

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Agenda



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 5:00 P.M -7:00 P.M GSA Commons

Attendees: Ehimai Ohiozebau (President), Izabela Vlahu (VP Academic), Steve Jimbo (VP External), Kiri Staples (VP Operations and Communications), Mohammad Rafati (VP Finance), Reanne Ridsdale (VP Student Affairs), Dana Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison)

1. Call to order – 5:03PM
2. President's University Vision document – presentation
 - Process to date
 - First draft of document was circulated in a number of settings for feedback
 - Feedback was incorporated into second version – this was distributed to specific advisory bodies (i.e. USSU, GSA)
 - Next steps – to take for approval in principal
 - Barring any major issues it will be going to University Council, Senate and Board of Governors
 - Context
 - Not a long history of a vision document – first one was in 2002
 - Described as the “compass” of the University, where the focus is for the institution
 - Foundational documents based on this vision
 - Some things we have changed since the first version
 - Formatting – better flow
 - Some values were expanded upon
 - Enhancing Aboriginal engagement section has been expanded

Discussion

- For how long will this vision be realistic?
 - Until a new President comes along or until the landscape changes significantly
- We hope that “student experience” includes graduate students, and that “research” is not just faculty research
- Deadline for feedback?

- End of March, but if there is anything that is completely off mark, the sooner the better
 - Can come to next Executive meeting for feedback if that's required
 - In the first draft, I don't think the language was well-received, but I appreciate the changes that have been made. My only comment is around timeline in "Our place in the post-secondary landscape" – First Nations and Metis came before farming communities, so maybe that should be reflected in the order of the document.
 - Really excited about engagement with Aboriginal leaders
 - In general think it's good improvement from first draft
 - Think it would be great to meet the goals by 2025
3. GSA Conference
- Everything is ready for the conference
 - It is a GSA event – encourage Executives to attend events as often as possible
 - Thursday 9AM opening keynote and breakfast, Thursday and Friday night socials; Friday morning breakfast – all Executives should attend
 - Likely fewer attendees on Saturday, so it would be great to get commitment from Executives
4. GSA Gala
- Everything is almost ready, just making finishing touches
 - Executives should be at hotel at 5PM
5. Funding request
- Approved
6. Adjournment 6:09PM