



Graduate Students' Association

University of Saskatchewan-Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Wednesday, April 30th, 2025; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Hybrid (Online & Zoom)

“As Council 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.”

Attendance: See appendix A

Chair: Shaily Tandekar

Recording Secretary: Arman Heydari

- **Call to Order**

Shaily Tandekar called the meeting to order at 5:21 PM. A land acknowledgment was given, recognizing Treaty 6 territory and the Métis homeland. Shaily welcomed all attendees and introduced the meeting format.

- **Rules and Regulation**

Shaily outlined the procedures based on Robert's Rules of Order. Voting protocols were explained for both in-person and online attendees. Each speaker was allotted 3 minutes. Respect and decorum were emphasized, and participants were reminded to keep their video on when speaking online.

- **Agenda: Approval of Agenda**

Shaily asked if there were any amendments to the circulated agenda. None were raised.

Mover: Luke

Second: Lindsay

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

- **Agenda: Motion to Receive GSA Council Meeting Minutes**

GSA Council Meeting Minutes for March 26th

Motion to receive the minutes was made.

Mover: David

Second: Luke

Yes: 20

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

- **Agenda: Approval of Bursary Selection Committee Meeting**

GSA meetings held on December 18, 2024; February 13, 2025; and March 24, 2025

Motion to receive all three meeting minutes together was proposed.

Mover: Luke

Second: Reza

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

- **Agenda: GSA Awards GALA report**

Reza (VP External) presented the financial and operational report on the GSA Gala:

- Total budget surplus: \$5,800.
- Awardees were paid \$1,000 each (except for one advising excellence award).
- Marquis Hall rental: \$17,500 (main cost).
- Additional expenses: awards gifts, photography, event logistics, and AV setup.

- Due to higher interest, the event was moved from the Exeter Room to the larger Gary Room.

No major questions were raised. The report was accepted.

- **Agenda: GSA 2024-25 budget actuals**

Presented by VP Finance, Lindsay:

- Cuts in underutilized lines: banking, postage, handbook.
- Removed winter orientation.
- Proposed reduction in gala spending due to increased sponsor funding.
- Slight increases in insurance and Zoom technology.
- Net \$20,000 surplus despite lower revenue.

Discussions included:

- Office and staff budget breakdown (Manager: ~\$60,000; Coordinator allocation reduced).
- Handbook retention: due to excess unused print copies, a move toward useful branded materials (e.g., pens or backpacks) was discussed. But a student named Jason disagreed and wanted to keep the budget.

Motion: Keep the Handbook budget at \$2,500 for 2025-26.

Mover: Jason

Second: Lindsay

Yes: 11

No: 10

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

- Cultural funding: diversity initiatives and special event lines can support Indigenous events; no specific allocation required.

- Elevator pitch vs. conference: renaming budget line to "Elevator Pitch or Conference" was proposed.
- A proposal was raised to increase funding for a potential conference given past interest and CGPS contributions.

Motion: Increase the conference budget line from \$500 to \$2,000.

Mover: Jen

Second: David

Yes: 17

No: 1

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

- Discussion on legal expense budget adequacy.

Motion to approve the proposed budget for 2025-26 as amended was made.

Mover: Lindsay

Second: Jen

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

- **Agenda: Motion to Amend GSA Bylaws**

Amendment 01

Approved revision of Bylaw 5.5.1 and removal of 5.5.2. Executives now receive 13 equal monthly payments, including for the transition month of May with conditions.

Mover: Lindsay

Second: Luke

Yes: 15

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 02

Establishment of the GSA Leadership Circle as an advisory body composed of current and past executives.

Mover: Nickson

Second: Jennifer

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 03

VP Indigenous Engagement candidates must be verified under the deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin policy.

Mover: Jennifer

Second: David

Yes: 13

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 04

Expanded duties for the VP Indigenous Engagement and coordination with the Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement.

Mover: Lindsay

Second: Jennifer

Yes: 19



No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 05

Removal of \$25 cash deposit requirement from election nomination process.

Mover: Lindsay

Second: David

Yes: 20

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 06

Council Chair to provide structured orientation and meeting experience for Vice Chair.

