

University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association



GSA Executive Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 - GSA Commons 5:00PM – 7:00PM

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

Regrets: J. Chapola (VP Academic)

Absent: H. Shahadu (VP Student Affairs)

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting is called to order at 5:12PM.
2. **Approval of Chair.** President is nominated by VP External, Seconded by himself. All in favour. President Chakravarty will chair the meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes Taker.** The President nominates VP Finance. Seconded by VP External. All in favour. VP Finance will take the minutes.
4. **Approval of the Agenda.** Agenda has been circulated in advance. No one seeks to add or change items. Agenda is approved as circulated unanimously.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:**
 - 5.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on February 10, 2016. The President asks if any corrections or omissions. No corrections or omissions are raised. Minutes are adopted unanimously.

6. Items for Actions/Information

6.1. **Three minutes reports**

[Execs]

VP Finance:

Obviously the main project that I have been expending most of my time and energy on has been working on the final adjustments for the draft operating budget for the next financial year. The second initiative that I have been planning is the Provincial Election Candidate's Forum + Meet

and Greet which will take place on Tuesday March 15th at 5:00PM in the Commons. I think some people here have promised here to help with this which would be good as it is a significant amount of work that is above and beyond my portfolio.

Today was the second round of the CGSR Dean's Scholarship. Obviously that is very time consuming process. For this round there were 1629 pages of information to go through. I can confirm that the funding for the International Dean's Scholarship comes partially from the fees collected by international differentials and the rest is provided by supervisors and/or departments.

In very positive news I've just been informed today that there is a substantial amount of money (in terms of almost 1.5 million dollars) that will be allocated to the CGSR and that money is specifically earmarked for students. Dean Baxter-Jones is taking feedback on how this money will be used specifically. My immediate suggestion was an increase in stipend amounts from the current 16 and 20, to 21 and 26K to be more competitive with comparator universities. The other suggestion of the top of my head was also to increase the amount available for conference funding in terms of raw funding and the amount per conference because it isn't enough. This is very recent news so I'm sure Dean Baxter-Jones will consult with our President Rajat about this.

The last thing I'll mention is that I went and represented the GSA at the Parking Committee Bylaws Committee and they will be placing loading/drop-off zones by the residences but they won't be exactly in the same spots as they were as there were issues with them impeding flow and access. Also, they're going to place boulders and a bike rack near those walking paths there to prevent cars from accidentally or purposely driving on them. There were some other topics discussed there but I can speak about them after if people are interested.

VP External:

VP External has been working hard and preparing for the gala. Along with the Committee she helped to select the award winners. There were many nominees and it was hard to select the winners as there were so many strong candidates.

Along with the President she attended the National Graduate Caucus that was hosted at the GSA Commons. It was a very successful conference.

President:

The President noted the NGC was very busy but was very positive. It showed where the GSA is doing well and needs to make some changes. He discussed the cases of Student Unions in Ontario who were having the CRA audits in terms of business and profit.

The Tuition Town Hall was a very positive initiative with many people asking important question. His Tuition consultation his going well and he has met with students across different colleges. He is creating a report and will present that information to Council and various stakeholders and partners.

The University President will come to Council in March to discuss the Mission and Vision of the University of Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal:

Attended the Scholarships and Awards Committee of Council and talked about funding for aboriginal students. She provided and update on Gordon Oakes Red Bear Events and Aboriginal Achievement Week.

6.2. GSA Guppies Social

[D. Carriere]

The Aboriginal Liason congratulates all the teams on their success this year. She raises this issue of having a special social event for the end of term two and to celebrate the teams for the whole year. She requests the amount of \$200 be allocated from the Events and Initiatives. Moved by President. Seconded by Aboriginal Liason. All in favour. Motion carries. \$200 is allocated from the budget line.

President Chakravarty raises the issue of a year end celebration for Council after the AGM.

6.3. Aboriginal Student Bursary

[D. Carriere]

The Aboriginal Liason notes that IGSC does a lot of fundraising throughout the year to raise funds for the IGSC Bursary. She asks if there is interest and willingness to donate to some of their money from discretionary funds to help set up one more \$500 bursary. She will donate all her remaining discretionary fund in the amount of \$320. VP External Terekhova and President

Rajat Chakravarty each agree to donate \$87.58 each from their discretionary funds. This will be named the GSA-IGSC Aboriginal Bursary. All should be congratulated for this contribution.

6.4. IGSC Funding Request

[D. Carriere]

The Aboriginal Liason notes that she hasn't had time to put a formal request. She wants to organize an Indigenous Curriculum panels/workshops. IGSC will apply to the GSA for social group funding. Moved to the table by Aboriginal Liason until her formal budget/request is presented. Seconded by President. All in favour. Motion tabled.

6.5. GU15 Spring 2016 Conference

[N. Terekhova]

VP External notes that the Conference will be on April 13-15. Deadline for Registration is March 31st. They are also seeking proposals for topics/presentations for this conference. This is something to think about. Moved to table by VP External and President until the next meeting. All in favour. Motion is tabled to next meeting.

President Chakravarty and VP External went to the CFS Sask meeting. They provided a further update on this and note that they got some funding approval of \$2400 to send one person extra from UoS, UofR, FNUniv to send the Radicalized/Indigenized Conference to deal with the issue of indigenization. IGSC will send a delegate, namely Coleen Charles who is well versed in this area and has expressed interest.

6.6. BSAUS funding request

[R. Chakravarty]

President Chakravarty provided information and background on this. It is noted that this will be a popular event and will be very multi-cultural in nature. Their Pohela Boishakh event will be very popular. President Chakravarty proposes \$500. Seconded by VP External. All in favour. Motion carries. \$500 will be allocated from the Social Group funding.

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