

Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 - GSA Commons

05:12 P.M. – 07:00 P.M.

Present: Z. Ghaith (president), Absher (VP operations), S. Sapal (VP student affairs), A. Kiani (VP academic), N. K. Sharma (VP finance).

Regrets: C. Gasper (VP external), D. Carrier (VP Aboriginal Liaison).

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Chair

2.1. Ghaith nominates himself. Seconded by Sharma. All in favor. Ghaith will chair the meeting.

3. Approval of Minute Taker

3.1. Ghaith nominates Absher. Seconded by Sapal. All in favor. Absher will be the minute taker.

4. Approval of the Agenda

4.1. The agenda is approved.

5. Presentation by Scott Adams

[Z. Ghaith]

5.1. Adams explained that the new U of S president is seeking students' and staff's input on the draft vision and mission of the U of S. The process entailed consultation of the entire university community. Two online surveys were conducted. The board of governance and senate approve this. Adams inquired if the GSA had any suggestions. Ghaith stated that the vision of the university doesn't align with the provincial vision. Therefore, the University should highlight how it will expand and adapt to the vision of the government of Saskatchewan. The university needs to explain how it will adapt to the province growth, and how they will support this with the budget. The strategic provincial

should be highlighted in this vision. This will make it stronger. Sapal stated that the university's vision needs to align with the federal government's vision as well. Adams explained that the university doesn't want this vision to be too political, since its autonomy would be compromised. He asked whether this is important to us as graduate students. Ghaith stated that this is very important to us. Kiani claimed that it also needs to explain how this vision will be applied, how can we track the results. Sapal explained that this is just the beginning. Adams stated that the university will create an integrated plan. Ghaith stated that Adams is welcome to the council meeting next week for more feedback from graduate students.

6. Motion: University Council Voting Rep. (May 18, 2016) [Z. Ghaith]

6.1. Ghaith explained that he sent an email regarding this motion (explained below). Four executives replied, it passed by two votes, three were absent from the vote, one opposed, and one abstained. Absher seconded this motion.

Whereas our Bylaw 2.5.1(iv) states that Vice President Academic sit on the University Council as a voting member for the association. Whereas the GSA Bylaw 2.2.1.(i) states that the GSA President should ensure the ethical and responsible leadership of the Association.

Be It Resolved, the GSA Executive Committee amend its decision to appoint the GSA President as a voting member and the Vice President Academic as a non-voting member on the University Council. Be it Further Resolved, the GSA Vice President Academic sit as a voting member on the University Council, and the GSA President sit as an observing member on the same Council.

7. Motion GSA Representation [Z. Ghaith]

7.1. Ghaith stated that for the university council and sub-committees meetings, meeting minutes are confidential. Therefore, over the past years, some of the executives weren't attending, so he proposed asking the university secretary to keep an attendance list to keep executives accountable. Sharma explained that they don't take attendance at all the meetings, so they must begin doing this first. Sapal stated that they should take minutes, as well as sharing the agenda and minutes with the executives.

7.2. Ghaith moved a motion to ask the university secretary to keep record of executive attendance. Kusum seconded this. All in favor. Motion passed.

Whereas the graduate students' representation in different University Council Committees, CGSR Committees, and other University Committees is vital that we ensure our members needs are addressed. Whereas the GSA Bylaw 2.2.1(v) highlights that part of the GSA President duties is to help to ensure that the responsibilities of each executive position are being met.

Be It Resolved, that the GSA President requests the University Secretary, CGSR secretary, and other committee secretaries provide the GSA President with the attendance of the GSA representative in different committees every three months.

8. 3 minute report by executive

8.1. Ghaith moved a motion to add this item in every meeting and call it 3 minute oral report by executives. Absher seconded this motion. 1 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstained. This motion failed. Sharma didn't find this item necessary, as we are already updating each other. Sapal agreed. Ghaith claimed that this is important for communication, and it's good to highlight the work that is unseen by everyone, and it keeps accountability. He also explained that other associations do this, it's positive, and it would strengthen our team. Sharma explained that this might be a way for some individuals to show-off. Sapal agreed. Kiani claimed that he understood why it is good and why it is bad.

