

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association

November, 21 5:00 P.M -7:00 P.M
GSA Commons

Present: Xue Yao, Ehimai Ohiozebau, Ranjan Data, Mohamed Hamid Mohamed, Sunisha Neupane.

Regrets: Steve Jimbo and VP Aboriginal

Call to order @ 5:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Motion: BIRT agenda for November, 21 2011 GSA executive meeting be adopted with relevant amendments. Motion moved by Sunisha and seconded by Ranjan. All supported, non opposed.

November, 1 Executive minutes

Motion: BIRT minutes for September 13, 2011 GSA executive meeting be adopted with relevant correction. Motion moved by Ehimai and seconded by Ranjan. All supported, non opposed.

Ombuds Officer

Yao enquired from Ranjan on what extent the school authority was committed to establishing the office of Ombudsperson. Ranjan explained to the house that from his last meeting, the university authority was thinking about establishing such office in January 2012. He presumed that the school will establish the office for both graduate and undergraduate students. The executives however discussed the possibility of having a GSA managed ombuds office. Though the idea sounded worthwhile, the reality of lack of finance to completely manage the office was noted and Mohamed pointed out the need to work within the available resources. He further advised that the GSA could make use of pro bono services in Saskatoon. The house thereafter agreed to explore that

possibility and Ranjan was directed to find a contact in Saskatoon and possibly get back to the executives on ways to use such services for the benefit of graduate students.

Professional Development Program

The need for the GSA to always strive to organize programs that will enhance graduate students' skills was discussed as well as the ways to organize these programs. The president suggested programs like project management, professor student relation skill, etc. The executives agreed that going forward, the GSA should engage on a more collaborative work with resource centers like the career center and the school of graduate studies and research (CGSR). It was noted that CGSR has some career development courses scheduled to be taught in winter term and the GSA should partner with them rather than starting a fresh series. However, the GSA can organize some career development talk session during its conference February 2012.

Executive Party

Since the year was ending, Yao suggested we have the annual executive party. The importance of having such informal executive session was highlighted. It is largely expected to be a social forum and fence meddling experience. Mohamed and Ehimai were directed to organize the party.

Meeting with Studentcare/net representative

The executives were informed that the studentcare/net representative-Amanda Smytaniuk-will be coming to present to them on Friday, December 2 at 5pm and all who will be available were encouraged to attend.

Aboriginal Liaison Officer

Issues concerning the formation and constitution of the Aboriginal and Indigenous Graduate Student Council (AIGSC) were discussed and it was resolved that the GSA Aboriginal Liaison Officer should submit to the GSA the following items:

- (a) Number of student members
- (b) Constitution
- (c) Names and titles of officials, and
- (d) Activities of the association

Adjournment 6:30pm-Ranjan and Mohamed.