



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 09, 2023; 17:00-19:00

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

Item	Page	Action
1. Call to Order		
2. Approval of the Agenda	1	<i>Decision</i>
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes	2-33	<i>Decision</i>
3.1 Approval of March 2023 Meeting Minutes		
3.2 Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes		
3.3 GSA Executive Meeting June 27, 2023		
3.4 GSA Executive Meeting July 12, 2023		
4. Motion: To appoint one council member and one regular member for the GSA manager hiring committee.		<i>Decision</i>
5. GSA Executives Reports	34-39	
5.1 President's Report		<i>Information</i>
5.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>
5.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
5.4 Vice President External Affairs Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>
5.5 Vice President Indigenous Engagement Report		<i>Information</i>
5.6 Questions & Answers		
6. Other Business		<i>Information</i>
7. Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 8, 2023. 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: Sadia Afrin Lema

Recording Secretary: David Ohene-Amoako

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package. The Chair of the Council officially welcomed Members of the Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:07 P. M after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Mr. David Ohene Amoako, the Recording Secretary of the Council, compiled the meeting minutes, which were recorded and sent to him, however, he was not present.

2. Approval of Agenda

The chairperson spelled out the GSA standing orders for the meeting and requested adherence from all members. The chair added that only members with voting rights are eligible to vote and reminded members of the order of votes cast.

- a) **Y/Yes**
- b) **N/No**
- c) **A/Abstention.**

The chair called for the amendment of the agenda as circulated via mail.
Approval of the amendment.
(Quinn Hlus & Devin)

Carried

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes February 9, 2023.

Quinn Halluc soil Science, DSA: corrected a typo on Section 6 of the minutes, i.e., Comedy to be Committee; this was in relation to the selection of the GSA standing committee members.

The chair said all typos would be corrected before posting to the GSA website.

When there were no other corrections, the chair called in the voting process.

(Ehsan & Gwen Rose)

Carried

Yes: 20

No: 0

Abstention: 0

The February 2023 minutes was accepted to become a working document.

Note: Student question -SQ & Response – R

Agenda

1.0. Selection of GSA standing Committee members.

The following individuals expressed their interest in serving on the committees, which were presented to the council for a decision: Below are the committees and the proposed individuals to serve on them.

- Diversity Committee – Sai Kumar
- GSA Awards Committee – Sai Kumar
- Bursary selection committee – Udoka Ezeaka

Motion to accept committee members.

(Avery Kewiste p & Devin)

Carried

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

2.0. Social club ratification

2.1. ASHRAE University of Saskatchewan branch – (No representation)

2.2. Iranian Student council

The representative briefed the council on how they have worked well on the application waiver for Iranian students and offered some financial assistance as well. Additionally, they have had meetings to fraternize among themselves and have also coordinated with ISSAC to reduce their burden and assist other students. Furthermore, he emphasized their commitment to volunteering in Saskatoon during events like Canada Day and others. As a result, they are presenting their association for ratification.

SQ: A council member commended them for working hard to reach this level and asked if it was for only graduate students and inquired if the executives were elected democratically.

R: The Iranian representative responded that 70% of their membership are graduate students and the remaining are undergraduates, and further added that elections are based on their constitution, so members are democratically elected.

The chair then tabled the ratification of the Iranian Students Council for voting.

(Avery Kewistep & Devin P)

Carried

Yes 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

The Iranian representative requested to leave after the ratification.

2.3. Deeper life campus Ministry

The representative briefed the council that deeper life Christian fellowship is a group existing in several countries like Ghana, South Africa, and many more. He added that the association seeks to continually build the moral and spiritual values of its members. He further said that the Deeper Life Campus Ministry has been in existence for some time, though with a smaller number, and hopes to get more as other students enroll in the University.

SQ: A council member asked if it is a religious or a social group.

R: The representative responded that it can be both, considering the impact they make, which is socially and spiritually accepted.

SQ: The GSA chair asked the number of people in the proposed club currently.

R: They answered that they are currently 15 and hoping to get some in addition from the undergraduates.

SQ: The GSA President informed the proposed club that because GSA has respect for all religious groups, they do not want any group above the other, and further asked if they were planning an event for all graduate students or any particular group.

R: They answered that it is not a restricted group; it is for all, and it goes to the extent of coordinating with others who are now coming to school to help their mental and emotional stability.

The chair tabled deeper life Campus ministry for voting.

(Nicholas Simonson & Avery Kewistep)

Carried

Yes: 3
No: 4
Abstention: 12

At the end of the voting the Deeper life Campus Ministry was not ratified.

3.0. GSA Executive Report

3.1. President's Report.

The GSA president reported that they are currently forming committees, including the sustainability and Diversity committees. Making significant progress on the health care plan extension. Any questions for the President may be directed to their email address at gsa.pres@usask.ca at any time.

