

Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 11th, 2016 - GSA Commons 05:00 P.M. – 07:00 P.M.

Present: Z. Ghatih (President), N. Absher (VP Operations), C. Gaspar (VP External), A. Kiani (VP Academic), M. Tootoosis (VP Aboriginal Liaison).

Regrets: S. Sapal (VP Student Affairs), K. Sharma (VP Finance)

- 1. Call to Order** at 5:00 PM
- 2. Approval of Chair** Absher nominates Ghaith. Seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 3. Approval of Minute Taker** Ghatih nominates Absher. Seconded by Kiani. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 4. Approval of the Agenda**
 - 4.1.** Kiani moves a motion to add blanket exercise as an item to the agenda. Tootoosis moves a motion to add Aboriginal Liaison and Indigenous Graduate Student Survey as an item to the agenda. Seconded by Tootoosis. All in favor. Motion carries. Absher moves a motion to remove Sharma's items. Seconded by Ghatih. All in favor. Motion carries. Ghatih moves a motion to approve the agenda as amended. 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 September 20th, 2016**
 - 5.1.1.** Ghaith moves a motion to approve the minutes as posted on the website. Seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 6. Items for Actions/Information**
 - 6.1. Three Minutes Reports**

Gaspar

- Attended 14 meetings in the past two weeks, including the Teaching and Learning summit on Indigenization.
- Worked with CFS on planning the Day of Action, it is important for us to mobilize our members. Increase awareness on social media. We have been endorsed by the Saskatchewan Labour Board. The Day of Action is happening on campus in the Bowl on Nov 2nd at 1PM. With smaller activities happening weekly up until that point. First activity is planned on Wednesday Oct 19th.
- Working with CFS on lobbying days occurring Oct 19-21 in Regina. I will be attending these events with President Ghaith.

- Received one quote from a venue, waiting for a second quote from another venue before bringing this to the executive to discuss.
- Meeting with Health and Dental next week to set fees.
- Now a part of the ThinkGRAD working group receiving in-time progress reports. Will discuss this at council on what tour members would exactly like from this body of students.

Kiani

- Currently planning a blanket exercise event.
- Attended a number of committee meetings.
- Dealing with few student problems
- Participate in University Council meeting
- Working on student application and registration problem with two of University Council members
- Planning for next month workshop and had a meeting with some professor about that
- meeting with CLS about student issues

Tootoosis

- Working on the GSA survey. Working with CGSR to develop an Indigenous specific survey.
- Met with CGSR to discuss Indigenous scholarship.
- Met with Dean's Executive as IGSC and working with Indigenous grad/undergrad mentorship for grad/undergrad ISC members.
- New Indigenous curriculum committee.
- Planning a Town hall meeting in Nov for IGSC.

Absher

- Met with USSU VP Operations to share best practices.
- Met with Office Manager
- Attended an APC and a centers committee, as well as a CGSR Council Meeting.
- Organizing and coordinating GSA Fall Bursary.
- Hosted a Consent Culture workshop.
- Met with Kayla and Jason to discuss comfort room in the GSA.
- Participated in a panel Discussion during SAAW.
- Took part in the development of the GSA section of the USafe app and participated in React campaign.
- Met with Office Manager to discuss notary, newsletter and ways to improve communication.

Ghath

- Attended 40 meetings as of Sept 20.
- Working on graduate representation. Had a meeting in Regina with the provincial government to address the representation on the University Council and Board of Governance.

- Represented GSA at the University Council and CGSR meetings and addressed issues.
- By December, hoping to have Student/supervisor MOU.

Sharma

- Meeting with David for academic council cheques: i have found the formula that governs the calculations. i am now waiting for the number of students in the department and council heads attendance to calculate the amount. As soon as i will have these numbers i will write the cheques.
- TVC: the agreement prepared by me was not deemed fit for such loan amount. Therefore, Tom is drafting new agreement now with changes incorporated in it.
- GSA visa: the credit amount has been raised to \$2000 and it will be effective starting coming Monday. This will be followed by implementation of our credit card policy too.
- I am working on renewal of GSA insurance for the upcoming year. Due date is November 5th. Planning to finish it earlier than that.
- Health and Dental: The numbers provided to David by Kristin and not matching the invoice given to GSA recently. I am trying to put up a meeting with Kristin to work on this. Have not heard from her recently.

6.2. Funding Proposal from CSGCC

[Z. Ghaith]

6.2.1. Ghaith explains that this group is looking to get a sponsorship. This is an event for graduate students in computer science. Ghaith suggests to sponsor the third best poster (\$200). Gaspar and Kiani recommend sponsoring the people's choice award at \$100 instead. Ghaith explains that the GSA would present it to the best poster and recognizing the person's achievements. Gaspar explains that people's choice award would be better. Ghaith moves to approve a \$100 for the people's choice award at the CSGCC. Seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. Motion carries.

6.3. Update: Human Services Caucus Policy Committee Meeting

[Z. Ghaith]

6.3.1. Ghaith attended a meeting with the provincial government committee to inform them that the graduate students are underrepresented. Ghaith explained that they listened, and received many questions after the meetings. Ghaith contacted them after meeting to followup, but they didn't share any information as this is confidential. Ghaith has other plans if this doesn't work out to have a petition to improve graduate students representation. He explained that there's only one voting graduate member in Council while undergraduate body have 8 voting members. Graduate students have no seat at the board of governance even though we have 17% population. Tootoosis asked if it's challenging to only open the act for only reason. Ghaith explained that this is correct, but they might consider opening it if there's other reasons. Tootoosis explained that IGSC is figuring out representation and wonders if there should be an indigenous graduate or undergraduate

student on the board of governance as well. Ghaith invites IGSC to cooperate with the GSA, and to have indigenous support. Tootoosis will approach ISC and IGSC.

