



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
April 2021. WebEx Meeting/Email***

As the GSA gathers, we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 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.

**WebEx Meeting/Email: The initial Annual General Meeting took place via WebEx on April 13, 2021 due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan made directives to practice social distancing in order to curb the spread of the virus. However, Quorum was not met, so an email format took place between April 19-April 23, 2021 in order for Quorum to be met. Participation in this email format is reflected below.*

Participants: Alessandro Tarsia, Alfred Adu-Bobi, Alyssa Robb, Amanda Gannon, Aimee Schryer, Andrea Wishart, Anne Brigitte Lim, Barbara Louize de Silva, Canute Rosaasen, Carmen Marquez Mellidez, Cherise Schlekewy, Chloe Smith Lopez, David John Fletcher, Demi Ogunrinde, Derek Cameron, Dylan Chand, Ehsan Moradi, Elyse Proulx-Cullen, Erika Erlandson, Girish Kamath, Hadi Ramin, Humaira Inam, Irini Soubry, Iyanu Kumayon, Jessica Sick, José Alvim Berkenbrock, Joyce Reimer, Justin Fisher, Katherine Ottley, Kaylin Skinner, Kimberlee Dube, Leslee Grace Mann, Leslie Tetteh, Logan Markewich, Malkon Guillermo Sanchez Estrada, Mercy Harris, Mery Mendoza, Michelle Monroy Valle, Mostafa Kamal, Ninu Kallingal Mohandas, Nnamdi Opara, Oleksii Vasylevskyi, Olusola Akintola, Pamela Farthing, Qasim Shahzad Gill, Richard Sheyin Akanet, Rifat Zahan, Robin Miller, Samuel Agyare Agyei, Sarita Victoria Casas Urrunaga, Selena Schut, Shahab Minaei, Sokun Phoeun, Stephanie Ortynsky, William Elcock, Yujie Pei.

Organization of the meeting:

Ms. Asiyah Suchak acted as the Recording Secretary and compiled the minutes based on responses received through the online forum.

1. Call to Order

All Regular Members were emailed the link to the Agenda package. They were also emailed a link for voting on agenda items in order to participate over email to meet quorum. Members had from 9:00 am (Monday, April 19, 2021) to 11:59 PM (Friday, April 23, 2021) to participate. The Call to Order commenced as soon as Regular Members received the link.

2. Announcements

2.1 Quorum

Quorum was met as there were 56 members who participated in the Email meeting.

2.2 PSAC Representative Address

On April 13, 2021, Jesse Todd, the Regional Representative for the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), explained what PSAC is and what they do and who they represent with the graduate students who were in attendance at the WebEx meeting.

The Chair opened the floor up to questions.

Question: When was the last time the Teaching Assistant (TA) rate was negotiated with the administration or is there a plan to?

Answer from Jesse Todd (PSAC Regional Representative): It is ongoing and happens in the quarterly unit management consultations as well. It will be renewed in 2024.

Question: Would the tuition increase play into the negotiations, and does PSAC deal with that?

Answer from Jesse Todd (PSAC Regional Representative): Yes it is always on the back of our minds when we are discussing agreements, but tuition is not directly negotiated through the PSAC.

Comment by VP Mendoza: Thank you for your hard work on the negotiations. I want to clarify that the employment agreement is individual, but it has been used in negotiations because it does affect the graduate students directly.

Comment from Jesse Todd (PSAC Regional Representative): I am appreciative of the outcome with the negotiations and I can be emailed with any questions or concerns via email.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. (Inam/Gill).

Carried

52 in favour. 4 abstentions. 0 opposed

4. Approval of Minutes from the GSA Annual General Meeting April 14th, 2020

Motion to approve the April 14th, 2020 minutes. (Inam/Gill).