3.2. Vice President, External Affairs Report.

They have been renting the GSA commons, fixing some things in the commons, and taking care of the staff requests. Call for GSA bursaries, and he said the first one they didn't receive a lot of applications, and they have opened applications again. Any questions for the VP External Affairs may be directed to their email address at.external@usask.ca at any time.

3.3. Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report.

We have had a series of meetings where some have led to Career development opportunities, and we have shared some links for council members to explore. Graduate students can book an appointment. They are looking for graduate student opinions on their policy. Any questions for the VP Academic and Student Affairs may be directed to their email address at gsa.sa@usask.ca. any time.

3.4. Vice President Finance and Operations Report.

He has had meetings with and received some scholarships from the college of education and others; he has received lots of applications for the Awards committee, but they have extended it to March 17, 2023. All suggestions are welcome to help graduate students. There was no question. Any additional questions for the VP Finance may be directed to their email address at gsa.fin@usask.ca at any time.

3.5. Vice president indigenous Engagement

Started by acknowledging the February event and said a couple of people approached him and said they couldn't acknowledge the meeting due to travel and others are seeking a change of date. They want to continue this event. Aside from that they will see how they can work on their event. Due to time, she has been developing ways to communicate and hopes to present it at the next meeting.

No question was asked. Any questions for the VP External Affairs may be directed to their email address at gsa.indigenous@usask.ca at any time.

4.0 Election of GSA Recording Secretary

Aspirants for the position were Johnson and David. Johnson was invited to address the council but was unavailable, so the next aspirant, Mr. David Ohene-Amoako, was invited to introduce himself, and there was a private vote cast. At the end of the elections, **Mr. David Ohene-Amoako** was elected as the Graduate Student Association Recording Secretary and was congratulated by the GSA chair, Executives and all other council members.

Any Other Business

The GSA president informed council members that the GSA Executive election procedure is posted on the GSA website, so members are encouraged to visit the website for any information.

Adjournment

(Avery Kewistep & Devin)

Carried

All council members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023 (AGM)	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Oliver Xuan – Councilor Juan-Diego Paspuezan Chafuel – Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Animal and Poultry Science	Corissa Wilcox – Councilor Erika Cornand - Alternate	P	P	A	P						
ARCHAIA	Sarah Pocha-Tait – Councilor Angela Burant - Alternate	A	P	P	P						
Biology Graduate Student Association	Shuqi Ren – Councillor Kayla Caruso – Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Chemistry Course Council	Loza Taghavi – Councilor Srikant Singh - Alternate	A	P	A	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Arshdeep Jagait – Councillor Kundanika Mukherjee (Alternate)	P	P	A	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society –Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Rachel Harris - Councilor Maddie Stewart – Alternate	P	P	P	P						

College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon – Councillor Nahin Shakurum - Alternate	P	P	P	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councillor Sara Dalkilic – Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia A. Orji - Councillor Subroto Nag Pinku - Councillor	P	P	A	P						

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Amin Babaeighazvini Divyapratim Das -Alternate	P	P	A	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi Akinola Ogbeyemi - Alternate	A	P	A	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Zahra Teimouri Shahab Minaei (Alternate)	P	P	A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Emily Cline	A	P	A	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Shahabodin Afrasiabi Sarah Allahmoradi (Alternate)	A	P	A	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Vahid Hosseini Amirreza Mahmoudi-Alternate	P	P	A	A						
English Course Council	Gwen Rose – Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Miguel Dela Pena - Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Geography & Planning Graduate Council		A	A	P	A						
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Carlene Shaw Candice Minott (Alternate)	P	P	P	P						

Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Danielle Cormier Kevin Mageto (Alternate)	P	P	P	P						
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1.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023
Physical and Engineering Physics -PEGASUS	Nicholas Simonson – Councillor Yasaman Yousefi - Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Sarah Crawford Ayat Zagzoog (Alternate)	A	P	A	P						
Plant Science	Brianna Senetza – Councillor Kaylie Krys - Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Joanna Lavoie - Councillor Henry Francisco – Alternate	P	P	P	P						
SENSSA		A	A	A	A						
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Aashana Patel Somayeh Abdi Richa Tikoo (Alternate)	A	P	P	P						
Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman - Councillor Grace Rath -Alternate Leah Houseman – Alternate	A	P	P	P						

	Devin Prachler – Alternate Sara Leavin - Alternate										
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Quinn Hlus Catherine Chavez (Alternate)	P	P	P	P						
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Hannah Mahoney – Councillor Emily Kennedy - Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVI) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	A	P	A	A						

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Exec. President	Mostafa Kamal	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP External Affairs	Ozra Mohammadi	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Avery Kewistep	N/A	P	A	P						



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 14, 2023. GSA Commons

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: Sadia Afrin Lema

Recording Secretary: David Ohene-Amoako

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package. The Chair of the Council officially welcomed Members of the Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:07PM after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Mr. David Ohene Amoako, the Recording Secretary of the Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of Agenda

The chairperson spelt out the GSA standing orders for the meeting and requested for adherence from all members and reminded members of the order of vote cast.

