



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Executive Committee Minutes
Friday, February 24th, 2017 - GSA Commons**

Present: Z. Ghaith (President), N. Absher (VP Operations), K. Sharma (VP Finance), S. Sapal (VP Student Affairs) & A. Kiani (VP Academic)

Regrets: Iloradanon Efimoff (VP Aboriginal Liaison) & C. Gaspar (VP External)

1. Call to Order at 5:11 PM

2. Approval of the Agenda

- 2.1. The Executive Committee added the following agenda items: New and Distinguished Research Awards Selection Committee, Promotions, Recent Communication between VP Student Affairs and VP Finance (In Camera), UPASS, Presentation by BSA, and Presentation by WUSC.

Ghaith moved a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Kiani. 4 in favor. 1 abstained

Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:

3.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on February 10th, 2017

Sapal moved a motion to approve the minutes as posted as website. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor.

Carried.

4. Presentation by SPHSA

SPHSA has two big student-life events, a snowball and Gradball. SPHSA is currently planning Gradball, booked for March 25th at Underground to celebrating the graduating cohort. Students are responsible for covering the costs. They are expecting 65 attendees, all graduate students. SPHSA is currently asking for \$500, and will be fundraising to help reach the goal.

Ghaith moved a motion to allocate \$200 to sponsor SPHSA. Seconded by Kiani. 3 in favor. 1 abstained. Sharma will contact them.

Carried.

5. Presentation by BSA

Bangladesh Students' Association (BSA) submitted a proposal for a sponsorship for two events. The first event was the International Language Day that occurred on February 21st, and the second event will be a cultural show on April 14th. BSA engages in fundraising from the

community, but needs further support from the GSA. Approximately 80% of members are graduate students in BSA.

Ghaith moved a motion to allocate \$150 to sponsor BSA. Seconded by Sharma. All in favor. Ghaith will contact them.

Carried.

6. Presentation by WUSC

WUSC is requesting the GSA to sponsor the Shine a Light Gala, a campaign that provides school supplies to women in refugee camps, and increases the awareness here. All the fundraising proceeds goes to this campaign. WUSC is requesting to purchase a table of 10 seats for the GSA, as well as another table for the performers. It will take place on March 2nd at 5:30 in the marquis Hall.

VP Operations & VP Finance donated \$50 each from their discretionary funds to sponsor WUSC

Ghatih moved a motion to allocate \$150 from Student Club budget line to sponsor WUSC. Seconded by Sharma. All in favor. Ghaith will contact them.

Carried.

7. Presentation by Sustainability Committee

The President's Sustainability Council is exploring initiatives on campus and how the GSA can support these initiatives. One initiative is the sustainability Fund to go towards a sustainability pot for the initiatives related to sustainability on campus.

Two potential: referendum to approve an increase in the fees. Secondly is that the GSA is to explore if there's anything in the budget that can support this fund. The GSA Sustainability Committee might need to make a request to the Audit and Finance Committee.

8. Presentation by Mathematics

They will be hosting a conference. They're expecting 40 graduate students.

Sharma moved a motion to allocate \$200 to sponsor Mathematics. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor. Sharma will contact them.

Carried.

9. Reports

1. VP Finance

- Coordinating the finance and audit committee
- Planning the Tax Filing service

2. VP Academics

- Sat on hearing boards and met with students
- Attended committees

3. VP Students Affairs

- Represented Graduate students in various committees.
- Planned GSA social event last month and the outcome was very good in the event.
- Planning Poetry night on International Women's day i.e. March 8, 2017 to celebrate women empowerment.
- Helping Ali and 3MT coordinator in planning the conference.
- Serving on GALA committee as a member.

4. VP External

5. VP Operations & Communications

- Represented graduate students on committees
- Coordinating the Bursary Selection Committee
- Planning the Sustainability Slam & Carbonless Concert with the Sustainability Committee
- Promoting the Graduate Achievement Week
- Planning ThinkGRAD Conference
- Planning next month's social event on International Women's Day

6. VP Aboriginal Liaison

7. President

- Represented GSA in 18 meetings since last meeting
- Working on governance documents of the GSA
- Working with the Audit and Finance Committee
- Working with VPTL to organized a meeting for Graduate-supervisor agreement

10. Items for Actions/Information

10.1. CFS

[C. Gaspar]

Absher explained that Gaspar sent her regrets, and will explain her item for the committee. CFS will be hosting a Prairie RISE (Racialized and Indigenous Student Experience) Summit. CFS will fund 5 participants from this local to attend the summit. Gaspar nominated Kiani and Efimoff to attend this meeting. Sapal and Sharma was also interested in attending. Ghaith explained that he will speak with the Efimoff to see if she is interested and to nominate another Indigenous student to participate in this conference.

10.2. March SGM

[Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith told the Executive Committee to encourage graduate students to attend and vote at the SGM. The GSA will need 51 students to attend on March 13th, 2017.

10.3. GSA Annual Report

[Z. Ghaith]

The GSA president is required to report an annual report, but will need the input from the Executives.

He requested that the Executive send him the most important thing about the portfolio (executive will need their own annual report in April). Deadline wasn't provided.

10.4. Distinguished Supervisor Selection Committee . [Z. Ghaith]

CGPS is requesting a graduate student representation on this committee. This committee meets over summer. The Executive Committee decided that Ghaith will sit on this committee.

10.5. Provost's Award Selection Committee [Z. Ghaith]

GMTC is requesting a graduate student representation on this committee. Kiani nominates Ghaith to sit on this committee.

10.6. MHFA [N. Absher]

Kiani and Ghaith will cover the office manager's shift on March 13th from opening until 1 while she's at the training session.

Ghaith nominated Kiani and Sapal to attain this training as they interact with several graduate students along with the Office Manager. They will use their discretionary fund if the fundraised amount is not sufficient.

10.7. Poetry Night [S. Sapal]

Sapal explained that the GSA will be hosting a March social to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th with a poetry night. Sharma explained that there is only \$213 remaining in that budget line. Sapal inquired about the amount she fundraised from orientation and utilizing it for events. Sharma explained that there's \$1300 in the fundraising budget line.

Ghaith moved a motion to allocate \$100 for the March social event. Kiani seconded. 3 in favor. 2 opposed.

Carried.

Absher moved a motion to allocate \$200 for the March social event. 2 in favor. 3 opposed.

Overruled.

10.8. Graduate Student Representation on WUSC [Z. Ghaith]

University exploring the possibility to include graduate students in the WUSC initiatives, they have contacted the GSA President in this regards. GSA President will discuss this with the Council in February.

10.9. Executive Director – SENS [Z. Ghaith]

Naomi Maina will be appointed by the GSA to sit on this search committee.

10.10. New and Distinguished Research Awards Selection Committee [N. Absher]

Absher explained that she was nominated to sit on this committee, however they will be meeting on the morning of March 17th which conflicts with her an academic commitment. Ghaith will sit on this committee. Absher will relay this information to the committee coordinator.

10.11. Promotions [N. Absher]

Tabled.

10.12. U-PASS

[K. Sharma]

Tabled.

11. Adjournment. Quorum lost, meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM