

The University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, December 9, 2015. 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

GSA Commons

1 Call to Order

Attendance/Roll call of Councillors, Executives
Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM

2 Announcements

- a) **New academic council:**
School of Public Health Students Society has been approved with a strength of more than 100 members.

- b) **Declaration of presence of Quorum**
Quorum – Established (18 present, with 15 being quorum)

- c) **Governance Committee call for changes to Policy, Bylaws, and Constitution**
(Governance Committee Chair)

Natalia calls for change in policies or modifications. Let Isaac Pratt know about any change.

3 Additions/Deletions/Approval of agenda

VP Operations, Ziad Ghaith adds that the overview of GSA conference to be done by GSA conference co-ordinator after the presentation of the Executives' reports.
Motion was moved, seconded, and carried.

4. Motion to approve the minutes of the minutes of the November, 18 2015

No errors or changes in previous abovementioned minutes.
Motion was moved, seconded, and carried.

5 Executives and GSA conference co-ordinator's Reports

a) Aboriginal Liaison Report

Not present (was in class)

b) VP External Report

- new year resolutions and going through discussions on how to do that
- Decorate ginger bread man
- Update on GSA gala- working on proposal which is to be sent to the dean of CGSR. Also looking at places also for venue and working for fundraising.

c) VP Finance Report

- Working with the budget committee.
- Adoption of university paymaster payroll for all GSA staff enhancing insurance coverage for GSA.
- Accurate wcb reporting, filing financial statements with Information Services Corporation.
- Transparent and detailed GSA revenues and expenses.
- Creating and implementing the expense coding and reporting system.

d) VP Operations and Communications Report (Report Attached)

- U Pass for term 2 available at Place Riel till 4th January 2016
- GSA governance – currently working on GSA social club policy. VP operations and Communications will submit policy for approval later in 2016.
- Conducted interview of co-ordinators for GSA conference.
- GSA decided to help Syrian refugees and will be receiving donation till 26th December, 2015

e) VP Academic Report

- Last two weeks worked on the 6th December project on Ecole Polytechnic massacre. National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women - Awareness event- shared aboriginal culture and round dancing and build bridges with them

- ISAAC meeting – global village in February, 2016.
- GSA conference- Appointed Vince Anderson as the GSA co-ordinator.
- Dealing with academic misconduct of 3-4 students.

f) VP Student Affairs Report

Not present

g) President Report

Not present

5h) GSA Conference Co-ordinator (Vince Anderson)

- Make an event appealing to folks, bring out the entire collegial experience, to attract students to GSA and other aspects of their social life.
- Experience and participating in a conference- round table, poster, abstract submission
- Focus on having short informative presentation all graduate students need- eg. Getting published, tricouncil funding, pursuing teaching opportunities, and constructive relations with supervisors.
- Increase the celebration of the achievement of students who have received honors, scholarships and hence develop a culture of achievement.
- Have a significant social dimension to it. Meet new folks.

5i) Q & A

None

6 Motion to ratify the Women in Physics Canada Conference 2016 planning Organization as a social group

Motion was moved, seconded, and carried.

7 Committee minutes

a)Executive – November 25, 2015

b)Executive- December 2, 2015

No changes or questions regarding the minutes.
The motion was moved, seconded, and carried.

8 New business

a) Motion submitted by A. Gainer and D. Bennett:

Whereas the GSA exists to ensure that graduate students have access to quality services that support their academic success; and

Whereas the GSA mission statement specifically calls on the GSA to advocate for the unique needs and concerns of graduate students; be it resolved that the GSA immediately take the following steps with the final goal of implementing new and improved advocacy services for its members:

- (i) The creation of an ad hoc advocacy steering committee that will include the following members: the vice president student affairs, the vice-president academic, the vice-president finance, and at least two Councillors and any interested graduate students- to be determined by a general invitation to all members- as well as any outside parties as determined by said committee.
- (ii) This steering committee will begin meeting no later than January 15, 2016 to review relevant information, consult with concerned stakeholders, and prepare and present a proposal including costing for the creation of a professional office of Student Advocacy no later than April 27, 2016.

Motion was moved and seconded.

Amy Gainer, toxicology

- Graduate students are not employees, they don't have HR rights and a small percentage of graduate students have bad relations with their supervisors.
- Graduate students should be given basic HR rights and treated worthy.
- Professional staff should be appointed.

David, VP Finance

- Other universities have student advocacy officers.
- Move forward with USSU collaboration and get concrete action done

Ziad

Asks David, how he plans to finance the initiative

David – Part time, or full time, no concrete answer. At least they can try it.

Natalia – start with committee first and decide what they want to do and start next year

Ziad- VP Finance, VP Academic and VP operations and Communications to study more on the issue and form a committee. Take this **motion to refer** in the next council meeting in

Move a motion to take this motion in January 2016 and seconded.

Vote

Favour - 7 opposed- 12

Motion to refer is defeated.

Robin- Provide examples and issues to explain more clearly.

David- Hire professional student advocates.

Council member from chemistry - come with a proposal fully and not be unprepared. Give something in written

Motion is carried after voting.

Interested council members to be part of the ad hoc advocacy steering committee

Ziad Ghaith – VP Operations and Communications

Garrett Morandi - Toxicology

9 Questions and answers

10 Adjournment

11 Next council meeting on 20th January, 2016 at 5 pm

12 Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM