



Graduate Students' Association

University Of Saskatchewan – Graduate Students Association

AGENDA PACKAGE

Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 17, 2025; 17:00

Meeting Location: Online (Zoom)

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

<u>NO</u>	ITEM	ACTION	PAGE
1	Call to order		1
2	Approval of GSA Council meeting minutes	Decision	2-7
	🚩 November 26		
3	Resignation of the Vice-President External	Information	
4	Motion to Appoint Sunny Bui as Vice-President External for the Remainder of the Term, as Recommended by the Executive Committee.	Decision	
5	GSA executive reports	Information	8-2
	a. President		
	b. Vice President Finance and Operation		
	c. Vice President Student Affairs		
	d. Vice President Indigenous Engagement		
6	Adjournment		

Graduate Students' Association

November Council Meeting Minutes
University of Saskatchewan-Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Wednesday, November 26th, 2025; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Hybrid (GSA Commons & Zoom)

“As Council gathers, we acknowledge that we are on Treaty C Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.”

Attendance: See appendix A

Council Chair: Shaily Tandekar

Recording Secretary: Aiminayanate Pepple

a. Call to Order

- Shaily Tandekar welcomed every council member. The meeting was called to order at 5:09 PM.
- A land acknowledgment was observed, recognizing Treaty 6 territory and the Métis homeland.

b. Rules and Regulation

Shaily Tandekar briefed council members of the:

- Use of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Requirement of mover and seconder for motions.
- Voting procedures (chat or a raise of hands).
- Time allocations: 3 minutes per speaker, with reminders.
- Emphasis on professionalism and respect.

c. Approval of Agenda

The chair asked for the approval of the meeting agenda.

Mover: Palash Roy

Seconded by: Laila Valila

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

d. Motion1: Approval of GSA Council Meeting Minutes

✓ **October 8, 2025, Council Meeting**

Mover: Mary-fidelma Ndupu

Seconded by: Angelica Uy

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

e. Motion 2: To Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes

✓ **October 8 & 14, 2025**

Mover: Hamid Yari

Seconded by: Shreya Tiwary

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

f. Motion 3: To Receive First Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes

✓ **November 7, 2025**

Mover: Shreya Tiwary

Seconded by: Mary-Fidelma Ndupu

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

g. Motion 4: To Receive Bursary Committee Meeting Minutes

✓ **July 2025**

✓ **November 7, 2025**

Mover: Shreya Tiwary

Seconded by: Mary-Fidelma Ndupu

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

h. Motion 5: To Elect Council Chair

- The following candidates applied for the position of the GSA Council Chair:
 - ❖ Md Faizal Kabir Roazars
 - ❖ Desmond Buabeng
 - ❖ Clement Abdallah
- Shaily briefed the applicants about the eligibility of the council chair position.
- Modupe asked the applicants about their goals towards the governance of the council.
- Laila asked applicants about their intention to increase indigenous students' participation in GSA and the council meetings.
- Clement Abdallah won the election with 10 votes. The new GSA Council Chair is **Clement Abdallah**.

i. Motion 6: To Elect Council Vice Chair

- Shamsuddeen Ma'aruf was the only applicant for the role of the Council Vice Chair and got elected to serve the council.

j. Motion 7: To ratify Agricultural and Resource Economics Graduate Students' Society

- The GSA president inquired the reason for the delay in applying for ratification.
- Cornelius Mensah, a representative of the society, stated that the society's election was conducted late.

Mover: Shreya Tiwary

Seconded by: Mary-Fidelma Ndupu

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

k. Motion 8: Approval of Councilors for GSA Standing Committees

- The following councilors volunteered to serve in the GSA committees:
 - ❖ **Bursary Committee** - Hamid Yari, Julia-Rose Miller and Mary-Fidelma Ndupu.
 - ❖ **Budget and Finance Committee** - Sunny Bui
 - ❖ **Elections and Referenda Committee** - Darji Hetvi
 - ❖ **Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee** – Motajo Modupeoluwa Olakunle
 - ❖ **Sustainability Committee** – Corwyn Shomachuk and Luke Dojack
 - ❖ **Diversity Committee** - Cornelius Mensah
 - ❖ **Awards Committee** - Sunny Bui and Angelica Caresse Uy

Mover: Palash Roy

Seconded by: Mandela Alema

Yes: 25

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

I. GSA Executives Reports

➤ President – Palash Roy

- The GSA partnered with the SSHRC-funded proposal regarding the improvement of housing conditions for graduate students.
- The association is currently engaged with the provincial government to create sustainable GSA-owned childcare center for the benefits of graduate students with proposal currently worked on.
- The president also met with the Director of Consumer Services and the University Residence team regarding the improvement of students' residence.
 - ❖ An agreement was reached to replace low quality mattresses next year, 2026.
 - ❖ The security of the residence parking lot will be strengthened with the provision of high-quality models of security camera.
- A new section named “**submit an article**” has been launched under the **GSA News** on the GSA website with the aim of conveying important information, new initiatives and research surveys.

- The Anti-Racism Symposium held by GSA in collaboration with USSU and Student Health and Wellbeing; on November 19th at the GSA Commons was successful. The president stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University, the GSA, and the USSU is being developed. The GSA in collaboration with the USSU look forward to developing policies to curb anti-racism within the campus.
- The GSA is pleased to announce that the Halloween event held in October 2025 was successful. The president appreciated Laila and Shaily for their positive contribution towards the success of the event.

➤ **Vice-President Finance and Operations – Lindsay Carlson**

- The association employed the service of a professional photographer, Dave Stobbe as they organized a low-cost professional portrait for students in November 2025 at the rate of \$10.
- GSA held its first event of the Financial Literacy Series involving Budgeting on October 22, 2025, with the speaker, Susan Winmill (Student Finance Coordinator at Usask). VP Finance acknowledged the low attendance and proposed that subsequent event may be held at a time more convenient to increase student attendance.
- A new web form was launched to collect funding requests for events by ratified councils and clubs. The form is under the **Academic Councils section of the Governance tab on the GSA website**. Applications can be submitted for up to two times a year. Academic councils and clubs will receive feedback after the executive committee votes on the request.
- The GSA confirms the disbursement of the Fall Need-Based Bursary. A total of \$1,000 bursary was given to 34 applicants out of 299 applications.

➤ **Vice-President Student and Academic Affairs - Mandela Alema**

- The VP stated that 28 councils and 12 clubs have been ratified by GSA.
- The VP coordinated research for graduate students representing committees involving the search for the dean for college for Nursing and the dean for the college of Pharmacy and Nutrition and the dean for the college of Law.
- The GSA holiday hangout will be held in collaboration with ISSAC and Student Wellness Center from the 29th to 30th of December 2025, 10 am to 7 pm daily.

➤ **Vice-President External Affairs - Biraj Saha**

- The GSA team attended the public open house by City of Saskatoon's regarding expansion and accessibility of service.
- Preparation is being made for the movie and board game night to be held in February 2026.
- The GSA continues to update students about necessary information on the various GSA

social platforms.

- VP External met with the TLARC committee in October 2025, to review updates towards student learning experience, while exploring the benefits of AI and focusing on fair assessment practices.

➤ **Vice-President Indigenous - Laila Valila**

- The VP indigenous met with different student bodies to solicit for support towards the upcoming Resource Fair on January 21, 2026, from 11 am – 3 pm at the GSA common Hall.
- The VP also met with the CFS president in October 2025 to make beneficial decisions regarding CFS and GSA relationship at USask.
- The VP acknowledges the success of the Halloween event held in October.

m. Any other Business of the Day (A.O.B)

➤ **End-of-Tenure and Departure of the University President, Peter Stoicheff**

- The VP Finance acknowledged the service of the outgoing University President, Peter Stoicheff.
- The president, Palash Roy highlighted the outgoing University President, Peter Stoicheff fundraising initiative “Be what the world needs” and the challenge the university faced during the COVID period.
- Shreya Tiwary raised a concern regarding the university involvement with graduate students’ tuition payment from stipends.
- Palash Roy addressed the issue by confirming the university awareness of the situation. The president stated that the university obtains grants from various sources and this limits their involvement in reviewing the policy regarding students’ tuition payment from the stipend.

➤ **Outgoing Council Chair**

- Shaily Tandekar gave a vote of thanks, acknowledging the cooperation of the executive team, and council members towards the completion of her tenure.

n. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm by Shaily Tandekar.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President:

Dear GSA Councilors,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on my activities as President over the months of last half of Nov, and December highlighting recent initiatives, accomplishments, and upcoming priorities.

Spring-Summer GSA transit pass

Following the previous update, the GSA held discussions with the USSU regarding the inclusion and administration of a Spring–Summer transit pass. USSU has confirmed that it is willing to manage the pass on behalf of graduate students. Additional discussions also took place concerning the process for enabling opt for participation for graduate students.

The GSA has since followed up with Saskatoon Transit to obtain updated cost estimates and implementation timelines. Once this information is received, a referendum will be initiated, and the GSA will proceed accordingly.

Financial Oversight and Investment Planning

The Graduate Students' Association has completed its annual audit for the current fiscal year, with no issues identified. The GSA extends its sincere appreciation to Vice President Finance, Lindsay, for her exceptional leadership and continuity of service across the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 academic years. Her efforts have been instrumental in stabilizing the Association's financial position and restoring strong fiscal oversight. Further financial details are outlined in the Vice President Finance's report.

With the audit finalized, GSA has engaged its banking partner, RBC, to pursue short-term, low-risk investment options, including guaranteed investment certificates and similar instruments, with implementation beginning in January. This shift from holding funds in low interest chequing accounts will allow the Association to steward its resources while generating modest, predictable returns. Any additional revenue will be directed toward initiatives that support graduate students, including offsetting health and dental insurance premiums and advancing longer-term priorities such as the development of childcare support. The details regarding this can be found in VP Finance Lindsay's report too.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Engagement

The Graduate Students' Association Executive participated in a focused discussion with the President's Executive Committee on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion across the university. The conversation centred on mobilizing EDI toolkits for the campus community, emphasizing shared values, advocacy-informed approaches, and engagement in courageous and

constructive dialogue. The outcomes of this discussion will help inform strategies and resources that support broader institutional implementation of EDI initiatives across the university.

Holiday Hangout

The Holiday Hangout is an annual Graduate Students' Association initiative that began in December 2019 and supports graduate students who remain on campus during the holiday period. Led by the GSA in collaboration with campus partners including Student Health and Wellbeing, the Sustainability Committee, the International Students and Study Abroad Centre, and the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, the event provides a welcoming and inclusive space for connection, community building, and engagement during the winter break.

This year, the Holiday Hangout was expanded to further support student well-being and inclusivity, including enhanced food offerings and a more family friendly format. A detailed overview of the event, including outcomes and engagement, will be presented in the Vice President Academics' mandate report.

Meetings Attended as President

November 24	Transit Discussion with USSU
November 26	Interim Vice Provost Dr. Marjorie
November 26	Provincial Multi-year funding Agreement Event
November 26	CGPS Dean
November 26	GSA Council Meeting
November 27	CGPS Faculty Council Meeting
November 28	SWH, ISSAC, & GSA Holiday Hangout
December 1	GSA Executive Meeting
December 2	Annual Health & Dental Claim Report with Alumo
December 4	Meeting with New Incoming University President Dr. Vince
December 4	President Stoicheff's Farewell Remai Modern
December 5	Holiday Hangout Coordination
December 8	PEC Meeting
December 9	President Stoicheff's Farewell on campus
December 12	Holiday Hangout Co-ordination
December 12	GSA Executive Meeting

Thank you for your collaboration and trust as we continue to work together to strengthen the GSA and graduate student experience. Lastly, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Regards,

Palash R. Roy (he/him)

President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

PhD Student, Department of Computer Science, University of Saskatchewan

VP Student Affairs:

Dear GSA Councillors,

I am writing to provide you with an update on my activities as Vice President Academic and Student Affairs for December, highlighting recent initiatives, accomplishments, and upcoming priorities.