Mover: David

Second: Reza

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 07

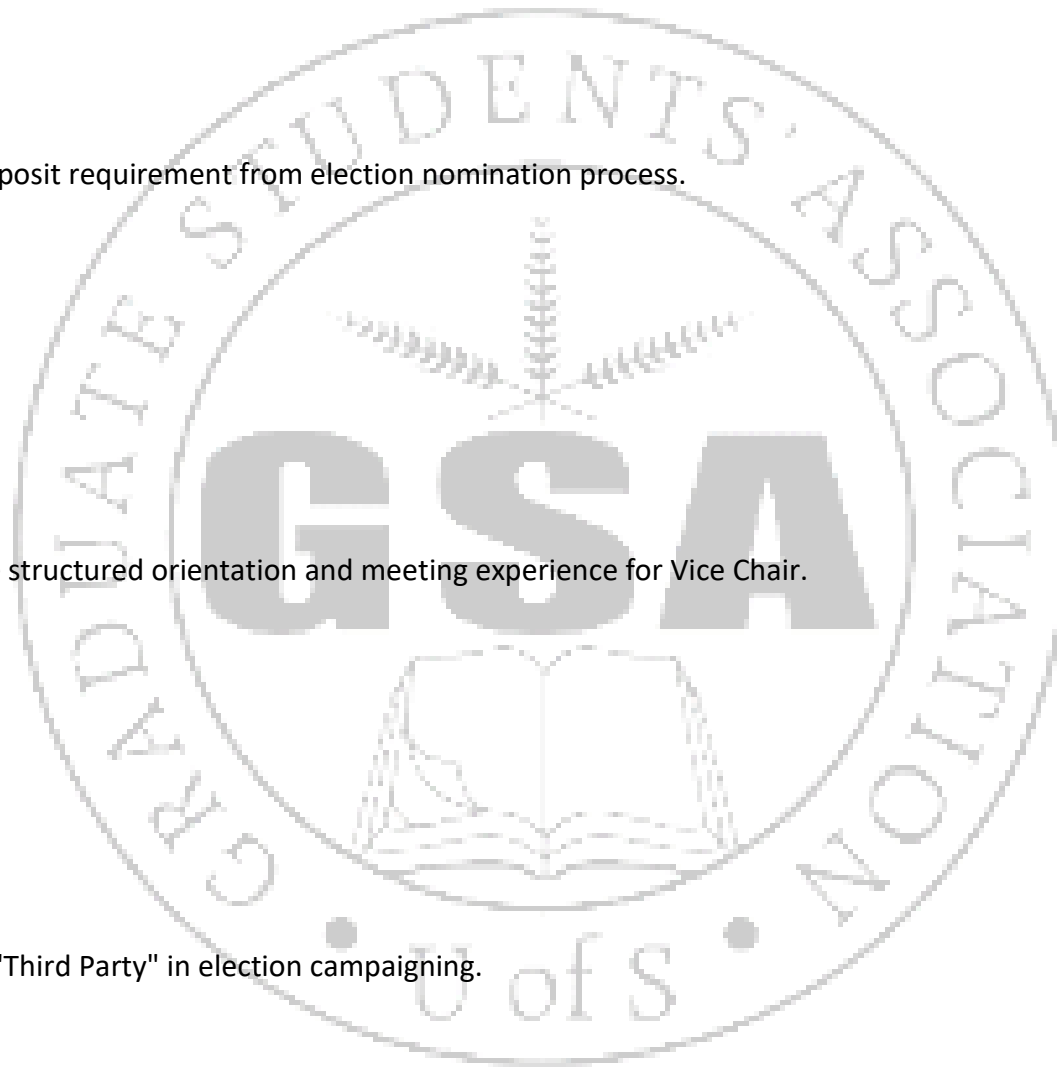
Expanded definition of "Third Party" in election campaigning.

Mover: David

Second: Lindsay

Yes: 16

No: 0



Abstention: 0
Motion carried.

Amendment 08

Clarification that a "Representative" is a regular graduate student.

Mover: Lindsay

Second: Luke

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 09

Representative nomination procedures and campaigning conduct outlined.

Status: Tabled for future meeting.

Amendment 10

Proposal to require at least five (5) nominators for a candidate, instead of one.

Rationale: Enhances legitimacy and support of candidacy.

Status: Tabled for future meeting.

Amendment 11

Proposed change to allow volunteer experience (confirmed by VP External) to qualify a student for the role of President.

Rationale: Recognizes substantial non-formal contributions.

Mover: David

Second: Amanda

Yes: 15

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

Amendment 12

Correction of bylaw reference and clarification that “Executive nominee (except President)” is preferred to have associative or volunteer experience.

Rationale: Fix misprint and clarify requirement.

Status: Tabled for future meeting.

Amendment 13

Corrects a misprinted bylaw reference by updating clause 4.8.6.1.2 to point to the correct section (Bylaws 4.8.3.4.5 – 4.8.3.4.7) instead of the incorrect 4.13 reference.

