

Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Agenda Wednesday, September 7th, 2016 - GSA Commons 05:17 P.M. – 06:16 P.M.

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

- 1. Call to Order at 5:17**
- 2. Approval of Chair**
 - 2.1. Absher nominates Ghaith. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 3. Approval of Minute Taker**
 - 3.1. Ghaith nominates Absher. Seconded by Sapal. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 4. Approval of the Agenda**
 - 4.1. Ghaith moves a motion to approve. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 5. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:**
 - 5.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on August 16th, 2016**
 - 5.1.1. Ghaith moves a motion to approve it. Seconded by Absher. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 6. Items for Actions/Information**
 - 6.1. Three Minutes Reports**

Sharma – VP Finance

- Financial Literacy workshop is planned for next week. Sharma will have two volunteers. Will be collaborating with RBC.
- Have spoken with Beth regarding TVC and connected her to lawyers, but may not work with us, as we're independent organization.
- Planning to meet with George from Consumer Services about residence.

Sapal – VP Student Affairs

- Orientation is finished, and is satisfied about it. GSA received positive feedback about it.
- GSA is hosting Wine & Cheese on Sept 30th.
- Need to plan Volunteer appreciation event before Sept 30th.
- RBC gave GSA \$500 for the orientation and \$500 from Alumni, and \$1000 from Student Care.

Kiani – VP Academic

- Met with a graduate student who had an academic problem, and met with CGSR regarding this issue.
- Ready for the Social Media workshop.

- Met with two professor to debate at the GSA for the next months.
- Met with Peggy from CGSR and USSU VP Academic to enhance advocacy for students.

Absher – VP Operations

- App launched yesterday. Really good feedback. Continuously meeting with Oohlala.
- Has SAAW meetings and planning an event for that week.
- Working with the bookstore to get the GSA online store.
- Working on organizing the first Health Chat on Sept 14th (Stress management & free yoga)
- Represented GSA at 2 orientations.
- Met with Peter Hanley to plan GSA engagement with the REACT Campaign.
- Was on the hiring committee for the GSA office coordinator positions. Two coordinators were hired.

Gaspar – VP External

- Working with CFS for Day of Action – March in Regina from Legislature to Victoria Square. The event will include food trucks and a concert. Weekly meetings are to occur on mobilizing/preparing for this event.
- Campaign material arrived. Time to mobilize starting with “The Gender Base Violence” in September.
- Office of Sustainability wants to use our commons for a meeting October 10th.
- Met with Rita about Health Chats.
- Talked to Colton about Health Chats for funding.
- Worked with Colton on conflict resolution related to the health and dental plan.
- Guppies teams will begin soon. Would appreciate if executives could sit on one of the sports teams to help facilitate. VP Finance agreed to participate in curling. VP Academic will sit on a team depending on member’s popularity. VP Student Affairs has a medical note stating they cannot participate on sports.

Ghaith – Ghaith

- 29 meetings in the past two weeks.
- Health and Dental Plan looking to increase that fee, because our members overused the plan. We will be paying them \$270000 due to the over-usage.
- We have options for next year regarding the Health and Dental plan to pay from reserved funds, decrease benefits or increase fees.
- Met with Martha Smith, acting Associate Dean. She is willing to help with regulate relationship between supervisor and students.
Working with CLS to activate it.
- Met with CFS Ann-Marie to plan on the Day of Action and to recruit a fieldworker.
- Represented GSA at four orientations.
- Meeting with SK Government Caucus in October.

6.2. Executive Duties & Responsibilities

[Z. Ghaith]

6.2.1. Ghaith explains that executives should know their duties strongly. The GSA pays the executives, and put more effort into your work. Show up in

the Commons. Ghaith told the executives to check emails everyday, to come to the meetings on time and to be more committed. If any of you feel that you can't handle your load of work, they can speak to Ghaith. Ghaith offered his help if workload is too much, he will help.

6.3. GSA Council Recruitment [Z. Ghaith]

6.3.1. Ghaith states that we must begin recruiting. He offered help with the hiring and drafting the email. He asked Absher to put up the link to the forms online. Ghaith will assume the communication with the students and answer questions about it. Absher will send the list to Sapal. Sapal will look after the attendance.

6.4. Council Cheques [Z. Ghaith]

6.4.1. Ghaith states that council is given money to council based on their attendance. There's a formula to calculate their funding. Sharma will ask Sherri for the formula. This is urgent and must be done by next week. Councils will be on FluidSurvey.

6.5. Positive Space [Z. Ghaith]

6.5.1. Ghaith explains that Absher campaigned on this, and it's important for the GSA.

6.5.2. Absher will share the dates with the executives to become trained as soon as possible. It's important for the executives and staff to go. Absher mentioned that she was planning for the workshop for the summertime, however, this failed this summer based on everyone's schedule. Absher asked executives to ask her any questions about the program if they're unaware of it and will find a time that works best for everyone.

6.6. Mini Library [Z. Ghaith]

6.6.1. Ghaith states that the mini library is here and that book donation is open. Absher will publicize it.

6.6.2. Gaspar recommends wrapping the book up and writing the story line. She will work on this.

6.7. Building Air Conditioner [Z. Ghaith]

6.7.1. Ghaith states that he spoke with the U of S VP Finance and Resources about it, and he will help the GSA for this. He will come by the GSA, and help out if the University agrees. Similarly, the trees around the building need to be trimmed. The University will get back to the GSA to see how they can help.

6.8. Representation to the College of Ag Bio Faculty Council [Z. Ghaith]

6.8.1. Ghaith explains that he received a call for grad representation. Ghaith states that he can sit on it. All in favor.

6.9. Health Chats [N. Absher]

6.9.1. Absher explains that the first Health Chat will take place next Wednesday, September 14. It will be on stress management and a yoga session.

6.9.2. Ghaith recommends using discretionary funds. Ghaith moves a motion to use VP Operation & External's discretionary funds for the snacks for the health chats. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor. Motion carries.

6.10. Sexual Assault Awareness Week **[N. Absher]**

6.10.1. Absher will send invitation to the team to be a part of this week. Kiani and Gaspar will support with planning the GSA workshop on consent culture. Kiani will connect Absher with professors from the U of S to conduct a workshop.

6.11. GSA Products **[N. Absher]**

6.11.1. Absher explained that she is currently working with the Bookstore to start an online store for GSA members to buy GSA products. Kusum and Ghaith offered to help out with this initiative.

6.12. GSA App **[N. Absher]**

6.12.1. Absher reminded the executives that the GSA app launched yesterday at the Orientation. Since then, about 300 people are currently using it. She explained that to further engage with our members, it's important for the executives to download the app and use it.

7. Adjournment at 6:16 PM.