GSA Collaborates with USSU, ISSAC, Office of Sustainability and Student Wellness Centre to host the 2025 Holiday Hangout

As part of student-focused initiatives under my portfolio to strengthen social connections among USask students and their families staying in Saskatoon over the winter break, the GSA is partnering with the USSU, ISSAC, Office of Sustainability and Student Wellness Centre to host the annual Holiday Hangout on December 29 – 30, 2025. Many students experience isolation during the holidays without the comfort of home and family. This event aims to create a welcoming, festive environment with meals, games, and activities, offering a sense of belonging and community for those unable to return home during this special time of year.

Interest in the event has grown this year. As of Friday, December 12, 83 students have registered: 17 international and 12 domestic students. Of these, 43 plan to attend with a spouse, and 30 will bring children (42 in total). This brings the expected number of participants to 168. To support the event, we reached out to several potential sponsors, including SaskTel, RBC, Affinity Credit Union, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA), and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant. While three applications were not approved, we are awaiting responses from SIGA and Saskatchewan Lotteries. In addition, the GSA, USSU, ISSAC, Office of Sustainability, and Student Care and Wellness Centre have confirmed their support through a combination of in-kind contributions and financial assistance. I would like to seize this opportunity to express my

profound appreciation to USSU, ISSAC, Office of Sustainability and Student Care and Wellness Centre for this initiative.

Establishment of GSA Intramural Sports Team – Winter 2026

As part of our efforts to promote student well-being and social connection among graduate students, the GSA will launch its first-ever intramural sports team in the Winter 2026 term. Intramurals offer graduate students an opportunity to stay active, meet peers outside their academic circles, have fun, and build friendships. We plan to start with basketball, volleyball, and futsal (indoor soccer). So far, 14 students have expressed interest: 7 for basketball and 6 each for volleyball and futsal. We sincerely thank Ernest Leung from the Edwards School of Business for bringing this initiative to the GSA. I would also like to use this opportunity to encourage all councillors share this information with their member and encourage them to participate.

Meetings attended

1. November 17th, 2025: Graduate Programs Committee (GPC)
2. November 19th, 2025: Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC)
3. November 19th, 2025: Academic Programs Committee (APC)
4. November 26th, 2025: GSA Council Meeting
5. November 27th, 2025: CGPS Graduate Faculty Council
6. November 28th, 2025: Holiday Hangout Planning Committee
7. December 3rd, 2025: Academic Programs Committee (APC)
8. December 5th, 2025: Holiday Hangout Planning Committee
9. December 12th, 2025: Holiday Hangout Planning Committee

VP Indigenous Engagement:

Dear GSA Council,

I am writing to report on my activity for the month of November 2025.

Canadian Federation of Students Conference

During the CFS Conference, I was able to connect with Executives from other universities to share our campus initiatives and goals. As the only voting member for the University of Saskatchewan, I voted on multiple important motions brought by other universities, specifically; (1) a vote to petition to remove the English language exam for international students following graduation; (2) a vote to begin a national strike against graduate pay rates; and (3) a vote to change some of the

core services that CFS provides. Going forward, GSA has shown a commitment to increase communication and the advertising of CFS services.

USSU/GSSA Anti-Racism Symposium

On November 19th, the GSA co-hosted a symposium with the USSU to hear student concerns and to strategize how the GSA can be involved through complaint processes. We engaged in activities and a presentation regarding the results of a student-led survey on racism on campus.

Indigenous Career Fair and Intercultural Exchange Updates

Throughout this month I have reached out to more Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups on campus to participate in the Fair. As of November 30th, groups who have committed to participate include: Cousins, USSU Food Centre and the Metis Students of Usask. Going forward, I plan to contact the following bodies: the Gordon Oakes centre, Indigenous Students Union, Indigenous OVP, BIRM and Career Services.

