

University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 26, 2016 - GSA Commons 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Present: Z.Ghaith (VP Operations and Communications), D. Bennett (VP Finance), N. Terekhova (VP External), H. Shahadu (VP Student Affairs), J. Chapola (VP Academic).

Regrets: D. Carriere (Aboriginal Liason)

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:22PM
- 2. Approval of Chair:** The President asks if anyone wishes to be chair. Seeing no volunteers President Chakravarty volunteers to chair the meeting. Moved by VP Operations. Seconded by VP External . All in favour. The President will chair this meeting.
- 3. Approval of Minutes Take:** VP Operations volunteers to take the minutes. Moved by the President, seconded by VP External. All in favour. VP Ops will take minutes.

VP Operations mentioned that he will need to leave early as he TAs a class. GSA President requested VP Finance to take the minutes after this point. VP Finance mentioned that this is tiring task and he is not in the mood to do it tonight. GSA President volunteered to take over as minute taker after VP Operations leave.

- 4. Approval of the Agenda.** VP Operations moves to add item moves to add Item 6.6 Funding Proposal by WUSC (World University Service Council) Group, Item 6.7 GSA Commons Booking by GSA executives. VP Academic moves add Item 6.8 Anti-Racist Workshop. VP External moves to add 6.1 CFS meeting, GSA President moves to add 6.9 GSA Nomination to the Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award Committee. A motion to add all of these items moved by VP Operations seconded by GSA President. All in favour. **Motion Carries**

VP External moved to move Item 6 CFS Meeting to be discussed in the beginning as she will have to leave the meeting early. Seconded by VP Operations. All in favour. **Motion carries**

5. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:

5.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on January 13, 2016

VP Finance notes he reviewed them quickly and they seem fine. Moved by VP Finance. Seconded by VP Ops. All in favour. Motion carries.

6. Items for Actions/Information

6.1. CFS meeting

[N. Terekhova]

VP external registered as the delegate for the NGC meeting which will be hosted in the GSA Commons. She cannot attend all of the sessions due to some other commitment. VP External asked if anyone want to attend this meeting as the official representative of the GSA. GSA President suggested that VP Operations attend this meeting. VP Student Affairs mentioned that he would like to attend this meeting. The VP External suggested that VP Operation attend Saskatoon NGC meeting, while VP Student Affairs attend the Regina local component meeting. VP External moves this motion, Seconded by GSA President. All in Favour. **Motion carries**

VP External mentioned further that that CFS will organize a Racialized and Indigenous Summit in Toronto between 18-22 of March. VP External suggested that VP Academic attend this summit as she is interested in this issue and as she did has not had the opportunity to go for any conferences so far. VP Academic expressed that she can go for this event but there may be a time conflict with the last day. VP Student Affairs mentioned that he is passionate about this event as well. VP External commented that she suggests someone who did not attend any conferences or meetings before to go for this one. VP Finance added that GSA executive agreed in the beginning of their term that every executive to get an opportunity to participate at least one external conference or meeting. He noted that is may be possible for two executives to attend. VP Operations mentioned that he think that there is no need to have to two representative, as it will not add anything and it will cost GSA extra money VP Finance asked to postpone this discussion to our next exec meeting as the deadline is not until mid-February. All the executive supported that.

GSA President asked all executives to check their availability regarding all of these CFS meetings.

6.2. Three minutes reports

VP Finance: The VP Finance indicates that he attended a Vice-Provost Faculty Relations Review Committee meeting. The other tasks that he has been focusing on are working on the draft budget for the next financial year and also preparing some information for the Advocacy Steering Committee which has its first meeting on Thursday afternoon. He is hopeful that it will really help the GSA take stock of what we are doing well now and what areas we can focus on to grow and serve members even better. VP Finance attended the special library review committee along with VP Ziad and VP Natalia and that was really positive. They noted that our panel offered the most constructive feedback and ideas on the library review and renewal. VP Finance also attended the University Council where we heard President Rajat speak and also the motion regarding the inclusion of Indigenous knowledges and experiences for the purpose of meaningful and relevant learning outcomes, in all degree programs. This is obviously a positive motion but I think it is important now we become more engaged with how this will actually be planned and implemented going forward. VP Finance suggests that as TLARC and P&P will be playing key roles that President Rajat convene a meeting of those representatives along with the Aboriginal Liaison to make sure that everyone is properly informed and a plan can be crafted to make sure we have a role in how this is brought forward and implemented.

VP Student Affairs: VP Student Affairs mentioned that he doesn't have much to update the Executive committee. Recently he is dealing with some issues related to the pickup spot in the residence. He received some complaints from some students regarding this issue. He further mentioned that he had some communication to resolve this problem. Another issue VP Student Affairs was involved in in campus security and the residence rates for the upcoming year.

