



**University of Saskatchewan – Graduate Students’ Association**  
**Governance Committee Meeting**  
**January 21, 2022 – Online Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Rifat Zahan (President), Mostofa Kamal (VP Academic and Student Affairs), Hema Sandeep Narava (Council Chair), Elyse Proulx-Cullen (Councillor), Nabeela Kanwal (Regular/General Member), Ankita Srivastava (Regular/General Member)

**Absentees:** William Davis (Regular/General Member), Eronmwon Joyce Iroque (Regular/General Member)

**Regrets:** None

**Guests:** None.

**Items for Action:**

- **Selection of Committee Chair**

The President received a request from Eronmwon to serve as the committee Chair. However, they were not present in the meeting. Since the meeting needs to be carried forward and given Elyse’s experience with GSA governing committees for several years, her name was put forward to serve as the committee Chair.

*Motion to approve Elyse Proulx-Cullen as the Governance Committee Chair for 2022.*

*Moved by Mostofa Kamal.*

*Seconded by Ankita Srivastava.*

***5 in Favour,  
Motion Carried.***

- **Circulate the terms of reference for the committee**

Update: emailed to members by President Zahan

- **Circulate the constitution**

Update: emailed to members by President Zahan

**Proposed amendments to the GSA By-Laws:**

<b>Section of the By-Laws</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
<b>2 Executives</b>	<p>Institute Bylaws to regulate workload within the Executive Committee when a Vice-President position remains vacant.</p> <p>Revisiting duties of each Executive was also proposed. It was proposed that revisiting the policies and by-laws adapted to extenuating circumstances, like, pandemic needs to be done, which has increased a significant amount of workload for GSA Executives.</p>
<b>2.6 VP Indigenous Engagement</b>	<p>Committee Chair Proulx-Cullen brought up the topic of VP Indigenous Engagement, as to what can be done to get Indigenous students interested to serve at GSA as Executive. The President and VP Academic &amp; Student Affairs raised several challenges that GSA Executives faced while having the VP Indigenous Engagement position empty for over seven months. The President mentioned that when the Council Chair advised following a call for a by-election for VP Indigenous Engagement position, the President reached out to university leaders, who worked on Indigenous issues, for recommending students to serve at VP Indigenous Engagement position. There were no names coming forward. There was one interested candidate's name, who was selected in the January council meeting as VP Indigenous Engagement. Unfortunately, the person wants to leave because of workload.</p> <p>Therefore, the members of the Governance committee urged the need of having Indigenous students' voice to research how GSA can support the future VP Indigenous Engagement for the Indigenization of GSA.</p> <p>Committee Chair Proulx-Cullen mentioned that considering the outreach efforts in getting Indigenous Engagement interested and engaged in GSA have not resulted in filling this vacancy and considering recruitment is not in the scope of the current Governance Committee, this item will be revisited afterwards.</p>
<b>4 Elections and Referenda</b>	<p>Executives and the GSA Council Chair (i.e, Chief Electoral Officer) mentioned some practical challenges faced at GSA following the election season. Therefore, it was proposed that there should be a minimum-level background check of the candidates (i.e., at least a google search). Candidate's consent to conduct background check should be obtained during election season. The Election and Referendum Committee should have the option to reach out to the candidate's department, or academic council for reference check. The Committee should have the option to ask candidates if they have any investigation or legal process past or on-going. Such information will be safeguarded by the Election and Referendum Committee and will not be disclosed to Executives. If any concerns arise in</p>

	<p>future regarding an Executive, such information will be revisited by the Chief Electoral Officer, who is also serving in the Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee.</p> <p>Another proposal was brought forward by the existing Executives that to run for the President role, candidates must have prior experience in either their academic council, or GSA council, or standing committees. Prior committee and board experience was also brought forward for Executive positions.</p> <p>The GSA Council Chair proposed a review of the social media restriction for campaigns during the election season.</p>
<b>Other Items</b>	<p>The Governance Committee proposed to go through the governing documents, other items may come forward for revision.</p>

**Other Items:**

- Members agreed to have at least six meetings during this tenure (i.e., three meetings in February, three meetings in March).
- The proposed by-law changes should be presented for approval in April Annual General Meeting.

**Conclusion:**

- Governance Committee Chair to send a doodle poll for upcoming meetings.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM, moved by Kamal and seconded by Srivastava.