC has agreed to donate \$200 towards GSA Orientation BBQ event. I am trying to push this amount to \$500 and hopefully will be lucky to do so.
- The meeting for the TVC is on August 23rd to discuss the agreement with law professional. I will also be involving University officials in the agreements.

- Monthly financial statements are now present on our new GSA website under the tab budget. Monthly financial statements will be posted in the first week of each month and operating budget will be updated biweekly.

Gaspar:

- Attended GU15, where the decision was made to incorporate the organization and become a formal organization that produces research relating to graduate students' experience.
- CFS day of Action is coming up, and CFS is currently hiring a coordinator in SK.
- Working with Eleonore from CGSR to write a proposal for the survey team.
- Attended website and survey meeting.

Carriere:

- Finished her graduate program this month.
- Aboriginal Student Council will be selecting an Aboriginal Liaison for the GSA in September and she will provide her transition Manual.
- VP External will take over Guppies and organizing those.
- Attending Folk Fest with USSU on Thursday.

Kiani:

- Attended several committee meetings.
- Has workshops planned for September.
- Will be meeting with the career center to set up a workshop with them.
- Helping fundraise with the Alumni Association and other companies.

Ghaith:

- Sent an email to MLA's and government officials regarding the amendment of the representation for the board of governance to include a graduate student representation.
- Met with Regina MLA to discuss the amendment of the U of S Act.
- Attended SUDS.
- Helping out with the GSA Survey and planning the publication of results.

6.2. Nepalese Students' Association Funding Request [Z. Ghaith]

6.2.1. Nripesh asked the GSA to donate \$500 to the Nepalese Association, \$300 will be used for music and \$200 be used for miscellaneous things. A majority of the association are graduate students, and the event is on September 22nd, between 6-9 pm. They will sell tickets for the event.

6.2.2. Ghaith recommends giving NSA \$300. Ghaith moved a motion to give the Nepalese Students' Association \$300 for their event. Seconded by Sapal. All in favor. Motion carries.

6.3. Office Manager's Contract Review (In Camera) [N. Absher]

6.4. GSA Orientation [Z. Ghaith]

6.4.1. Ghaith explained that there will be a tipi set up by an elder for orientation, therefore, it is important to give appreciation to the elder. Ghaith moved a motion to allocate \$100 towards tipi for the Orientation and Commons.

Seconded by Sapal. Four in favor, one opposed. Motion carries.

6.5. September Workshops [Z. Ghaith]

6.5.1. Ghaith proposed to have two financial workshops and one workshop by Ali. He stated that the financial workshop will be on September 13th and 15th, and Ali's workshop to be on 23rd of September.

6.6. SUDS Update [Z. Ghaith]

6.6.1. Ghaith proposes to send the VP external next year.

6.7. Grad Representation – College of Engineering Faculty Council [Z. Ghaith]

6.7.1. This council will be represented by Sapal and Rajat R.

6.8. GSA Commons Hours [Z. Ghaith]

6.8.1. The office hours of operations are now 9 am – 7:30 pm Monday – Friday effective August 22nd.

6.9. Councillor Recruitment [Z. Ghaith]

6.9.1. Ghaith explained that we need to begin recruiting councils and councillors. We need a fluids survey set up. This year we should have about 50 councillors. Sapal will be responsible for tracking attendance.

6.10. GSA Audits [K. Sharma]

6.10.1. Sharma will be responsible for this and will consult the office manager.

6.11. September 23rd Social Media Workshop [A. Kiani]

6.11.1. Ghaith asked Sharma what budget line is used for the workshops, and Sharma explained it was the GSA events and initiatives.

6.11.2. Kiani asked for how much can be allocated for one workshop. Sharma explained that \$2200 is left, because \$100 was spent on the Euro Cup event, \$200 was spent on the Notary public, and there were other spendings for the garden, cups, library, etc.

6.11.3. Kiani moved a motion to use \$150 for the social media workshop on September 23rd. Seconded by Ghaith. All in favor. Motion carries.

6.12. Friday Afternoon Meditations [A. Kiani]

6.12.1. Kiani proposed having meditation classes on Friday afternoons. We can promote it on our social media.

6.13. GU15 [C. Gaspar]

Gaspar explains that she was elected as the interim director during the meeting. The GU15 decided to incorporate and become known as Think Grad. The GSA and its members must decide if they want to have membership to this organization. This will increase students' fees by 10 to 50 cents. If so, we can host the first conference in the spring. This will benefit the U of S. The resulting research will allow us to advocate for the needs of graduate students.

6.14. Appreciation for the Photographer [K. Sharma]

6.14.1. Sharma moved a motion to give \$25 appreciation to our photographer for his services that he volunteered. Seconded by Ghaith. All in favor. Motion carries.

6.15. GSA VISA Card [Z. Ghaith]

6.15.1. Ghaith proposed to have regulations around the use of the visa card, and to increase the limit. Gaspar and Sharma will make a proposal of how to use the visa card. This is not in the bylaws, but there should be a policy to regulate how it is used for the organization.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.