- a) **Y/Yes**
- b) **N/No**
- c) **A/Abstention.**

The chair called for the amendment of the agenda as circulated via mail.
Approval of amendment.
(Challen Gladman & Sara Dalkilic)

Carried

3. Discussions of Proposals -1st Proposal

3.1. Operation of Childcare Centre by GSA. Carried by GSA President (Mostafa Kamal):

The president commenced by briefing the council that, currently, there are three childcare centers operating in the university. The staff Union manages one located in the Education building, while the undergraduates oversee the other two in the Confed building and the Williams building. Despite having these three centers, their combined capacity falls short, accommodating only between 100 and 215 children. Given that the University's staff totals around 30,000 members and the graduate student population is approximately 4,500, it is evident that the existing childcare facilities are inadequate.

To address this pressing issue and ensure sufficient provisions for our graduate students, it is imperative to establish an additional daycare centre. This new centre will alleviate the burden on the existing ones and better meet the childcare needs of our graduate students.

According to him, there have been numerous complaints from graduate students regarding unfair treatment at the childcare centres. One specific instance highlighted was when a student registered for the centre seven months ago but did not receive any progress or admission confirmation. On the contrary, some students who applied later were admitted, creating a sense of discrimination and frustration among our members.

Unfortunately, the Graduate Student Association (GSA) is limited in its ability to address these concerns since none of the childcare centres fall under its jurisdiction. Furthermore, there is no graduate student representation on the board of these childcare centres, which further hampers the ability to advocate for fair treatment and appropriate solutions.

This lack of representation and accountability is a significant challenge, and it underscores the need for establishing a new childcare centre that caters specifically to the needs of graduate students. With our members feeling marginalized and unheard, the university must take proactive steps to address these issues and ensure that all students and staff are treated fairly and equitably when it comes to accessing childcare services. He further explained that prioritizing graduate students with children for the new childcare center is a good step in recognizing the unique challenges Graduate students face. By granting them priority for admission, we can help alleviate the burden of childcare responsibilities, allowing them to focus more effectively on their studies and academic pursuits.

Again, he said, graduate students are facing challenges and are taking a longer period to complete their course because they have to sometimes take care of their children and combine school as well, which extends their research work, hence the need to have a GSA childcare center. Moreover, the President added that he and the Vice President in charge of finance have had a series of meetings with some financial institutions, like the TD Bank, who are ready to invest in starting the GSA childcare center, provided there is available land for that purpose.

During the meeting, the GSA President again shared information about funding the project, mentioning that investors such as TD Bank, fertilizer companies, Nutrient, and other

cooperating companies are willing to contribute as part of their social responsibility. Additionally, he expressed that the University president is pleased with the GSA's initiative. The President also noted that a similar decision was attempted by the GSA executives seven years ago, but it did not succeed. Nevertheless, he expressed admiration for the current executive committee's efforts in revisiting the project and conveyed his enthusiastic support for their endeavors.

Note: Student question -SQ & Response – R

SQ- The idea was appreciated by a student and further asked if TD Bank is offering the initial investment or if they will continue to fund it through regular donations, and does that come out of the budget that everybody was really worried about a few months ago? She added that she is very pro-daycare and would love this initiative. She further asked if GSA has a future plan to fund it or just want to take the step and see the way forward.

R - In response, the President said that this had been brought up in council for consideration and that, if approved, it would be taken up at the university level, where the association would take over. A fundraising drive is another idea he mentioned, where GSA will contact significant partnering organizations and alumni in strong positions to come and lend their support. He continued by saying that instead of using funds from the present budget, the GSA planned to raise money through fund-raising and from the institution. A mortgage from the university is being thought about with a goal to construct something resembling the USSU building. If we decide to build the actual building, TD Bank is prepared to provide a mortgage, which would be repaid with money made from the childcare centre.

SQ: Another student asked what we GSA hope will be the outcome of the discussion if taken.

R: The president answered that this is the initial discussion. It is just an open discussion subject to approval before they expedite action.

SQ - A Council member commended the initiative and asked how and when GSA will benefit from this initiative.

R: The GSA president responded that out of the support from the federal government, there is the opportunity for graduate students to get a good number of slots to help do good schoolwork and complete as planned.

