

Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 6th, 2016 - GSA Commons 05:07 P.M. – 07:37 P.M.

Present: Z. Ghaith (President), N. Absher (VP Operations), S. Spapal (VP Student Affairs), K. Sharma (VP Finance), C. Gaspar (VP External)
Regrets: M. Tootosis (VP Aboriginal Liaison)

1. **Call to Order** at 5:07 PM.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
 - 2.1. The Executive Committee added the following agenda items: Holiday social, Positive Spaces, Anti-racism workshop, and GSA fees. Ghaith moves a motion to approve agenda as amended. Seconded by Sapal. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. **Items for Actions/Information**
 - 3.1. **Presentation by Meera Kachroo**
 - 3.1.1. Ghaith welcomed Meera Kachroo to the Executive Committee. Meera explained that the U of S is exploring Religious and spiritual life on campus. She is currently identifying stakeholders who are interested in or work in this area. This includes the multi-faith chaplains. She will be looking into the allocation prayer space, programming for interfaith dialogue, and bridging with Indigenous spirituality. She will also be trying to assess the needs and making final recommendations. The goal is to build a culture of inclusivity and plurality on campus. Ghaith spoke of having a multi-faith space for graduate students at the GSA Commons, but there're not enough moneys in the budget to cover the costs of renovations. Ghaith stated that having a library specific for multi-faith would also be great. Meera explained that regular programming is needed, as well as programs that ties to the communities of worship. Another barrier is connecting the chaplaincy with students.
 - 3.2. **Presentation by ISA**
 - 3.2.1. Isa sent a funding proposal on November 8th with regards to Parichay event that occurred on November 19th. There were 80+ graduate students. Sharma explained that \$500 is the maximum the GSA can give out to a social club, and that's how much they were given last year. Ghaith is concerned because the event has already happened, and proposed \$400. Sharma explained that she agrees and they must be proactive. Ghaith moved

a motion to approve \$400. Seconded by Kiani. 4 in favor. 2 abstained.
Motion carried.

3.3. Presentation by SENSEA

3.3.1. SENSEA is hosting an event on April 1st to celebrate its 10 years anniversary. The tickets are \$150, which is expensive for graduate students. SENSEA is aiming to reduce the price of the tickets for graduate students by fundraising. They're expecting 50 graduate students. Ghaith asked how this would benefit graduate students. This will benefit graduate students because it provides an opportunity to connect students with keynote speakers, as well as faculty. This event is open to public. Ghaith stated that transparency is important to the GSA, as well as promotions. Ghaith explained that SENSEA is one of the more active councilors. He moved a motion to approve \$500 for this event. Seconded by Absher. Sapal suggested paying them \$3 per student. Ghaith explained that there's nothing stating this in the bylaws. Ghaith revises his motion. He moved a motion to allocation \$400 for this event. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor. Motion carried.

3.4. Presentation by TGSA

3.4.1. TGSA plans a trip to Elk Ridge annually for a department retreat. This event is an opportunity for graduate students to build relationships for future academic collaboration. TGSA requests the GSA to sponsor this event with \$200-\$300 for the food costs. This will ensure that there's financial support for the food for the attendees, as the other costs are out of pocket. They're anticipating 35 students. Ghaith moved a motion to allocate \$300 towards this event. Seconded by Sapal. All in favor. Motion carried.

3.5. Three Minutes Reports

3.5.1. Ghaith moved a motion to cancel this item.

3.6. Holiday Season Greeting Cards

[Z. Ghaith]

3.6.1. Ghaith stated that the GSA should send greeting cards to various stakeholders at the U of S and throughout the community. Gaspar recommended that there should be a photo on the cards. Sapal and Sharma agreed, as this will make it more personal. Ghaith explained that there will be 200 cards sent out on behalf of the GSA.. Ghaith nominated Gaspar. Gaspar took lead of this initiative to figure out how much it costs and the plan is to approve this by email.

3.7. President Service Award Committee

[Z. Ghaith]

3.7.1. Ghaith explained that this committee will review nomination for the President Service Award given annually at the U of S convocation, and asked if anyone was interested. Kiani nominated himself to sit on this committee. All in favor.

3.8. Review Committee (In Camera)

[Z. Ghaith]

3.9. President Sustainability Council [Z. Ghaith]

3.9.1. Ghaith asked if anyone was interested in participating on this committee. Ghaith nominates Jaylene from SENSEA to sit on this committee.

3.10. Executive Council Reports [Z. Ghaith]

3.10.1. Ghaith explained that sending reports to the council is required is by the bylaws, so it's important to have it ready when the GSA Chair makes a call for agenda items.

3.11. Soil Sciences Funding Request [K. Sharma]

3.11.1. Sharma explained that the Soil Sciences is planning to host an event, and they're expecting 60 graduate students. They're asking the GSA to fund \$400 for their event. Ghaith explained that they're not registered as an academic council. Sharma sent them an email to ask them to become ratified. Ghaith will correspond with them to become ratified.

3.12. PGSA Funding Request [K. Sharma]

3.12.1. Sharma said that the Psychology Graduate Student Association is planning to host an event on March 3rd, 2017, and they sent a proposal for sponsorship. They're expecting 20 graduate students. They're collaborating with Psychology Undergraduate Student Association. Sharma proposes to correspond with them and recommend that they send us a detailed proposal for the funding request.

3.13. Anti-Racism Workshop [A. Kiani]

3.13.1. Kiani stated that he is planning an Anti-Racism Workshop on December 19th in partnership with community garden in McKeowan Park. He's expecting more 30 graduate students to attend this event. Sharma asked why it's being held in the residence. Kiani explained that this is a good opportunity to reach out to the community. Kiani asked to approve \$120 to this event. Ghaith said that \$100 for this workshop is sufficient. Kiani moved a motion to allocate \$100 for this event. Seconded by Ghaith. 5 in favor. 1 abstention. Motion carried.

3.14. GSA Fees (In Camera)

3.15. Holiday Social [S. Sapal]

3.15.1. Sapal said that she began planning for the December holiday social. She stated that she plans to offer burgers, drinks free of cost, and offer alcoholic beverages will be for sale. She expects around 50 students to attend this social. Sapal moved a motion to allocate \$350 towards this event from the student initiatives seconded by Ghaith. All in favor. Motion carried.

3.16. Positive Spaces [N. Absher]

3.16.1. Absher explained that she has been in touch with the Pride Centre, and they explained that the sessions provided this term was an introduction to the Positive Space initiative. The Pride Centre is planning another organizational

session for the GSA next term that will run for 3 hours in the Commons. Absher stated that she is working with the Pride Centre to coordinate this session for the Executive Committee and staff.

4. Adjournment at 7:37 PM.