

University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 20, 2016 –Marquis Hall 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Present: D. Bennett (VP Finance), R. Chakravarty (President), N. Terekhova (VP External), Z. Ghaith (VP Operations), J. Chapola (VP Academic), D. Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison)

Absent: H.Shahadu (VP Student Affairs)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting is called to order at 5:19 PM
2. **Approval of Chair:** Chair President nominated himself, Seconded by VP Finance. All in favor. President Chakravarty will chair the meeting
3. **Approval of Minutes Taker:** VP Operation nominated himself, Seconded by VP Finance. All in favor. VP Ghaith will take the minutes.
4. **Approval of the agenda:** VP finance, GSA President, moved to discussion items: 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, and 6.8. and motion 7.1. President Chakravarty moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by VP Ghaith, 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 April 5, 2016**

President Chakravarty moved to approve April 5, 2016 minutes, seconded by VP Ghaith, all in favor. Motion Carries.

6. Items for Actions/Information

6.1. Three minutes reports

[Execs]

VP Operations and Communications

- Served on Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award
- Served on Associate Vice President Research Search Committee
- Met with library Associate Dean
- Working on the GSA annual report
- Working on the transition manual
- Met with Administration officials regarding the GSA crisis program

- Attended Governance Committee meeting

VP Academic

- Organized Non-violent-Communication workshop
- Organizing Anti-racist workshop which will take place on April 21st
- Working on the GSA annual report. VP Chapola mentioned that she is still waiting for the conference and 3MT coordinators reports to add to her annual report.
- Working on the transition manual

VP External

- Contacted CFS to send money for the Graduate Achievement Week
- Preparing a motion to send to CFS about the international student's immigration.
- Attended GU15 in Vancouver.

Aboriginal Liaison

- The IGSC hosted our annual fundraiser and raised close to \$1800. It was our most successful event to date
- IGSC/GSA bursary committee already announced the winners. VP Ghaith represented the GSA in the selection committee.
- Served on the scholarships and Awards Committee which was delegated to her by VP Bennett. We have been discussing changing the requirements to proving Aboriginal ancestry for First Nations, Metis, and Aboriginal specific awards

GSA President

- Working on the GSA annual report and transition report
- Working on the GSA Website, the website will be ready next week, and he plans to train the incoming VP Operations and GSA President
- Served as a judge in the Research Images Committee
- University senate reception and meeting CFS RISE conference follow-up this weekend

VP Finance

Let me begin by congratulating Ziad on his victory in the election. We all know he is passionate and dedicated to serving graduate students. Let me also say that it has been a honor and privilege to work with all of you that are sitting here at this table. We did good work. There have certainly been ups and downs but because of our hard work and our dedication the GSA has started to experience a real renaissance and I'm really optimistic and positive about the future of our Association. I still have quite a busy schedule right up until the 30th. Since our last meeting I attended the GU15 Conference which I'll speak about later. I've attended the Library Transformation Project meeting with many of my colleagues, the meeting of the Provost's Advisory Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity, VP Ziad and I met with Administration officials regarding our contribution towards a special Crisis Aid Program for grad students. They were really impressed by our commitment to helping graduate students. I think this will be a good program going forward and they will be supplying data to the GSA as we go forward. I also attended the GSA Governance Committee meeting and of course the Breakfast this morning with the senior leadership and both executives which was very positive and engaging. I wish I could wind down a little bit but I still have lots of tasks and commitments I'm working on. I'll represent the GSA at the Financial Appeal Review Committee tomorrow. I know we still have a couple of welcome/goodbye lunches coming up so I will definitely attend those with my successor and the rest of our great team. I've submitted by report for the AGM and I'm getting our consolidated and audited financial statements for two years to present at the AGM where our auditor will also attend. I want to make sure all of our UPASS and H&D stuff is up to date and also start on the ISC financial returns which should smooth the transition over so Kusum isn't overwhelmed too much on her first day. I've prepared a transition USB for her to help and the information contains records, and documents, etc. and I'll be working closely with her over the next couple weeks to set her up for success. I would encourage you all to work our transitions with your successors as it is required by the bylaws and it will help the GSA be successful.

6.2. GU15 Update

[D. Bennett/N. Terekhova]

VP Finance notes that he sent out the detailed notes that he and VP Natalia took at this conference. He notes that it was very positive in terms of sharing ideas and problems that we often experience as GSAs but he actually thinks that going forward the GSA can suffice to send just one delegate and focus more on other conferences that have more direct benefits for the GSA. He invites the VP External to share the really exciting news about the GU15.

6.3. Executive Office

[Z. Ghaith]

VP operations congratulated the executive committee on their great work over the last year. He mentioned that it will be hard to see this team leaving the GSA office after a year full of achievements. He further added, that the new GSA executive will take over starting on May 1, so he requested all the outgoing executives to make sure to take their personal stuff from the office, and to inform the GSA Office Manager about anything that the incoming executives may need to know.

6.4. Email votes/motions

[Execs]

GSA President mentioned that we need to document all the online votes/motions we had over the year and add them to this minutes. VP Operations suggested that any executive who sent a motion/voting by email to collect them and send them to him by April 21 – 9:00 PM.

The executive committee agreed.