Carried

52 in favour. 4 abstentions. 0 opposed

5. Motions

5.1 Motion: Approval of the GSA Auditor for the 2021 – 2022 Financial Year.

WHEREAS Section 8.1.2.2 of the GSA Constitution and Section 149(1) of the Saskatchewan Non-Profits Corporation Act govern the appointment of an auditor.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Buckberger Baerg and Partners LLP be appointed as auditors for the 2021-2022 Financial Year. *(Mendoza/Inam)*

Carried

49 in favour. 6 abstentions. 1 opposed

5.2 Motion: Receiving the GSA Financial Statements of the year ended April 30, 2019 and April 30, 2020.

WHEREAS Section 8.1.2.1 of the GSA Constitution governs the presentation of Financial Statements to the Membership.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the reviewed financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Inc. be received for the year ended **April 30, 2019 and April 30, 2020.** *(Mendoza/Inam)*

Carried

51 in favour. 5 abstentions. 0 opposed

5.3 Motion: Approval of the Amendments to the Governance Documents

WHEREAS Section 8.6 of the Constitution of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Association Inc. (GSA) allows a General Meeting of the membership to amend the GSA

Constitution, Bylaws and Policies.

- BE IT RESOLVED that the constitution, Bylaws and Policies be so amended as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee as set forth in the following supporting documents (Revised Constitution, Revised Bylaws, Revised Policies) and take effect May 1, 2021.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership consents to the correction of non-substantive corrections, such as numbering, section order and typographical errors, which may arise following these amendments.

(Mellidez/Inam)

Carried

48 in favour. 7 abstentions. 1 opposed

5.4 Motion: Honorary Lifetime Membership

WHEREAS Section 5.1.4 of the GSA Constitution permits the naming of an Honorary Lifetime Member which is purely symbolic. Such a position shall be awarded by a majority vote at a General Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT **Mery Mendoza** be made an honorary lifetime member in recognition of her diligence, dedication, and years of service to the GSA that served to enhance the image, reputation, and standing of the Association.

(Inam/Gill)

Comment: I want to propose this award/honor be brought under the GSA Award Committee's terms of reference for better transparency and accountability.

Response from President Inam: In order to make changes to the GSA Constitution regarding Honorary Lifetime Member (Section 5.1.4), this proposal will need to be brought forward to the next Governance Committee for the 2021-2022 academic year. I encourage you to share your proposal with the incoming Executives that will be appointed to this standing committee.

Carried

47 in favour. 8 abstentions. 1 opposed

6. GSA Executives Reports

6.1 Vice President Finance and Operations

The report of the Vice President Finance and Operations was made available in the agenda package and was also presented verbally on April 13, 2021 via WebEX.

6.2 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs

The report of the Vice President Academic and Student Affairs was made available in the agenda package and was also presented verbally on April 13, 2021 via WebEX.

6.3 Vice President External Affairs

The report of the Vice President External Affairs was made available in the agenda package and was also presented verbally on April 13, 2021 via WebEX.

6.4 Vice President Indigenous Engagement

The report of the Vice President Indigenous Engagement was made available in the agenda package. The VP Indigenous Engagement sent her regrets for the verbal report on April 13, 2021 via WebEx.

6.5 President

The report of the President was made available in the agenda package and was presented verbally on April 13, 2021 via WebEX.

6.6 Questions and Answers

Question: I was selected to be awarded a GSA Bursary for Fall 2020. I cannot access it because I have not received my Social Insurance Number (SIN). In what way can I use this bursary to pay for part of my tuition?

Answer from President Inam: The bursary can only be given to a student provided that they have a SIN number. Tuition payment is the responsibility of the student, the GSA is not involved in the process.

Question: How do we plan to obtain more funds for the Needs Based Bursaries moving forward?

Answer from President Inam: The GSA Executives request financial support for needs-based bursaries from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and we will continue to request funding for bursaries in the future as well.

7. Introduction of the New Executive

The Elections and Referenda Committee ratified the election results. The following are the incoming GSA Executives:

President – Rifat Zahan

VP Finance and Operations – Ehsan Moradi

VP Academic and Student Affairs – Olusola Akintola

VP External Affairs – Leslie Tetteh

VP Indigenous Engagement– Tina Alexis

8. Other Business/Announcement

None.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. (Inam/Gill)

Carried

51 in favour. 5 abstentions. 0 opposed