VP Academic: VP academic currently diligently working on the GSA Conference with the conference coordinator. She also attended many meeting including ISSAC Global Village

Committee. She is preparing form the Endangered Language / International Mother Language event which will take place in March and also planning some other events.

VP Operations and Communications: VP Operations worked with the GSA Conference, GSA Gala, and 3 Minutes Thesis Coordinator to publicize the Graduate Achievement Week. VP Operations attended the Library review committee with VP External and VP Finance. He had a meeting with the President's Chief of Staff Mr. Julian Demkiw to discuss the achievement week proposal, he mentioned that he will talk about this meeting in details later during this meeting.

GSA President: The GSA President wishes all a Happy New Year and is really happy to be back from his personal leave. He attended the University Council, the Council meeting was remarkable where a motion to include Indigenous content in different programs has passed. He worked on the GSA Newsletter, he mentioned that he got a lot of good feedback. Further he is currently working on the tuition campaign. GSA President is trying to engage more graduate students to run and vote for the upcoming GSA election. In his report he read an *in camera* letter for the executive.

6.3. Council Engagement and Recruitment

[D. Bennett]

VP Finance noticed that the Council seems good and engaged but we are missing some councils that used to be engaged int he GSA. He asked if there is any updates in the Councillors and Council recruitment process. GSA President asked VP Student Affairs if he has any updates as according to the bylaws this is under his portfolio. VP Student Affairs replied that he delegated this work to the GSA President. The GSA President indicated that this is not correct. VP Student Affairs added that he did not take any action to recruit more Councillors as he has many things to do in his portfolio. VP Finance mentioned that he is willing to help, but he would like to see a clear strategy outlining recruitment process, he added that he is busy with his portfolio, but he is willing to help if he sees a clear recruitment strategy presented by the VP Student Affairs. GSA President

mentioned that this is important issue, and VP Student Affairs should take an action or to delegate this work to someone else. VP Student Affairs replied that we should judge according to what he did, not according to what he didn't do. VP Finance mentioned that according to GSA Bylaws VP Student Affairs is responsible to do this task.

VP Operations mentioned that we have Councillors representing a good percentage of the university departments, he thinks we have a problem in communicating with them as many of them mentioned that they don't receive emails from the GSA. He believe that GSA Chairperson should update his emailing list, and make sure that all Councillors are included on it.

6.4. Graduate Student Achievements Week proposal

[Z. Ghaith]

VP Operations and GSA President met with Julian Demkiw earlier in the day to discuss Graduate Achievement week proposal. Julian indicated that he was confused as he had a meeting with VP Academic in November 2015, VP Operations and GSA President clarified these confusions for him. Julian asked the GSA representatives whether GSA will be able to run the GSA conference and other activities if they receive no money, GSA representative clearly mentioned that this will be hard and he stated that the GSA should scale down the proposed activities. Julian further requested to send him an email including how much we have raised so far, and what is the exact amount we are asking the President's Office to cover. VP Academic suggested that VP Operations to take lead on this. VP Operations replied that he will take the lead and update other executive. He also noted that is was informed to the GSA last year that this funding was meant to be one time but this was never informed to this year's GSA Executive.

6.5. GSA Winter Photo Contest

[Z. Ghaith]

VP Operations mentioned that the GSA is going to give out three prizes in the form of gift cards for the Winter Photo Contest winners, he asked GSA President to get the gift cards

and to give them out during the GSA upcoming social event. GSA President said he will get them from BestBuy as it is a store related to photography

6.6. Proposal WUSC

[Z. Ghaith]

VP Operations informed GSA executive committee that he received a donation request from WUSC group, he circulated the letter to all executives. GSA President mentioned that he had some discussion with this group last year, and he believe that the GSA should ask them to get ratified as a GSA social club, the GSA can fund them or sponsor their events, he further mentioned that GSA has no budget line for donations. VP Finance and Operations agreed with the GSA President proposal. VP Operations will contact WUSC group and inform them about the GSA executive decision and request.

6.7. Anti-racist workshop

[J. Chapola]

VP Academic updated the GSA executive about the anti-racist workshop which will take place in March. She asked all GSA executive to support this even and encouraged all to attend this workshop. VP Academic asked if it is possible to fund this event in the amount of \$300. GSA President asked VP Academic to come with a specific proposal on how this money is going to be used. VP Academic will bring this proposal in the next exec meeting. VP Finance noted this is a good type of workshop to conduct.

6.8. GSA Nomination to the Outstanding Student Teacher Award Committee. [R. Chakravarty]

GSA President received an email from GMCTE asking him to sit on this Awards Committee. He brings this to the executive and asked if anyone is interested. He asked VP Operations if he is interested, he replied that he can sit on this committee if the President is not interested too. GSA President mentioned that he would like to sit on this committee. VP Operations decided not to nominate himself to sit on this committee to give opportunity to the GSA president. GSA executive all agreed that GSA President will sit on this committee. All in favour. **Motion Carries.**

7. Adjournment: 7:01