SQ: A student again acknowledged the great vision but wondered about how to acquire land in the University to make this feasible since it's difficult to come by land in the University. The student further proposed that GSA can speak to the University president and get an already

existing building to use it for that purpose, since that will be faster and more cost effective than starting from the scratch. She cited the old barn as a location which the University is still contemplating on the use.

SQ: A council member asked if the building plan is ready since GSA office is limited by time.

R: The GSA president responded that all of these decisions would depend on council acceptance of the notice of action, however there is a backup plan.

2nd Proposal

3.2. Starting a GSA operated Endowment Fund. *Carried by GSA president (Mostafa Kamal)*

The president introduced this motion by admitting that the cost of tuition and health care have risen, increasing the financial challenges faced by graduate students. As a result, he proposed the establishment of a GSA endowment fund, from which returns would be used and the principal would serve as seed money that would not be touched until a predetermined period of time.

SQ: A student inquired if the executives do know approximately how much money would be needed in the principal fund from donations in order to cover the amount of money that we're currently spending out of pocket to subsidize things, it was again asked if the amount of money being expected is known, and how this endowment is different from savings and finally suggested that this whole process should be documented to avoid misappropriation of funds.

R: According to the President, the organization will start from nothing, and every dollar received will be saved so that it can grow to a larger sum of money. The GSA will work with any other bank or financial institution to make sure the association only spends interest and not principal.

SQ: A council member asked what we stand to lose if not approved and what we stand to gain if approved?

R: In response, the President stated that every money received would be used to improve the life of the graduate student and bring positive change in the lives of the graduate students. And if we do not accept this, we stand to lose future benefits for the graduate students.

SQ: *Challen Gladman:* Asked if this will serve as the GSA's equivalent of a savings account in which the GSA is not required to invest any of the principal. Or does that imply that someone must supervise controlling some aspects of it in order to invest to get more?

R: The president, Mostofa, responded that there may be an alumnus fund-raising night, and there has been initial discussion on donations and investment from cooperating bodies, and added that this meeting is going to give birth to the next decision on this for GSA.

SQ: A student Added that the idea is awesome but feels there should be some ground rules for GSA and for later committees by the current executives so that the fund is not misappropriated in the future since it will go a long way to help the association.

R: The president responded that, when it is approved, GSA will have some policies to govern both the daycare and the endowment fund for the future, and it will come back to the council meeting to be discussed and either added or subtracted to make it an approved policy document.

4.0. Motion to approve proposals on GSA Daycare and GSA endowment fund.

After the presidents' responses, he proposed that the Notice of motion be converted to full motion, the chair now put the proposals to vote.

(Challen Gladman & Sara Dalkilic)

Carried

1st Proposal

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstention: 0

(Challen Gladman & Akinola)

Carried

2nd Proposal

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstention: 0

At the end of the voting both 1st and second proposals were approved, and the chairperson thanked everyone for partaking in the decision making.

5.0. GSA Executives reports

5.1. GSA President Report

The GSA President reported on the decision of the executive to finalize the annual event and entreated all council members to book their calendars for this big event. Some events include the conference, gala night, and crystal reception for both winter and fall students. Apart from

the daycare and endowment fund discussed earlier, there are three other initiatives captured in the report. Any questions for the President may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.pres@usask.ca

5.2. Vice President Finance & Operations Report

As reported on the GSA summer spring update, which opened on May 26 until June 2022, and the BUSAL committee will come on in the first two weeks of July, they purchased five air conditioners for the common area, and they are installed and in good condition. They also have plans to acquire an amplifier for the system they have. Any additional questions for the VP Finance may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.fin@usask.ca

5.3. Vice President Academic and Student affairs

The committee have planned to organize a GSA T-shirt design competition, sort out the winner and print for the GSA fall orientation; the flyer for that will come soon Any questions for the VP Academic and Student Affairs may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.sa@usask.ca

5.4. Vice President External Affairs Report

The office of the V.P. external affairs has extended an invitation to people to join the gala competition; they have again reviewed more than 40 CGPS award applications and hope to recognize the awardees; they also collaborated with the VP finance to fix the problem for the AC; they had an issue with the FMD; and they are in progress to do the GSA handbook for the 2023–2024 academic year.: Any questions for the VP External Affairs may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.external@usask.ca.

5.5. Vice President Indigenous Engagement

Vice President Indigenous Engagement reported attendance at the 6th annual **māmowi āsohtētān Internal Reconciliation Forum**: On April 28 and **Red Dress** day on May 5th. They also reported their membership to the Welcome Back **Pow Wow Committee**. The Pow wow is September 12th in the bowl. It has been a busy month but they are making some social and professional connections. Any questions for the VP of Indigenous Engagement may be directed to their email at gsa.indigenous@usask.ca.

