



**University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
Executive Committee Minutes  
Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - GSA Commons**

**Present:** Z. Ghaith (President), N. Absher (VP Operations), S. Sapal (VP Student Affairs), A. Kiani (VP Academic), C. Gaspar (VP External), I. Efimoff (VP Aboriginal Liaison)

**1. Call to Order at 5:09**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

2.1. The executive committee the following:

- 2.1.1. Graduate Representation
- 2.1.2. Planning Advisory Committee
- 2.1.3. Cold beverage allocation
- 2.1.4. U-Pass
- 2.1.5. Tax Filing Service
- 2.1.6. Financial Literacy Workshop

*Ghaith moved a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Illoradanon. All in favor.*

**Carried.**

**3. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:**

**3.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

*Ghaith moved a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Illoradanon. All in favor.*

**Carried.**

**4. Presentation by EGCC**

EGCC booked the GSA Commons for a social event they plan to host on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, to bring graduate students together and will be serving free food. There will be team building activities. Approximately 150 people attended last year, and will be anticipating more since the last event was successful. EGCC is requesting a funding for about \$1000 for sponsorship which will cover food, advertisements, etc.

*Absher moved a motion to approve a sponsorship of \$400 to EGCC. Seconded by Kiani. 5 in favor. 2 opposed.*

**Carried.**

## 5. Funding Request from Chemistry Graduate Students' Council

CGSC is planning a graduate symposium for them to practice presenting. It was first held in 2015 and the topic was Science & Communication. Graduate students will have the opportunity to enhance their skills and the theme will from Academia to Industry, and will be having a Keynote speaker. Last year there was 20 speakers and 25 posters presented. This year will be expecting more (50-60) especially since it will be divided into two days. The U of R students will also be participating. It will be in THORV 105 in May. The estimated budget will be about \$2500.

*Sapal moved a motion to approve a sponsorship of \$400. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor.*

**Carried.**

## 6. Reports

### 1. VP Finance

- Sat on Governance Committee
- Reconciled UPASS.
- Dealt with finance issues.

### 2. VP Academics

- Represented graduate students on committees, and University Council.
- Attended to Governance Townhall and went to Health Chat.
- Working with 3MT Thesis Coordinator.
- Planning an Anti-Racism Workshop next month.
- Planning a Health Chat with Health & Wellness Committee for February.

### 3. VP Students Affairs

- Sat on two different committees.
- Planned for Jan Wine & Cheese and will be planning the February social event.
- Sat on coordinator selection committees.
- Serving on GSA Gala Committee.

### 4. VP External

- Co-facilitated a Health Chat.
- Attended 11 meetings since the last committee meeting.
- Fundraising for Gala.
- Developing posters for Gala.
- Attending a CFS Graduate Student Caucus Feb 23-27. (costs are covered by CFS).

### 5. VP Aboriginal Liaison

- Working with ASC to plan Aboriginal Achievement Week and sitting on Awards planning Committee.
- Student leader meeting with VPTL.
- Attended the gala planning committee, Health Chat and another IGC meeting and townhall.
- Met with ISACC.

### 6. VP Operations & Communications

- Volunteered with the President's Office to host PM.
- Working with the psychologist Vicki Herman to set up an 8 week meditation course in October and November.
- Coordinated Health Chat on Physical Activity with Ali.
- Hosted a Health Chat on Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Partnering with Moksha Yoga for a free session on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Beginning to coordinate the GSA Winter Bursary.
- Hosted a Copyright Session.
- Met with Office Manager.
- Met with the GSA Sustainability Committee to plan for the Sustainability Slam & Carbonless Concert.
- Attending a conference with the U of S President.

## 7. President

- Attended 20 meetings.
- Working on Governance documents.
- Represent GSA on University Council and in CGPS.
- Governance Town Hall will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> and the Executive Committee approved.

## 7. Items for Actions/Information

### 7.1. Gala Deposit

[C. Gaspar]

*Gaspar moved a motion to have \$525.00 sent to Right Labs to have them create a Gala website for the sales of tickets from the Gala Budget line.*

**Carried.**

### 7.2. GSA Representation

[Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith stated that the GSA is an autonomous organization and decided who sits on various committees. Best practice is the call for representation is brought to the executive committee and collective decision is made. The GSA executive will draft a letter to different units in the University to highlight how the GSA work internally. Gaspar explained that this is important to bring to the Governance Committee to ensure this is highlighted in our documents.

### 7.3. Planning Advisory Committee

[C. Gaspar]

Gaspar explained that she received an invitation to sit on this committee, and wanted to bring this for the GSA exec committee to decide about the GSA representation on it as this is the GSA best practice. It will be good to put someone from the council on this committee and Gaspar suggests Isaac Pratt.

*Gaspar moved a motion that the GSA appoints Isaac Pratt to sit on Planning and Advisory Committee. Seconded by Sapal.*

**Carried.**

### 7.4. MHFA Training

[N. Absher]

Absher stated that \$170 will be allocated from the fundraised moneys from the Health and Dental towards the Mental Health First Aid Training.

**7.5. GSA Representation on University Council Governance Committee [Z. Ghaith]**

The University Council Governance committee is searching for GSA representation as an observing member of the committee, and Ghaith recommended Illoradanon to sit on it.

*Ghaith moved a motion to nominate Illoradanon to serve on the Governance Committee. All in favor.*

**Carried.**

**7.6. U of S Building Reconciliation Forum [Z. Ghaith]**

This is a forum for student leaders, and the GSA Executive is invited by the University and Illoradanon will forward the email to the Executive.

**7.7. Staff Meeting [N. Absher]**

The Executive committee approved \$150 from the VP Academic's (\$50) and VP Operations's (\$100) discretionary fund to cover the cost of this meeting.

**7.8. Cold beverage allocation [N. Absher]**

GSA received 7000 dollars as part of the cold beverage allocation. Sharma stated that this will be put into the cold beverage revenue line revenue line.

**7.9. U-Pass [K. Sharma]**

Sharma went through the finances of the U-Pass. The fees is \$107, but students have been overcharged \$0.43. The University was informed and will be deposited into the students' accounts next term. The cheque is ready but awaiting an official invoice. Sharma will inform the Council once she received an official invoice.

**7.10. Tax Filing Service [K. Sharma]**

Tax Filing Service will be occurring this term for graduate students, and GSA must decide the date. Sharma will decide when it will take place.

**7.11. Financial Literacy Workshop [K. Sharma]**

Sharma is planning the Financial Literacy workshop on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Adjournment at 6:49 PM.**