

**Graduate Students' Association  
Executive Meeting Minutes**



**University of Saskatchewan  
Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
4:00 P.M – 6:00 P.M  
GSA Commons**

**Present:** Rajat Chakravarty (President), Hardi Shahadu (Vice President Student Affairs), Natalia Terekhova (Vice President External), Dana Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison), David Bennett (Vice President Finance), Jebunessa Chapola (Vice President Academic),

**Regrets:** Sherri Rohovich (Office Manager – nonvoting)

1. **Call to order:** 4:07 p.m.
2. **Approval of Chair: Rajat Chakravarty (President)**
  - a. Moved by Hardi, seconded by Natalia. All in favour. Motion passes.
3. **Approval of Minute Taker: Natalia Terekhova (VP External)**
  - a. Moved by Hardi, seconded by Rajat. All in favour. Motion passes.
4. **Approval of Agenda**
  - a. Moved by David, seconded by Jebunessa. All in favour. Motion passes.
5. **Approval of the minutes of GSA Executive Meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015**
  - a. Moved by Rajat, seconded by Jebunessa. All in favour. Motion passes.
6. **Discussion: Budget / Finances**
  - a. The budget has been added to the SGM. Very detailed. Let David know if there's any comments
  - b. Minor changes required.
  - c. We need this to pass to make any payments for the coming year. Please ensure everyone comes to the meeting. Need to keep peripheral discussion to a minimum.
  - d. Food will be served needs to be emphasized.
  - e. Let's send another agenda on Tuesday.
7. **Discussion: Special General Meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 / Invoices**
  - a. Executives wish to remain neutral on the legal invoices given we have no approval from council nor a budget line to process such a payment.
  - b. We should remember that there is a monthly 1.8% interest fee on lawyers bills
  - c. Any conversations with the lawyer must happen with a trail of evidence (In writing). Hardi shall take initiative on the letter.
  - d. A discussion item at the SGM should be added to address this issue – moved by Rajat, seconded by Hardi. Add this right at the end.
  - e. Meet with University Secretary for further advice on the issue.

**8. Discussion: Communication strategy in the absence on VP Operations – both internal and external**

- a. All executive communication goes through the GSA President – until we have a VP Operations. CGSR only wants to communicate with one person.
- b. All internal communication must come with a deadline for response should the matter be urgent. The deadline should be set by the Executive who sends the email.

**9. Update: Token of Appreciation to Mark Kroeker**

- a. Flowers have been ordered – cost \$77.30. A message sent from the executive.
- b. Request the Geography Department to make a short dedication.

**10. Motion: Graduate Committees Allotment**

- a. Interdisciplinary – Jebunnessa Chapola
- b. Equity and International – Natalia Terekhova
- c. GSA Graduate Council Meeting – Rajat Chakravarty
- d. Executive – Rajat Chakravarty
- e. Graduate Academic Affairs – Jebunnessa Chapola
- f. Graduate Programs Committee – Hardi Shahadu
- g. Earned D.Sc / D. Litt. – David Bennett
- h. Awards & Scholarships – David Bennett

Moved by Natalia, seconded by Jebunnessa. All in favour. Motion passes.

**11. Conference – Studentcare.net**

- a. It is within Natalia's portfolio to go for this meeting.
- b. It will be a good learning experience for Natalia to go.
- c. **Motion – To send Natalia Terekhova for the studentcare.net conference in Montreal.**

Moved by Hardi, seconded by Jebunnessa. All in favour. Motion passes.

**12. Motion: GSA action items on vandalism in U-Lot**

WHEREAS the GSA is responsible for the well-being of its members in the university residence

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GSA takes appropriate action to address such concerns

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vice President Student Affairs shall take the lead responsibility based on his portfolio on this issue in the future

**Discussion:** Members need to feel GSA has worked in their interest. Hardi wishes to write a report addressing a complaint on the issue. Concerned students have submitted a petition. More executives need to be involved in this issue – we need to build credibility and support the victims.

- a. Moved by Natalia, seconded by Jebunnessa. All in favour. Motion passes.
- b. Brainstorm communication through non-CGSR units for targeted communication.
- c. Follow-up informal meeting on this issue on vandalism (Hardi will propose a date for this meeting to update us on the situation)

**13. GSA Communication on the spring/summer U-Pass**

- a. Message should be sent to members on the efforts/challenges faced in having a summer U-Pass (Hardi is working on one). Went to the USSU, however clearance was denied by Saskatoon Transit. This communication will be sent to all graduate students with the final agenda for the SGM.

**14. Discussion: GSA Facebook account & Website**

- a. Let Vice President Operations & Communications come and handle it.
- b. We need a new Facebook account. Work on getting likes. Hardi takes care of creating this Facebook page/group – Posting done by any GSA Executive member.
- c. News updates needed for the website.
- d. We need to be more transparent and be accountable towards it.
- e. Work towards a GSA blog which is well publicized.

**15. GSA Program statement with timeline**

- a. We need to decide on what our goals for our individual portfolios. Survey questions? Hardi is working towards a proposal to council for this survey. Let us wait for the retreat to draft a proposal for this survey.

**16. Governance Orientation**

- a. Around June 8<sup>th</sup> – we can have this orientation

**17. Meeting with the University President**

- a. June 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 – 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

**18. GSA Retreat**

- a. Ballpark time – second week of June.
- b. Rajat will plan this event. Hardi has insisted he will BBQ.

**19. GSA Chair Applications**

- a. Formally, no one has applied yet.

**20. Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by Natalia, seconded by Rajat. All in favour. Motion passes.  
Meeting adjourned at 6.03 p.m.