SQ – A student asked the chair about the meeting minutes of the March month.

R – The chair responded that the minutes were taken by the Veep academic and that it would be available at the next council meeting.

6.0. Any other Business/Announcements

Social Club Ratification

6.1. *Ash Grey Student Branch*"

The representative Tejvir said he is a master's student in the mechanical engineering department. He proposed the "***Ash Grey Student Branch***" club, which was established, with the aim of addressing building-related issues because people spend a lot of time in buildings. Another goal was to assist those with an interest in construction, air conditioning, or heating in learning about job opportunities, workshops, or lectures that might encourage them to enter this field. They are primarily graduate students, he concluded.

The Council members directed him to return to their mother association, ECGG, and talk with them before returning to GSA at our next meeting after a series of questions and responses.

6.2. **University of Saskatchewan, working for inclusion in chemical science, engineering, and technology.**

The representative briefed council members that, they do organize events throughout the academic year, during summer and spring, as well as bring forward strong role models so that they can inspire members to achieve more at the university and beyond.

After the briefings the chair put it to vote.

Motion to ratify "***working for inclusion in chemical science, engineering, and technology.***"
(Quinn Hlus & Challen Gladman)

Carried

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstain: 0

7.0. **Adjournment of meeting**

Motion to adjourn at 6:30pm
(Fidelia Orji / Challen Gladman)

Carried

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023 (AGM)	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Oliver Xuan – Councillor Juan-Diego Paspuezan Chafuel – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Animal and Poultry Science	Corissa Wilcox – Councillor Erika Cornand - Alternate	P	P	A	P	A	P			
ARCHAIA	Sarah Pocha-Tait – Councillor Angela Burant - Alternate	A	P	P	P	A	P			
Biology Graduate Student Association	Shuqi Ren – Councillor Kayla Caruso – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Chemistry Course Council	Loza Taghavi – Councillor Srikant Singh - Alternate	A	P	A	P	P	P			
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Arshdeep Jagait – Councillor Kundanika Mukherjee (Alternate)	P	P	A	P	P	A			

College of Medicine Graduate Students Society –Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Rachel Harris - Councillor Maddie Stewart – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon – Councillor Nahin Shakurum - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councillor Sara Dalkilic – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia A. Orji - Councillor Subroto Nag Pinku - Councillor	P	P	A	P	P	P			

1.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Amin Babaeighazvini Divyapratim Das -Alternate	P	P	A	P	A	A			
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi Akinola Ogbeyemi - Alternate	A	P	A	P	P	P			
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Zahra Teimouri Shahab Minaei (Alternate)	P	P	A	A	A	A			
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Emily Cline	A	P	A	P	P	P			
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Shahabodin Afrasiabi Sarah Allahmoradi (Alternate)	A	P	A	P	A	A			
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Vahid Hosseini Amirreza Mahmoudi-Alternate	P	P	A		A	A			
English Course Council	Gwen Rose – Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Miguel Dela Pena - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Geography & Planning Graduate Council		A	A	P	A	A	A			

Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Carlene Shaw Candice Minott (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Danielle Cormier Kevin Mageto (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	A			

2.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023
Physical and Engineering Physics -PEGASUS	Nicholas Simonson – Councillor Yasaman Yousefi - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Sarah Crawford Ayat Zagzoog (Alternate)	A	P	A	P	P	A			
Plant Science	Brianna Senetza – Councillor Kaylie Krys - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Joanna Lavoie - Councillor Henry Francisco – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	A			
SENSSA		A	A	A	A	A	A			
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Aashana Patel Somayeh Abdi Richa Tikoo (Alternate)	A	P	P	P	A	A			
Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman - Councillor Grace Rath -Alternate Leah Houseman – Alternate Devin Prachler – Alternate Sara Leavin - Alternate	A	P	P	P	P	A			

Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Quinn Hlus Catherine Chavez (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Hannah Mahoney – Councillor Emily Kennedy - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	A	P	A	A	A	P			

3.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Exec. President	Mostafa Kamal	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ramin Mohammadi	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Exec. VP External Affairs	Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Kayla Benoit	N/A	P	A	P	P	P			



I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Executive Meeting June 27, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi, Ramin Mohammadi, Kayla Benoit, Sristy Sumana Nath

Regret: none

Guest: none

The meeting started at 5:17 pm

Mostofa Kamal: The GSA president started the meeting with land acknowledgement.