Mover: David

Second: Lindsay

Yes: 10

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

- **Agenda: GSA Executives’ Annual Report Questions & Answers**

Each Executive referenced their annual reports. Highlights:

- Reza (VP External) emphasized success of gala and sponsor funding.
- Lindsay (VP Finance) shared insights on bookkeeping delays and technology upgrades.
- Nickson (VP Academic & Student Affairs) highlighted structural reforms and equity concerns.

- Jen (VP Indigenous Engagement) detailed event initiatives and verification policies.

Member discussions included:

- The GSA Handbook's usefulness and environmentally conscious alternatives.
- Increasing engagement in events and promoting inclusivity.
- Cultural funding support and clarity around budget line flexibility.
- Proposals for pre-election vetting and structured debates to improve leadership selection.
- The need for a long-term strategic plan to align budget and executive actions.

- **Agenda: Election results & Introduction to new Executives**

The election results were announced. Incoming Executives were introduced. Candidates in attendance were invited to the stage for acknowledgment.

- **Agenda: Announcement of By-elections for President and VP Indigenous & Engagement**

Shaily announced that by-elections for the vacant President and VP Indigenous Engagement positions will take place in May (exact date TBD).

- **Announcement of Election for Vice-chair**

Applications for Council Vice-Chair were opened. The election will be held at the next Council meeting in June.

- **Agenda: Other Businesses**

Motion made to appoint David as Interim President until the conclusion of by-elections.

Mover: Reza

Secunder: Palash

Yes: 13
No: 0
Abstention: 0
Motion carried.

- Agenda: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Mar 5, 2025	Mar 26, 2025	Apr 2025
Biology Graduate Student Association	Portia Mohrbutter Ayicia Nabigon (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Chemistry Course Council	Marco Justino Loza Taghavi (Alternate) Ozra	P	A	P	A	A	A	

College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, microbiology & Immunology	Andy Kim - Councilor Shirley Yu - Councilor Samiul Chowdhury - Councilor Sara Dalkilic - Councilor Rylan Bahrey (Alternate) Adrielle Souza (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Thulani Hewavithana Norah Ridley Mary Fidelma Ndupu Mumtahina Ahmed (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Sumana Majumder Emmanuel Ezechinyelu (Alternate)	A	P	P	A	P	P	P
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Danyil Dmytriiev Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Parvaneh Koranian Sara Nath (Alternate)	A	A	P	A	A	P	
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Anukul Basnet Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Deepa Upadhyaya Subedi Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	A	P	P	A	P	P	P

Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Kiranbir Kaur Faizan Ansari (Alternate)	A	A	P	A	P	P	
English Course Council	Lydie Hua Gwen Rose (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Geography & Planning Graduate Council	Emily Ireland Prakash Sapkota (Alternate)	A	A	A	P	P	P	
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Matthew Chapelski Karissa Johnson (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	A	
Nursing Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	Jordan Sherstobitoff Ewurabena Sacky-Forson Hayen Chei Luri (Alternate) Stella Aluko (Alternate) Kristen Witter (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Plant Science	Luke Dojack	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Patrick Janzen-Brown Taya Stang (Alternate)	P	A	A	P	A	P	
SENSA	Jethro Opara Chelsea Ohenewaa Nyarko (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	A	A	
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Wasim Al-Khanati Omar Bardouh Theresa Agbeyei	A	P	P	P	P	P	

	Isfar Chowdhry (Alternate)							
Sociology GSA	Meaghan Boily Leah PHouseman (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Andrea Cline Kelsey Acton Chloe Canning (Alternate) Levi Lundell	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Animal and Poultry Science GSA	Megan Dubois Gus Halibert (Alternate)	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
Toxicology Graduate Student Association (TGSA) Academic Councilor	Chantel De Lange Summer Selinger (Alternate)	A	P	P	A	A	A	
History Graduate Student Association	Kiegan Lloyd Catlin M. Woloschuk	P	A	A	P	A	P	
Physics & Engineering Physics (PEGASUS)	Jeisson A. Vanegas Carranza Nicholas Simonson	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Student Association	Harjot Tur-harjot Bazal Khalid (Alternate)	A	A	A	A	A	A	

Executive member	Name of executive member	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Mar 5, 2025	Mar 26, 2025	April 2025
Exec. President	David Ohene-Amoako	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Lindsay Carlson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Nickson Joseph	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP External Affairs	Reza Golpayegani	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko	P	P	P	A	P	A	P