



**University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - GSA Commons**

**Present:** C. Gaspar (VP External), A. Kiani (VP Academic), M. Tootosis (VP Aboriginal Liaison), S. Sapal (VP Student Affairs) & K. Sharma (VP Finances)

**Regrets:** Z. Ghaith (President), N. Absher (VP Operations & Communication)

**1. Call to Order at 5:05 PM.**

*Motion was moved to have Gaspar chair this Executive Committee meeting. All in favor.*

**Carried.**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The following additions were made to the agenda.

- 4.2 Presentation by Jeremy from Department of Mathematics and Statistics.
- 6.6 3 minutes' thesis competition coordinator - Added by Gaspar.
- 6.7 Effective communication skills workshop - Added by Kiani.
- 6.8 Aboriginal liaison transition – Added by Tootosis.

*A motion was moved to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor.*

**Carried.**

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

**3.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

*Gaspar moved a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016.  
All in favor.*

**Carried.**

**4. Presentations**

**4.1. Presentation by the Soil Sciences Academic Council**

Did not happen as the representative was not present.

**4.2. Presentation by Jeremy from Department of Mathematics and Statistics.**

Sharma introduced Jeremy, a graduate student in the department of Mathematics and Statistics. PIMS organizes an annual conference and this is the first year that it will be hosted in SK and will be organized by students, therefore, Jeremy is asking for sponsorship from the GSA. There will be 20 graduate students from the U of S and other participants from other universities. It will be held in the Arts building. Jeremy shared the tentative budget with the committee. They will need \$14000. Jeremy asked if they could use the GSA's BBQ, and

Gaspar asked if they'd be interested in holding the event in the Commons. Jeremy said they could hold it in the Commons. Sharma confirmed that the department of math and statistics is not ratified with the GSA, and that they need to be ratified before they could be sponsored by the GSA. Sharma explained that she will be in touch with Jeremy via email throughout the ratification process and CC Absher.

## **5. Reports**

### **1. Aboriginal Liaison**

- Transition of IGSC co-chair to Aboriginal liaison position happening currently.
- As Aboriginal liaison, currently sitting on the indigenous implementation committee for Arts and Science. We are developing a course ideally for Arts and Science's conditions and requirements.

### **2. VP Finance**

- Cheque for health and dental premium has been written and dispatched.
- Attended governance committee. They want to change the governance structure of GSA, by-laws policies and the GSA constitution. Townhall is on January, 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Second Financial literacy workshop will happen in first week of February. Pizza will be provided.
- Sharma is yet to hear from UFile regarding the taxes. Sharma wrote to them and is waiting for reply.

### **3. VP Academics**

- Had meetings with students to help with their problems and met associate dean.
- Attended committee meetings.
- Hired coordinator for 3-minutes thesis competition.
- Having workshop this month and planning one for next month too.

### **4. VP Students Affairs**

- Apart from attending committees, attended student forum day talked about academic and non-academic student health.
- Served as a committee member on the Gala and 3MT Coordinator hiring committees.
- Planning for wine and cheese social on 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **5. VP External**

- Planned, coordinated, and conducted the Gala Coordinator interviews.
- Trained and hired the Gala Coordinator, who has already begun working.
- Gala planning is in full force. Starting to receive RSVPs from faculty and community members.
- Registered two Guppies teams this term: Futsal and Volleyball.
- Successfully had the GSA Guppies Dodgeball Social
- Successfully completed our first Health Chat with Student Care last night.
- Working on planning the second Health Chat for this month dated January 25<sup>th</sup> on Chronic Pain. This will be facilitated by a Graduate Student.
- Attended 10 meetings since the beginning of this term.
- Worked on the Fee Review Committee Request for increase in our fees
- Collaborated with other GSA's to share best-practice on graduate student experience a governance structures.

## 6. VP Operations & Communications

- Helped with the GSA Winter Orientation.
- Sat on the hiring committee for the GSA Gala and 3MT Coordinators.
- Working with the GSA Sustainability Committee to write a proposal for the Sustainability Symposium, as well as planning workshops.
- Coordinated a Health and Wellness committee meeting and will be planning for two Health Chats.
- Planned to have a free yoga session in the Commons on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Attended Grad APC and University APC meetings.
- Attended Student Forum to discuss Mental Health.
- Currently fundraising for the Mental Health First Aid.
- Will be participating at the Global Connections Network.
- Working with USSU VP Academic to finalize and launch the mentorship program.
- Created and currently disseminating the GSA Bulletin.
- Communicating with members through email, PAWS and social media.
- Acted as the GSA President this week.

## 6. Items for Actions/Information

### 6.1. Guppies Motion

*Gaspar moved a motion to have \$100 from the GSA Guppies budget line be allocated to creating two campus rec teams, Futsal & Volleyball at a cost of \$50 each. 5 in favor.*

**Carried.**

Gaspar explained that GSA registered two teams' futsal and volleyball this term. A couple of members were interested in registering a basketball team but not sufficient enough to form a team.

### 6.2. Gala Coordinator

**[C. Gaspar]**

Gaspar explained that the GSA Gala Coordinator was hired and will be working 12 hours per week. She is currently drafting sponsorship letters and those will be sent out for fundraising.

### 6.3. ThinkGrad

**[C. Gaspar]**

Gaspar stated that the GSA will host the ThinkGrad Conference between April 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2017. This will be the first ever ThinkGrad conference. We ask CGSR for sponsorships to cover for some of the costs associated with hosting the conference. The participants will be paying for their accommodations and travels. Gaspar and the committee discussed the conference. Gaspar will send the ThinkGrad proposal to the committee for review. There is no buy-in associated with hosting the ThinkGRAD conference so it allows the GSA one last opportunity to vet documents and make recommendations to the future VP External.

### 6.4. January Social

**[S. Sapal]**

The January social will take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> and it will be Wine and Cheese social. This will be a great event for new students to come out and interact with other graduate students.

Sharma explained that Sapal has \$370 in her discretionary fund, and Sapal asked to approve \$400 for the social, and if she needs more she will use her discretionary fund.

*Sapal moved a motion to allocate \$400 for the January Social. Seconded by Illoradannon and all in favor.*

**Carried.**

**6.5. 3 minutes' thesis competition coordinator – In Camera**

**6.6. Effective communication skills workshop**

*Kiani moved a motion to allocate 100\$ for the Effective Communication Skills workshop. Seconded by Carolyn and all in favor.*

**Carried.**

**6.7. Aboriginal Liaison Transition**

**[Totoosis]**

Totoosis explained that IGSC elected a co-chair to sit on the GSA as the Aboriginal Liaison through AGM. Therefore, if the current Aboriginal Liaison leaves, their duties is assumed by the co-chair according to the constitution. Illoradannon is selected as the new GSA Aboriginal Liaison.

**7. Adjournment at 6:06 PM.**