Approval of the meeting minute May 9, 2023:

Move: Sristy

2nd: Ramin

Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

VP- Students and Academic:

1. **GSA X USSU meeting:** (VP-Academic will send an email to USSU to set the meeting)
2. **Wellness center:** GSA will participate and do partnership with USSU for academic awareness. The importance of sexual harassment, supervisor-student agreements are very important.
3. **Academic Awareness week:** 18-22 September 2023
4. **Fall Orientation'23: T-shirt Contest, swag bags, Orientation plan/Schedule, guest invitation:** VP-Academic will follow-up with the candidates to see if any submissions are received. President Mostofa Kamal and VP-Academic Sristy Sumana will finalize the swag bag orders together, and sustainability of products will be considered. The approximate T-Shirt quote will be \$6 each with the university and GSA logo (Ralph-Lauren company). VP-Acedemic will send the orientation plan for next meeting.

5. **Meeting invitation from Associate Dean of Library:** VP-Academic will send an email to the Dean to ask for their availability to meet.

VP-External:

1. Transition of remaining funding budget from 2023 GALA to 2024 GALA award: VP-External will talk to former VP-External Ozra Mohammadi to finalize the GSA Gala expenditures. Later, the executives will discuss the remained money to transfer.
2. Hand over documents to new executive members: For next year, every executives are responsible to send the hand over documents to new elected members and this item will be added in 2024 AGM policies.
3. **2023-2024 Handbook items approval:** VP-External has prepared the 2023-2024 Handbook components and needs all members' approval.
 - a. Move: Ramin
 - b. 2nd: Sristy
4. **Sending survey regarding the U-Pass:** President and VP-Finance will discuss about the questions for the U-Pass survey. Deadline July 3, 2023.

VP-Finance:

1. **Extending Spring/Summer Bursary application by July 7:** Budget distribution for GSA bursary is \$100K. VP-Finance proposed these portions for each term: 20% for Spring/Summer, 40% for Fall term, and 40% for Winter term.
 - a. Move: Abbas
 - b. 2nd: Mostofa
2. Purchasing new GSA mugs/Cups:
 - a. Move: Mostofa
 - b. 2nd: Abbas
3. Washing GSA Common Sofa:
 - a. Move: Mostofa
 - b. 2nd: Sristy

President:

1. **GSA Budget request (\$92,000 for 2023-2024) to CGPS:**
2. For the 2023/2024 academic year; the GSA sincerely request the CGPS to grant the following financial support to carry out its planned annual activities:
3. 1. Contributing CAD 70,000 (GSA will match the equivalent amount from GSA's discretionary fund) towards the GSA needs-based bursary.
4. 2. Contributing CAD 12,000 towards the GSA Annual Awards Gala.
5. 3. Contributing CAD 4,000 towards the Graduate Student Research Conference

6. 4. Contributing CAD 4,000 towards the Research Communication Workshop [new initiative]
7. 5. Contributing CAD 2,000 towards the Pop Talk/Elevated Speech Competition [new initiative]
 - a. Approved by all executives.
 - b. Move: Ramin
 - c. 2nd: Abbas

8. GSA executives representing university committees.

The GSA president informed the executives about the representation to different university committees.

9. GSA Common rental fees waiver request by Bangladeshi society:

- a. Move: Ramin
- b. 2nd: Abbas

10. GSA Event Invitations: all executives are asked to send their event invitations to the chief guest of corresponding events.

The GSA president adjourned the meeting at 7 p.m.

Move: Abbas



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GSA Executive Meeting July 12, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi, Ramin Mohammadi, Kayla Benoit, Sristy Sumana Nath

Regret: none

Guest: Pabitra Chandra Das from BSAUS

The meeting started at 5:05 pm

Mostofa Kamal: The GSA president started the meeting with land acknowledgement.

Approval of the meeting minute June 27, 2023:

Move: Ramin

2nd: Sristy

Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

President:

1. **Orientation Day on August 11 for Public Health College. Asked for a GSA representative:** President Mostofa Kamal or VP-Academic Sristy Sumana will join.
2. **GSA Office Manager Job Advertisement Finalizing:** all executives reviewed the job advertisement together and finalized the details.
3. **GSA Manager Hiring Committee:** The executives approved that the VP-Finance will join the GSA president to screen the applicants for interview with a majority yest vote.

4. Bangladeshi Student Association the University of Saskatchewan (BSAUS) Funding Request review (\$500.00):

The BSAUS has requested funding support from the GSA to organize summer sports event. After reviewing the submitted funding request the GSA executives approved a motion to fund the sports event.

- Move: Abbas
- 2nd: Ramin

VP-Indigenous Engagement:

1. Welcome Back Pow-wow Volunteer Committee- Sept 12th (all day event): the announcement will be shared on GSA social media, and volunteers needed for this event. VP-indigenous will send the event ad.