As received from VP Finance

Motion for GSA Sponsorship the #YXE Let's Talk: Transit Safety Initiative. VP Finance proposed the GSA sponsor this event by providing for the printing of posters up to the amount of \$100 from the GSA Events and Initiatives budget line provided our logo is included in this poster.

5 in favour. Motion carries. Feb 16, 2016.

Symbolic motion to support arrival of Syrian Refugees: VP Finance notes that to coincide with the first arrival of Syrian refugees and our campaign for GSA donations for Syrian refugees I would propose that we print out the [attached sign] and volunteers to personally pay for it at XL Printing and that it be posted somewhere near the entrance of the GSA.

4 in favour. Motion carries. Dec 11, 2015.

Motion to send a letter of support to UTGSU and CUPE 302. VP Finance moves BIRT the GSA Executive sign and send the following letter to the following parties as soon as possible that states: “The Executive of the Graduate Students’ Association at the University of Saskatchewan wishes to express its solidarity with all members of the University of Toronto Community particularly fellow grad students. Like you we strongly believe that all members of the campus community have the right to safe place to work and learn. Gendered violence and the threats of gendered violence have no place in any space, particularly a campus community. We share your commitment in advocating for a safe campus for all. In Solidarity”

7 in favour. Motion carries. September 14, 2015

Motion regarding compensation of the Office Manager. The most valuable resource of the GSA is its people (membership, staff, and executives). Whereas the GSA advocates for and believes in paying members a fair wage for the work that they do. Whereas the denoted wage is commensurate with similar positions on campus. BIRT that the salary for the GSA Office Manager position be increased to the amount specified per annum. There will be no changes to the the Office Manager’s benefits package which includes enrolment in the health and dental plan as well as a parking pass. BIFRT this change becomes applied retroactively to July 1st, 2015.

5 in favour. 1 against. Motion carries. July 23, 2015.

As received from VP External

Whereas VP Student affairs is a Local 101 representative in the Canadian Federation of Students,

Whereas VP student affairs ignored the invitation to join us in the trip to Regina for CFS – Saskatchewan Component meeting,

Be it resolved that GSA President Rajat Chakravarty will be appointed as a local representative to be on provincial executive until April 2016.

*Motion Carried
February 13, 2016*

6.5. Engineering Lounge

[D. Bennett]

VP Finance and GSA President received a request from the Engineering council to sponsor buying three microwaves to be used in the graduate students lounge. VP Finance mentioned that the graduate students in the engineering are not allowed anymore to have microwaves in their offices, and the college did not buy any microwave for the lounge, although they requested that. VP Finance added that the Engineering Council President asked for 450, but there is only 400 dollars available in the clubs budget.

VP Operations noticed that the Engineering Council has been very active and supportive for the GSA over the last year. VP Ops totally supports this sponsorship. He further suggested to ask the Engineering council to add a sticker on the microwaves to show that this was sponsored by the GSA. This will be a tool to inform the incoming graduate students in engineering about the GSA and to encourage them to be more engaged in the GSA.

VP Finance moved to sponsor the Engineering Council initiative by 400 dollars, seconded by Aboriginal Liaison. All in favor, Motion Carries.

6.6. CFS National Aboriginal Caucus

[R. Chakravarty]

GSA National Aboriginal Caucus will take place in June. GSA President mentioned that we should send a representative, he added that it is a little bit of a technicality issue now as we cannot make any financial commitment for June.

VP Operations asked if CFS will finance our participation, GSA President answered no. GSA President suggested that GSA Aboriginal Liaison represent the GSA in this event. Aboriginal Liaison replied that she will not be able to do so due to some other commitments.

VP Operations suggested that IGSC nominate a representative. GSA Aboriginal Liaison will pass this to the IGSC and inform the GSA soon.

6.7. Annual AGM social

[R. Chakravarty]

GSA President, VP Academic, and Office Manager met earlier today to discuss how to run this social event. They agreed to make this social a food festival, where different types of food will be provided.

GSA President asked the executive committee to help in this, VP Academic, and VP External will help out in this.

6.8. Annual Reports and Transition Manuals

[R. Chakravarty]

GSA President remind the GSA Executives that they should send their annual reports and transition manuals. VP Academic asked what will be the major difference between these two reports, VP Finance answered that the transition manual contents is available in the GSA Bylaws.

VP Operations suggested to have a transition meeting instead a manual next year as he believe this will be more efficient. He added and asked the outgoing executives to help the incoming executives.

7. Motions

7.1. Approve last executive meeting dinner expenses

GSA President mentioned that there is 73 dollars in the executive committee refreshment budget line. The executive committee didn't use this money over the last 24 meetings.

GSA President added, as this is the GSA last executive meeting, we should make it special.

VP Finance mentioned that every executive on the table has worked hard over the last year, and every one of them worked extra shifts in the GSA to cover some of the GSA Office Manager vacation days with the exception the VP Students Affairs.

GSA President regrets that VP Students Affairs decided to boycott this meeting without any legitimate reason.

GSA President moved to cover the dinner expenses by 73 dollars, seconded by Aboriginal Liaison. All in favor. Motion Carries.

8. Adjournment Meeting Adjourned at 6:13PM.