

# University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association



## GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 23, 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), D. Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison)

**Absent:** H. Shahadu (VP Student Affairs)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting is called to order at 5:06 PM
2. **Approval of Chair:** President nominated himself, Seconded by VP Finance. 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:** GSA external moved to 6.5 discussion on UG15 conference. 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 March 9, 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 Finance:** The most important update that I have which most of you know is that our operating budget for the 2016/17 year was passed by the Council. That's obviously wonderful and sets up the GSA for continued financial success and stability. But, in my role there is no time for any recovery periods. I have been busy meeting with our health and dental provider on the issue of the rising dental claims. I've also been attending the review committee for the Vice-Provost of Faculty of Relations position in addition to representing the GSA at the CGSR Scholarship and Awards Committee. The other task that I worked on with my colleagues was serving on the bursary selection committee. The other things that are keeping me quite busy are just the day-to-day financial operations and

monitoring of our association. I will be meeting with our auditors later on in April in anticipation of receiving the financial statements for two years to present at the AGM. I organized the hosting of the Provincial Election Forum + Meet and Greet and it was a strong event I thought. I was pretty pleased with the turnout (although we can always strive to improve that). Thanks to all those that helped make the event a success. I think the quality of the event gave a really good impression of and to our GSA members and I'm really happy that our members will be engaged in the Provincial Election where education is such an important issue.

**VP Operations:** The VP Operations participated in two of the university committees (dean search committee, and the university President Service Award committee). VP Ops added that he organized the winter bursary committee meeting. He further helped out in the organizing the provincial election forum.

**VP External:** VP External was part of the college of Arts and Science Dean Search committee. She further was part of Equity and International Committee. VP External was part of the Bursary committee, she mentioned that she got good experience by sitting on this committee. She communicated with CFS regarding Gala sponsorship; she is still awaiting their reply.

**GSA President:** He attended the Racialized and Indigenous Students' Experience in Ontario. He agreed with VP Academic to organize a conference in the GSA to get our members to benefit from their experience in the RISE conference. He further attended the University Council and the Students Forum. Further, through his participation in the Student Forum, he encourages the next year GSA Executives to consider mental health as one of their priorities. The President currently works on the GSA annual report, he looked at the USSU report to get some ideas. He encouraged all GSA Executives to give some input to be included in the GSA report.

## **6.2. Winter 2016 bursary updates**

**[Z. Ghaith]**

VP Operations updated the committee about GSA Winter bursary. He informed them that 6 GSA members were part of the selection committee and the GSA awarded 20 bursaries this term. All the winners were communicated with and were informed about their bursaries.

**6.3. GSA Commons updates**

**[Z. Ghaith]**

VP Operations informed the Committee members that we printed 2 new logos to be used in our events. He encouraged the Executives to use them in their events. He added that the GSA used these prints in the provincial election forum and it was good publicity for the GSA as it appears on some websites and Facebook pages.

**6.4. Excellence in Aboriginal Research Award**

**[R. Chakravarty]**

The GSA President will schedule a meeting with IGSC regarding this award.

**6.5. GU15 Conference**

The GU15 conference will take place on April 13-15 in Vancouver. VP External and VP Finance expressed their interest in attending this conference. VP Operations asked if we have enough money to send two representative. VP Finance answered yes.

The executive committee voted anonymously for VP Finance and External to attend this conference.

The Executive committee acknowledged VP Academic's desire to attend this conference and they encourage her to report on how she plans to cover the conference costs as the GSA will not be able to send more than 2 representatives.

**7. Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 6:05PM.