VP- Students and Academic:

1. **Budget distribution, t-shirt and food, for orientation program: The GSA has allocated \$9000** for the Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 orientation. The executive decided to give t-shirt during the orientation to incoming and existing graduate students along with GSA Handbooks. The GSA approved a motion to purchase 700 pieces custom-designed T-Shirts: (XL: 125, L:175, M: 300, and S: 100).

- Move: Ramin
- 2nd: Sristy

2. **Decision item: number of t-shirt orders 700:**

- Move: Abbas
- 2nd: Ramin

3. **T-shirt winner announcement \$100 (Devopriya Tirtho is the winner):**

The GSA call for a t-shirt design competition and selected a design based on executive consultation. Devopriya Tirtho a graduate students was the winner of the competition.

- Move: Abbas
- 2nd: Ramin

4. **Meeting with the dean of the library:**

The GSA executive will meet with the dean of the library on August 10, 2 p.m.

VP-External:

1. **Transition of remaining funding budget from 2023 GALA to 2024 GALA award:**

The GSA executives decided to transfer \$1,160.29 to the 2024 GSA Gala budget from the surplus budget of 2023 GALA award ceremony. It is to be noted that the GSA was able to secure more money from sponsorship for the 2023 GALA event than its total expenditure.

- a. Move: Raminn
- b. 2nd: Mostofa

VP-Finance:

1. **Purchasing a new laptop for GSA common:** VP-Finance proposed to buy a new Laptop for GSA common office. After thorough discussion, the GSA executive decided the following specification for the new laptop. The minimum configurations are:
SSD: 1TB
RAM: 32 GB
Screen: 16" 4K
Ports: Full
Graphic: NVIDIA
Webcam: FHD
 - a. Move: Ramin
 - b. 2nd: Mostofa
2. **Hiring a photographer to advertise the GSA common:**
The promote the GSA Commons's commercial availability, the GSA executive decided to hire a professional photographer to take pictures of the space and logistics for marketing.
 - a. Move: Ramin
 - b. 2nd: Abbas

The GSA president adjourned the meeting at 19:24.

- a. Move: Ramin



GSA President's Report (July-August 2023) to GSA Council Members

Dear GSA Council Members,

Please find the GSA President's monthly activity summary from June 15, 2023, to August 8, 2023, as listed below in order of importance of the activities.

1. GSA Office Manager Recruitment Update

The GSA has advertised for the position of GSA office manager via the College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies office. The GSA has received 15 applications in total for the post. The applications are under review. The hiring committee will consist of all GSA executives, one council member, and one regular graduate student. There will be an independent observer from the University's Human Resources department in the hiring committee who will be a non-voting member.

2. TA Rate Negotiation with University

The current collective agreement for Graduate Student workers at the U of S will expire soon. The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) has served notice to bargain with the University of Saskatchewan. Because of the importance of the negotiation for the graduate students and the sensitivity of the issue, the GSA president decided to join the PSAC bargaining team as the outcome of the negotiation will shape the future of Graduate Student workers at the U of S for a couple of years. There are two other members of the bargaining team.

3. Update about the proposed GSA-operated Child Care Centre.

During the last two months, the GSA president has discussed the proposed Child Care Centre with the dean of the College of Graduate and Post Doctoral Studies (CGPS), the former GSA president, the Department Head, and faculty members. The GSA president also informed the university council about the proposed initiative. During the monthly meeting with the dean of CGPS, the dean greatly admired the proposed initiative and expressed her interest in supporting the proposed initiative both from her office and personally. The GSA is scheduled to meet the University President in September to discuss the space for the proposed Child Care center.

4. CFS Policy Training

The GSA president attended a Public Policy training hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students. The goal of the training was to train the local chapter's executive about advocacy, campaign, and policy.

5. GSA Handbook

The GSA ordered 600 pieces of Handbook for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which will be distributed among graduate students during the Fall orientation. The GSA has increased the advertising cost in the Handbook by ~ 100% and received a significantly higher amount of sponsorship than in past years.

6. GSA T-shirt for Fall Orientation

The GSA has decided to give T-shirts as souvenir items to the incoming graduate students during the Fall orientation week. The GSA selected a design consisting of the GSA and University logos through a public design competition.

7. GSA Executive meeting (June 27 and July 12, 2023)

The GSA executive monthly meeting occurred on June 27 and July 12, 2023. Please see the meeting minutes enclosed on the agenda package for details.

Mostofa Kamal

President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, SK, CANADA

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Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from June 01, 2023, to August 03, 2023, as listed below:

1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: June 27, 2023 and July 12, 2023

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

2. Meeting with students College of Nutrition: June 2, 2023

The students at the College of Nutrition took the initiative to open a new academic council. We discussed preparing a constitution for the CON-GSA and the election process of the executive members.