6.4. Volunteer Appreciation Event [Z. Ghaith]

6.4.1. Ghaith would like to draw VP Student Affairs attention to organize this, and will speak to her since she's not present.

6.5. GSA Credit Card Proposal [Z. Ghaith]

6.5.1. Ghaith explained that VP External and Finance worked on this. The GSA has credit card, however guidelines were not specified in governance documents. This will bound us to our term, and VP External will bring this to the attention of the Governance Review Committee. Ghaith moves a motion to approve this policy for internal use. Seconded by Gaspar. All in favor.

6.6. GSA Orientation Sponsorship [Z. Ghaith]

6.6.1. Ghaith Wanted to inform VP Student Affairs that she should get the money from the Alumni association, and he will inform her once he meets with her.

6.7. Positive Space [N. Absher]

6.7.1. Absher explained that she has been in contact with Joel Fonstad to determine when the workshop will take place. Currently, there're no set dates, but will notify executives once the scheduling is determined.

6.8. GSA Photoshoot [N. Absher]

6.8.1. Absher said that it is important for the GSA executive and staff to have their photos done by a professional photographer for the website. She explained that there's someone willing to do a photoshoot but it depends on how much we'd be willing to offer. Ghaith recommends a \$100. Gaspar explained that if he's good we'll recommend him to the gala committee to be the gala photographer. Ghaith suggests that all attending executive should allocate \$20 towards this initiative. Absher moves a motion to allocate a 100\$ (20\$ from each of the present executives' discretionary fund) towards a GSA photoshoot. Seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. Motion carries.

6.9. GSA Fall Bursary [N. Absher]

6.9.1. Absher stated that the GSA fall bursary is now open for submission until October 31st. This time, there will be 25 students that will be awarded \$1000 each. She acknowledged that CGSR has made a contribution to this amount. At the council, a call to form a bursary selection committee will be made, as the committee should include VP Finance, VP Academic, VP Operations and three other councilors.

6.10. GSA Newsletter [N. Absher]

6.10.1. Absher explained that as per the discussion at the GSA Retreat, the GSA will implement a newsletter. However, it will be called GSA Bulletin. It will go out to members on the 1st and 15th of every month to standardize and improve outgoing communication with members. Ghaith explained that this is important. Absher asked the executives to please respond to the call for announcements to make sure this will be successful.

6.11. Executive Office Cleanliness [N. Absher]

6.11.1. Absher explained that the executives should try to maintain the cleanliness of the Executive Committee office.

6.12. CIHR Thrust Retreat Sponsorship [N. Absher]

6.12.1. Absher explained that CIHR Thrust Retreat is organized by graduate students in the chemistry department. They're asking for GSA sponsorships in the form of small items goodies. She asked the executives if there're any goodies left from orientation, but the executives explained that we ran out. Ghaith explained that there're plenty of agendas and should ask them if they're interested in those. Absher said she will notify them of this and sponsor them with agendas if they're interested.

6.13. Blanket Exercise

6.13.1. Kiani explained that he will be hosting a blanket exercise event on October 27th. He explained that this is an IGSC event. It's about the history of indigenous people of Canada. Ghaith explained that there's another similar event by Building Bridges. Kinai is expecting 50 people. Absher asked Kinai if he will be ordering food. Kiani asked for \$200 to order supper. Ghaith explained that it's best to have donuts and coffee. Kinai stated that it is important to spend money on these events because it brings people to the commons and they're very engaging. Tootoosis offered to connect Kinai to ASC and see if they'd support a portion of the cost of food. Ghaith recommends that we will decide an amount next meeting.

6.14. Aboriginal Liaison

6.14.1. Tootoosis stated that he would like to switch his title to an Indigenous Liaison instead of Aboriginal Liaison. The term Indigenous is international, while Aboriginal is an imposed term, and groups all Indigenous people in Canada. Indigenous is a term that is popularized by the UN saying that an Indigenous person is someone that was present before colonization. USASK is leaning towards this term as well. It's not place-specific. Tootoosis wonders if the GSA would specify who that position is open to. IGSC are comfortable anyone, so any INDG can be in it. It's more appropriate. If the GSA switches it, they should specify if it can be international or specific Inuit, First Nations and Metis individuals. Ghaith explained that this will go towards AGM but we should have the discussion with the council. Ghaith

asked Tootosis to you write a description, and bring it to the Nov council. Gaspar will take this to the Governance Review Committee.

6.15.Indigenous Graduate Student Survey

6.15.1. Tootosis explained that there will be an Indigenous Graduate Student Survey through CGSR and the goal is to get data to better understand the needs of the 200 Indigenous graduate students, what they're studying and where they're from. Ghaith stated that this is a great idea, and wonders if it would be possible to combine the results from the GSA Survey and the IGS Survey as one to represent the overall graduate students. Tootosis will bring this idea to the IGSC to see if they're willing to share the info to include in the GSA final report.

7. Adjournment at 6:31 PM