CGPS Faculty Meetings

For the past two meetings with the CGPS Faculty I have shown concern for the lack of funding opportunities for course-based master's programs. Funding increases are being provided for all except course-based, even though there has been an increase in course-based enrollments. Going forward, I aim to continue to advocate for course-based students who lack sufficient university-provided funding and sponsorships.

Meetings and Events

November 1st-5th, 2025: CFS Conference in Toronto

November 7th, 2025: GSA Diversity Committee Meeting

November 8th, 2025: GSA Executive Retreat and Meeting

November 14th: Special Executive Meeting

November 18th: SUNTEP Louis Riel Gathering

November 19th: USSU/GSA Anti-Racism Symposium

November 26th: GSA Council Meeting

November 27th: CGPS Faculty Meeting

November 28th: Cousin's Skirt Workshop

Laila Valila (*she/her*)

VP Indigenous Engagement | MPA Student

Graduate Students' Association

Appendix A

	Academic Council	Councillor	October 2025
1	Agricultural and Resource Economics Graduate Students' Society	Councilor – Aminata Ba Alternate – Cornelius Mensah	P
2	Animal and Poultry Science Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Megan Dubois Alternate - Beatriz Montenegro	P
3	Biology Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Portia Mohrbutter Alternate - Laura Dyson	P
4	Chemistry Course Council	Councilor - Shreya Tiwary Alternate - Segun Liyansan	P
5	College of Medicine Graduate Student Society (CMGSS)	Councilor 1 - Griffin Lehnert Alternate 1 - Christopher Chivers	A
		Councilor 2 - Amber Jurke Alternate 2 - Hetvi Darji	A
6	College of Kinesiology Graduate Society	Councilor - Sunny Bui Alternate - Karissa Johnson	P
7	Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Councilor - Md Shamimur Rahman Alternate - Mary-fidelma Chioma Ndupu	P
8	Education Graduate Students Association (EGSA)	Councilor - Kiegan Lloyd Alternate – Rumpa Banik	A
9	Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC)	Councilor 1 - Farzana Haque Reeti Alternate 1 - Binod Sapkota	P
		Councilor 2 - Adit Raj Chalise Alternate 1 - Corwyn Shomachuk	P
10	English Course Council	Councillor - Hamid Yari Alternate - Jasmine Redford	P
11	Geography and Planning Graduate Student Council (GEPL)	Councilor - Emily Ireland Alternate - Prakash Sapkota	P
12	History Graduate Student Association	Councilor - Jessy Lee Saas Alternate - Julia-Rose Miller	P
13	Nursing Graduate Students Association	Councilor - Kirsten Witter Councilor - Aja Tost	A
14	Physics and Engineering Physics Graduate Association	Councilor - Jeisson Vanegas	A

	of Students at University of Saskatchewan (PEGASUS)	Alternate- Mona Zolghadrshojaee	
15	Plant Science Graduate Students' Association (PSGSA)	Councilor 1 - Luke Dojack Alternate 1 - Makenna Mitchell	P
		Councilor 2 - Giri Raj Paudel Alternate 2 - Sachintha Attanayake	P
16	School of environment and Sustainability Student Association	Councilor 1 - Nelly Ataawomba Afuubi Alternate 1 - Jethro Opara	P
		Councilor 2 - Javed Chowdhury Alternate 2 - Anas Ansari	A
17	Sociology Graduate Students Association	Councilor – Meaghan Boily Alternate - Leah Houseman	P
18	Soil Science Graduate Students Association	Councilor - Nemat Dindarloo Alternate - Levi Lundell	A
19	The School of Public Health Students' Association (SPHSA)	Councilor 1 - Motajo Modupeoluwa Olakunle	P
		Councilor 2 - Angelica Caresse Uy Alternate - Sun Thai	P
20	Toxicology Graduate Student Association	Councilor - Chantel De Lange Alternate - Catherine Roberts	A

Executive member	Name	October 2025
Executive President	Palash Roy	P
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Lindsay Carlson	P
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mandela Alema	P
Exec. VP External Affairs	Biraj Saha	P
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Laila Valila	P