3. Meeting with USSU VP Academic: June 27, 2023

I met with USSU VP Academic and discussed some common issues that are challenges for grad and undergrad students. USSU is planning to organize Academic Awareness Week from 18-22 September 2023, so GSA is also interested in joining to event for collaboration with USSU. Additionally, we decided to set up a meeting with GSA and USSU executives before starting the Fall semester.

4. Planning to collaborate with University Library:

The University Library is planning to organize the JumpStart online events on 18 August. So, they will give a panel for GSA and the name is "Grad Student Association Intro Session".

5. Evaluating applications for Spring/Summer'23 Bursary:

As a member of the Bursary committee, I evaluated applications. The Chair, VP Finance and Operations extended the deadline, but we received only 33 applicants for bursary.

6. Attended a hearing board for non-academic issue:

I attended a hearing board to resolve the non-academic issue and the meeting dates are below. For confidentiality, I could not discuss the matter in this report.

- First Team discussion meeting: June 22, 2023**
- Meeting with compliant and responded: July 12, 2023**

7. Organized t-shirt design contest for grad student:

The GSA planned to organize a t-shirt design contest to involve grad students with GSA. The winner received \$100 for a T-shirt design. We are planning to order the top-designed T-shirt for Fall'23 orientation program.

8. GSA Fall'23 Orientation Update:

We ordered 700 t-shirts for our new grad students, and we will distribute them at the GSA orientation. We ordered XL: 125, L:175, M: 300, and S: 100 pcs. Our orientation date is September 7, from 10 am to 12 pm. Also, I am preparing the schedule and presentation for the GSA orientation. Additionally, we receive requests from the departmental orientation programs and we executives try to attend to all.

9. Student meeting:

Meeting with one student about academic matter: 20 June 2023

10. Attended regular meetings of my portfolio:

- Graduate Programs Committee: June 6, 2023
- RSAW Committee meeting: June 8, 2023
- TLARC Committee meeting: June 13, 2023
- USASK Council meeting: June 15, 2023

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan

Subject: July Update - VP of Indigenous Engagement at GSA
Dear Council,

I hope this update finds you well. As we continue our journey towards fostering stronger connections and engagement within the Indigenous community, I am excited to share the latest developments from my role as VP of Indigenous Engagement with the GSA.

1. Hiring Committee for CGPS Position: This past month has been an enriching experience as I had the opportunity to serve on the hiring committee for a critical position within the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies(CGPS). Collaborating with a diverse group of professionals to evaluate and select the ideal candidate has been a rewarding endeavor. Our aim is to ensure that the selected individual not only brings expertise but also a commitment to inclusivity and cultural sensitivity, aligning with the core values of our Indigenous engagement initiatives.

2. Consultation on Marketing Materials: One of the highlights of the past month was the chance to collaborate closely with the CGPS team on refining their marketing materials. It was heartening to see how invested they were in authentically incorporating Indigenous perspectives and representation into their outreach efforts. This collaboration truly exemplified the spirit of partnership and respect that we are striving to cultivate. The resulting materials not only reflect the richness of our Indigenous heritage but also convey our dedication to making a positive impact.

3. A Serendipitous Connection: On a personal note, my involvement in the CGPS marketing project led to an unexpected and heartwarming encounter. While working on the project, I came across a name that sounded oddly familiar. After a bit of research and some family inquiries, it turns out that the individual I was corresponding with on the CGPS team is my third cousin, someone I had never met before! The beauty of these unexpected connections underscores the importance of the work we are doing. Our endeavors are not only about professional collaborations but also about strengthening familial bonds that may have otherwise remained hidden.

4. Meeting with ISU President: Last month, I had the honor of meeting with the President of the Indigenous Students' Union (ISU). Our conversation focused on ways to enhance collaboration between the GSA and the ISU to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for Indigenous students. This partnership is a testament to our commitment to amplifying Indigenous voices and promoting cultural awareness within the larger university community.

5. Welcome Back Pow Wow Committee: As we gear up for the new academic year, I am excited to share that I have been invited to join the Welcome Back Pow Wow Committee. This annual event holds special significance as it provides an opportunity to celebrate Indigenous cultures, foster community, and welcome new and returning students. I look forward to contributing to the planning and execution of this vibrant gathering. See you on September 12th in the bowl.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the potential impact we can create through our ongoing initiatives. With every step forward, we are reaffirming our commitment to empowering Indigenous voices and perspectives, both within our organization and in the broader community. I'm grateful for the support, dedication, and camaraderie that each one of you brings to this journey.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas to share. Let's continue to make strides together!

Warm regards,

Kayla Benoit- VP of Indigenous Engagement GSA