9. GSA Orientation

[Z. Ghaith]

9.1. Ghaith asked when the orientation is. Sapal stated that the orientation is between September 1- 9. CGSR is hosting theirs on the 2nd of September, and we could host it on the same day. However, we could also have it on a separate day. I met with USSU, and I will be working with them. She asked if we want to have our orientation day on the same day as CGSR or on a different day. Ghaith inquired what the advantage/disadvantage. Sapal explained that it will be beneficial to have it on a separate day, we'd get a stage, banner, etc. If we collaborate with CGSR, we won't be able to display all of our sponsors. Ghaith explained that we get money from sponsors not CGSR. Sharma stated that our budget is \$7000.00, that we should get rid of the DJ, and hire local bands. Sapal claimed that that

wouldn't work, as the DJ is contracted with the USSU. Absher asked if there will be an orientation and planning committee. Sapal stated that there will be a committee and it will include USSU. Ghaith explained that we will organize our own orientation, stage, date, food, and we need food inspection, so we should do it on a separate day than CGSR. Ghaith claimed that we should pick a date, this is the most important thing now, he suggested the 6th of September, 5-8pm. Ghaith recommended that the GSA calls for volunteers, to make a list, and we need to get food inspection. He suggested Sapal to look at VP Student Affairs' report from the previous year. Absher and Sapal will send a call for volunteers. Ghaith stated that we should reconsider the food, because burgers create a long waiting line, or we could cook the burgers earlier. Sapal explained that cooking the burgers earlier will depend on how much time we will get to prepare everything, as they only had 30 minutes last year.

10. GSA Representation in the following Committees **[Z. Ghaith]**

10.1. College of Engineering's Student Society (SESS)

10.1.1. Sapal will find a student to sit on this committee.

10.2. Dean, College of Engineering

10.2.1. Sapal will find a student to sit on this committee.

10.3. Dean, College of Nursing

10.3.1. Ghaith will find a student to sit on this committee.

10.4. Executive Director, School of Environment and Sustainability

10.4.1. Shailza and Ziad will find a student to sit on this committee.

10.5. Dean, College of Arts & Science Search

10.5.1. Kiani nominates himself. Seconded by Absher. All in favor. Kiani will sit on this committee.

10.6. Executive Director, School of Public Health Search

10.6.1. Kiani nominates Absher. Sharma nominates herself, but decides against it. All in favor for Absher. Absher will sit on this committee.

11. GSA Executive Communications **[Z. Ghaith]**

11.1. Ghaith explained that informal communication is necessary to keep everyone updated. He wanted to remind us that executives could do this by dropping by the

GSA commons once in a while. Sharma expressed that not anyone gets a chance to speak, but we should Ghaith recommends that executives should raise their hands when speaking, and taking turns while speaking, as well as speaking in a timely manner.

12. GSA Council Meeting **[N. Absher]**

12.1. Absher stated that we need a minute taker for the council meeting on June 21st, 2016, as our current minute taker is away at that time. Ghaith stated that he will help Absher in finding a minute taker for that date.

13. Coffee Bar **[N. Absher]**

13.1. Absher explained that she is currently working on the coffee bar. She has consulted with VP finance, VP external, VP student affairs and GSA Admin. However, she realized that the GSA already has a good coffee machine. Therefore, we only need new coffee.

13.2. Sharma expressed that the GSA cannot afford K-cups. However, chalkboard wallpaper is reasonable, as well as new mugs and Tim Horton's or Starbucks coffee. Sapal agreed that we should change our coffee. Ghaith asked how much we have for the GSA Commons Improvement? Sharma stated that there's \$2500.00 for the GSA Commons Improvement. Ghaith recommends creating a corner for the coffee bar, and offer a new variety of coffee. Absher stated that the GSA already has a coffee maker and coffee, so we should wait for the new school year until the coffee is finished. Ghaith stated that we shouldn't wait until the school year, and buy everything during the summer.

