

University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 9, 2016 - GSA Commons 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Present: D. Bennett (VP Finance), R. Chakravarty (President), N. Terekhova (VP External), Z. Ghaith (VP Operations)

Regrets: J. Chapola (VP Academic), H. Shahadu (VP Student Affairs), D. Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison)

- 1. Call to Order.** Meeting is called to order at 5:06 PM
- 2. Approval of Chair.** President is nominated by VP External, Seconded by VP Operations. All in favor. President Chakravarty will chair the meeting.
- 3. Approval of Minutes Taker:** VP Operations is nominated by President, Seconded by VP External. All in favor.
- 4. Approval of the Agenda .** VP finance, GSA President, and VP Operations moved to add discussion items: 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, and 6.8 all in favor the agenda approved as amended.
- 5. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:**
 - 5.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on February 24, 2016.**

Agenda has been circulated in advance. Agenda is approved as circulated unanimously.

6. Items for Actions/Information

6.1. Three minutes reports

[Execs]

VP External: VP External was busy preparing for the GSA Gala. She spent time getting prizes and contacting different businesses for this event. VP External participated in Arts and Science Deans Search Committee. She further attended Shine a Light event organized by WUSC group. The Zumba event will take place tonight as part of the Health Chat series.

President: GSA President was busy for the Graduate Achievement week, he attended the 3MT. GSA President mentioned that he received good feedback from the Dean of College of Graduate Students and Research. The President is continuing his work on the tuition survey, he has reached many graduate students, however he understands he needs to extend

to more students to ensure that the survey is fairly representative. He has asked the executive to send out their inputs for the GSA annual which should be ready in April.

VP Operations: The VP Operations was busy during the Graduate Achievement week, he helped out with the GSA events coordinators to publicize their events, as well as attending the 3MT, GSA conference, and GSA Gala. VP Ops currently is busy with the GSA Winter Bursary and plans to arrange the committee meeting next week. VP Ops sits on the Presidents Service Award Committee and the Dean of Library Search Committee. VP Ops informed the executive committee that they must consider that the GSA Communication should be sent via CGSR at least 2 days prior to the circulation date, as CGSR takes time to send the communication out.

VP Finance:

Obviously, things have been very busy the past several weeks. The draft operating budget for 2016/17 is finalized and has been submitted to the Council two weeks in advance as per our bylaws. It was obviously a very onerous task that I couldn't have accomplished without the assistance of the Budget and Finance Committee. I hope all of you will be supportive of it. The other task that I have been working diligently on is our upcoming Election Forum which will be held on Tuesday March 15th at 5:00PM here at the GSA. I'll expand on that later in the meeting. The Gala, Conference, and 3MT are now behind us and they were quite wonderful but for me they're really just starting as I'm working through the accounting of all the revenues and expenditures for these events to ensure everything is reconciled perfectly and to provide financial reports on them. I've also been busy meeting with Campus Legal Services, the Student Advocacy Steering Committee, I attended the YXE Transit Safety Forum, the Provost's Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity as well as the search and review committees I serve on have been meeting. The other somewhat time consuming task I've completed the reconciliation of our health and dental invoices as well as our remittances from the University.

6.2. Update on Election Forum

[D. Bennett]

The Provincial Election Forum is coming up on Tuesday March 15 from 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM. Thanks to Rajat for his help in some of the organizing. I'm hopeful that the rest of you will be able to help or to attend. So, we will be having candidates and representatives from different political parties here to give brief speeches and answer question form the audience and then there will be a chance to mingle and there will be pizza and pop. Education funding is likely to be key issue, so it is important of us to engage and allow our members to become engaged. It is important that we get strong attendance and engagement at this event because it reflects on the Association because some of the people in attendance are MLAs or will become MLAs. Rajat had mentioned to Jack at the USSU that we are having this event and they said they are interested in collaborating so he contacted me and mentioned that he could help with the promotion. I haven't really heard back from him so I had some of the posters I had already made put up. I'm also just going to make a FB event as I'm not sure that the USSU will be doing it. I'll also ask for Ziad to promote the event via email. There are actually lots of other ways we could promote this event or any event and I received this information from staff at the University and it should be implemented going forward.

6.3. Update on GSA Winter Bursary

[Z. Ghaith]

We have received 195 applications (81 complete applications). The Winter Bursary Committee will meet next week to process these applications. VP Ops has contacted CGSR to confirm that the 20 bursaries will be given to the winners. GSA President asked if the VP Ops considered having new members on the bursary committee, VP Ops replied that he is getting new students to sit on this committee.

6.4. Associate Vice President (Research) Search Committee

[R. Chakravarty]

GSA President informed the executive committee that he received an email from the university asking the GSA to have a representative in The Associate Vice President (Research) Search Committee. GSA President mentioned that this looks as an academic committee and he thinks it is part of the VP Academic portfolio, VP Finance replied that it is everyone's portfolio. GSA President nominated VP Ops to sit on this committee, seconded by VP External, in favor: 3, abstention 1 (VP Ops). Motion carries.

6.5. Update on transit [D. Bennett]

VP Finance mentioned that there is a possibility that the bus drivers will have a strike. He added that GSA should be ready in such case as more than 70 percent of GSA members are bus riders. GSA President thinks he can probably send a letter to Sask. Transit to complain about this. VP Finance mentioned that we should wait until something happens before sending any letters. VP External mentioned that we should act in the best interest of the students. VP Operations mentioned that it is important to be ready for such an event and he thanked VP Finance for bringing this to the executive committee attention. VP Finance will draft a letter and send it out to the executive before the President sends it to Sask. Transit.

6.6. Transition manual. The president informed the GSA executive that according to GSA bylaws, he will need to prepare an annual report for the GSA for our membership. He would like to get some input from the GSA executive to make the report as comprehensive as possible.

He asked the GSA executive to collect information, pictures, posters, write-ups etc. to be added to this report.

6.7. GSA Socials:

The President proposed a social on 27 of April after the AGM meeting. The President and Aboriginal Liaison discussed the possibility of having trivia night, VP Finance mentioned that we don't have budget for that. The GSA President will ask VP Student Affairs to help out in organizing this event.

7. Motions

- 7.1. Whereas the Department of Plant Sciences Council is duly registered Council. This Council is sending a delegation to the 32nd Annual Plant Sciences Graduate Symposium (PGS Symposium). This event will benefit students socially and academically in the Council and allied agricultural fields. BIRT the GSA contribute \$500.00 to the Plant Sciences Council to subsidize the costs to participate in this PGS Symposium in North Dakota State University. **[D. Bennett]**

The GSA President mentioned that our Bylaws do not allow us to give any money for travel. VP Finance answered that this money will be used for registration not for traveling expenses. VP Operations suggests to get ask the Plant Science Council to bring proof of how they will not use this money for traveling expenses.

The GSA President called one of the Plant Science Course Council members and asked him how they are going to use the money, he replied that it will go toward accommodations.

Motion to sponsor their event by 500 dollars, moved by VP Finance, seconded by VP President, in favour: 3, abstention: 1. Motion carries.

8. Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 6:01PM.