

**University of Saskatchewan**  
**Graduate Students' Association**  
**Minutes from Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting**

**Present:** Refer to sign-in sheet

**Regrets:** none.

**Absent:** Refer to sign-in sheet

**Organization of Meeting:** Robert Henderson, chair of Council, took the chair, and Mylyne Tham, acted as minute-taker. Robert Henderson advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

**Agenda format change**

- Adopting consent and regular agenda format
- Motion carried unanimously

**Approval of agenda**

- Moved by Ziad Ghaith, seconded by Carolyn
- Discussion about why there are only two reports listed on the agenda and why there is not a motion for Thinktank
- Motion carried unanimously

**Consent Agenda**

**2. MINUTES FROM OCT. 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**

The council approved the minutes as distributed.

**3. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Motion moved and carried unanimously

**Regular Agenda**

**4. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Motion: to approve standing committees with members according to the bylaws

Carried unanimously.

## **5. REPORT OF THE VP OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATION**

### **New ad hoc GSA Sustainability Committee**

- Motion: to approve the committee and delegate authority to VP Operations 2016-2017
- There was discussion about the extent of the economic and sustainability committee, why it is the VP Ops deciding membership of this committee, how this committee is filled and whether this position is a paid position.
- The group wants to represent grad students with regards to economic and sustainability issues – presently, there is no group doing this.
- Carried unanimously

### **New ad hoc GSA Health and Wellness Committee**

- Motion: to approve the committee and delegate authority to VP Operations and VP External 2016-17
- Nafisa and Carolyn want to form a broader committee to carry on health chats and lead conversations
- Carried unanimously

## **6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

### **President's Update**

The President talked about the progress on the formation of a Student-Supervisor contract and encourages feedback from councillors when the draft is released.

### **Q&A Period with the Executive**

- Student-supervisor contract draft will be available a week before the Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting

### **Renewal of Social Clubs' Status**

- Motion: to approve membership status of the focus club
  - Discussion of this topic can be found in previous minutes and a councillor commented on whether a club representative needs to be present before approving or denying club membership
  - For the focus club, two requests to send representatives were sent and both were ignored.
  - Motion fails (with 2 in favour, 12 abstentions, remainder against) – focus club membership is not approved, renewal denied.
- Motion: to approve membership status of the Bangladeshi students' association
  - Ghaith and Absher
  - Carried with 5 absentions
  - Discussion: is it fair to approve/not approve without representation?

- This is first renewal request for this group
- In September, group renewals were approved without representation, so precedent is set and this motion can be made
- The other clubs that were renewed in September, there was a member who could vouch and provide evidence for the group events compared to focus club, which had no one to vouch for their activities and efforts
- Comment: too much time dedicated to discussing social group renewals, suggestion to have a formal procedure laid out for renewal to make this process quicker – directed to governance committee
- Question: Bangladeshi association has grad students?
  - Yes, the group properly filled out the forms submitted to the GSA, so they are aware of their responsibilities to council
- Emails to attend meetings from GSA: this group did not respond
- Motion: to table this topic to the next GSA meeting
  - Motion withdrawn by mover
- Vote to end debate on main motion carried
  - Main motion carried, with 4 abstaining.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

- There was no other business.

Council then convened *in camera*.