

Graduate Students' Association



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 12, 2015 - GSA Commons 4:00PM – 6:00PM

Present: Rajat Chakravarty (President), Ziad Ghaith (VP Operations and Communications), David Bennett (VP Finance), Hardi Shahadu (VP Student Affairs), Natalia Terekohova (VP External), Jebunessa Chapola (VP Academic).

Regrets: Dana Carriere (Aboriginal Liason)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM.
2. **Approval of Chair: President** Rajat Chakravarty was approved as a Chair.
 - 2.1. Moved by Ziad, seconded by David. All in favour.
3. **Approval of Minute Taker:** VP Ziad was approved as a minute taker.
 - 3.1. Moved by President Rajat, seconded VP Jebunessa. All in favour.
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
 - 4.1. Moved by President Rajat, seconded VP Ziad. All in favour. Motion passed
5. **Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on July 22, 2015**
 - 5.1. Jebunessa requests to add discussion item (6.6) discussion on career talk with Student Employment and Career. No objection
 - 5.2. Hardi requests to add information item (6.7) on the coming orientation. No objection. Center the approval of the Executive retreat minutes to the Agenda as item 6. There was no objection.
 - 5.3. Approval of the agenda was moved by President Rajat, second by VP Natalia. All in favour.
6. **Items for Actions/Information**
 - 6.1. **GSA Office manager contract**
 - 6.1.1. Ziad mentioned that we have to update GSA office manager contract and have it signed by the end of the current week.

6.1.2. The executives approved the updates. Two duties have been added to the office manager contract. Ziad will make sure to finalize the contract and contact the office manager.

6.1.3. Moved by VP Hardi, seconded by VP Jebunessa. All in favour.

6.2. Council -Suggestions to increase attendance and commitment

6.2.1. Ziad would like to discuss how to improve the councilors attendance. He suggested to pay the councilors per meeting as compensation for their time and commitment. Hardi asked how much this would cost the GSA. David and Rajat said that this will cost roughly 3000 CAD. The executives agreed to leave this discussion after the ratification of the new executives.

6.2.2. Rajat will communicate with the departments to organize the ratification of the new councilors.

6.2.3. Ziad mentioned that it would be good to have GSA governance orientation for the new councilors. Rajat will look into that and organize it.

6.3. Collaboration with ISSAC

6.3.1. Natalia wants to discuss how to improve the collaboration with ISSAC. Rajat mentioned that he has had conversation with ISSAC and he thinks we can propose ratifying the mixed group (grad and undergrad) by cooperating with ISSAC. Hardi suggested to take initiative and develop a proposal and meet with USSU and make decisions about it.

6.3.2. Rajat will set up a meeting between GSA and USSU executives.

6.4. Career workshop talk

6.4.1. Jebunessa had a meeting with the Student Career and Employment Center, the center provided her with a list of the proposed workshops. The executives agreed that the networking and job preparation workshop will be important for GSA members.

6.5. Orientation

6.5.1. Hardi updated other executives about the preparation for the orientation. He mentioned that we have received about 70 applications. Most of the applicants are willing to volunteer between 3-4 hours. He is working on assigning roles for them with the orientation coordinator and he will order the t-shirts and other items soon.

6.5.2. This year all the promotional items will be in one bag.

6.5.3. Hardi will invite the university president and dean to this event.

6.5.4. Rita and Hardi will meet with the counters on Friday.

6.5.5. Rajat will help in organizing the wine and cheese event, Jebunessa, Natalia, and Dana will help in the performance activities.

7. Meeting Adjourned

7.1. Meeting Adjourned at 5:34 PM. Moved by VP David, seconded by VP Natalia. All in favour.