13.3. Sharma agreed that it should be done by August 22nd, 2016.

14. Website Update **[N. Absher]**

14.1. Absher updated the executives that she has met with a few members of the website committee. She sent an email to all the members requesting tasks from each member based on their portfolio by June 22nd, 2016.

15. GSA App **[N. Absher]**

15.1. Absher explained that the GSA App is almost finished. The App developers would like the details of orientation, as well as the dates of training the orientation volunteers. They would like to train them on how to use the app, as well as how to

promote it at orientation. Absher will work with Sapal to call for volunteers. Ghaith recommends that Absher promotes this on social media and in the planner.

16. GSA Chair

[N. Absher]

16.1. Ghaith stated that the current chair resigned. The GSA must begin the process of searching for a new chair. He will chair the next council meeting on June 21st, 2016. Absher will advertise this current position opening. Ghaith requested Absher to send an email to the current chair to send the chair email and password to Ghaith.

17. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:21PM.

VP External's Report:

1. Canadian Federation of Students Annual General Meeting: The meeting was in Gatineau, Quebec from June 5-10th.

Key points:

- National Day of Action will be held on November 2nd 2016 details to follow.
 - Need to mobilize a sub committee to start planning this initiative
 - Need to work closely with U of R and FNU
 - Student Ambassador to be hired by CFS to solicit discounts for students.
 - Potential Skill Building Workshop for 10 delegates to attend in Manitoba, date TBD.
 - A motion is to be put forward to have an International Representative on the National Executive Committee.
 - International Students tuition fees are a priority of the CFS and they are working on developing a potential international campaign.
 - The CFS has several campaigns for the U of S to participate in during the school year. (Info will be shared, as it is available).
 - Anne-Marie Roy- Deputy Chairperson would like to attend the June council meeting to talk to members about the benefits of CFS.
 - Anne-Marie Roy- to set up a booth at orientation.
 - Potential funding for orientation and help with the survey (may be able to develop the tool).
 - Delegate fees are to be paid (will discuss this with Sherry, Natalia says she is the one who takes care of this).
2. Sustainability Grant was approved so we can move forward with the garden. We cannot do major landscaping. The garden will consist of a raised planter box with the potential of flowers.
 3. Planner update:
 - 1700 copies were ordered.

- Discounted \$210- to be reduced from the final instalment.
- Final instalment is due in August.
- Potential to promote Health Chats on the inside cover.
- To date sponsorship total is \$610. Budgeted total sponsorship is \$800. 3 pending confirmation still.

Indigenous Artwork is being submitted from a U of S student.

Aboriginal Liaison 3 Minute Roundtable Report:

University of Saskatchewan Powwow: I was in attendance to this event and was asked to give a short speech to the graduates. This was a great event to celebrate Aboriginal student achievements and success.

CGSR Aboriginal Leadership Scholarship: CGSR is discussing ways to support First Nations/Metis/Inuit graduate students. They will be creating an award to offer financial support and have approached me to sit on the committee to discuss the award and terms and conditions for it.

Aboriginal Students' Centre Retreat: The ASC is hosting a retreat later in June to discuss the centre's new mandate, their programs, services and events, and how to work together with students in the new space (Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre). Myself along with the ISC President have been invited to attend this event to provide input and feedback.

GSA Guppies: I was not able to register a team in Campus Rec soccer for the GSA Guppies (1. communications were not sent out in time to graduate students and 2, the league was full by the time I had a roster to submit). However, it was suggested by a student that everyone could still get together and play soccer, so it would be great to organize some soccer games.

Provost and Vice-President Academic Search Committee: Ongoing

Dean, Edwards School of Business Search Committee: Ongoing