

**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**



**GSA Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016 - GSA Commons 5:00PM – 7:00PM**

**Present:** D. Bennett (VP Finance), R. Chakravarty (President), N. Terekhova (VP External), Z. Ghaith (VP Operations), J. Chapola (VP Academic), H. Shahadu (VP Student Affairs)

**Regrets:** D. Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison)

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting is called to order at 5:10 PM
- 2. Approval of Chair:** President nominated himself, Seconded by VP Finance. All in favour. President Chakravarty will chair the meeting.
- 3. Approval of Minutes Taker** VP Finance volunteered to take the minutes, Seconded by GSA President. All in favour.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:**

**4.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on March 23, 2016**

VP Student Affairs notes he saw a discussion on the Racialized and Indigenous Conference where the VP Finance asked if he had attended. He said that if he went he would go as individual but this was an unfair question as it wouldn't be considered GSA business. VP Student Affairs moves to delete that line where the VP Finance asked the President if the VP Student Affairs attended the RISE Conference as he said he would. Seconded by VP External. Three in favour. Two opposed. VP Finance says he will not take minutes if parts of the minutes are being deleted and he wants that noted in the minutes.

GSA President is left with no choice but to take the minutes.

## **4.2 Adoption of the Agenda.**

VP Academic and VP External move to add sending condolence letter to Adam St. Denis' family. VP Student Affairs moves to add CGSR Dean Search Committee update to the agenda. All in favour to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carries

## **5. Items for Actions/Information**

### **5.1. Three minutes reports**

**[Execs]**

**VP Finance:** I have been working on preparing my final report for the AGM as well as developing a thorough transition manual for the next VP Finance. I would hope that you are all doing the same or starting to think about doing the same. It is important to note that if you don't provide an acceptable transition manual to your incoming Executive member you're not getting paid, it is in the bylaws, but I'm sure it won't be an issue for anyone in this meeting. It would be good if each Executive member prepares a nice final report for the AGM. I'm working on mine and it includes not just the positives accomplished in my portfolio this year but also some more critical suggestions both for my own portfolio and for the GSA going forward. Focusing on relatively minor things like looking into getting fresh fruit for the Commons from the USSU Food Centre / Fresh Food Box Program on occasion to more serious things like the LGBTQ Initiatives and Positive Spaces which I have to say seems almost neglected by the Executives who should be most involved by virtue of their portfolio.

Other tasks that I'm working on in addition to the day-to-day financial monitoring, updating, and oversight of the Association include writing letters of thanks on GSA letterhead to people that served on any committees I chaired. I'm also going to send out thank you cards to key stakeholders and partners that I've worked with this year (probably just a handful). In terms of meetings I've represented the GSA at the CGSR Awards and Scholarship Committee where we focused on the Graduate Scholarships. I also attended the opportunity to meet with the Board of Governors which was very positive and I'll speak about that in its discrete item.

I'm preparing for the GU15 Conference and as we are close to going over on the Executive Travel Budget I have used my personal air miles to subsidize the cost. I think this demonstrates my dedication with actions and not just words. VP Finance notes that with the Provincial Election now behind us I think it would be beneficial and polite for the GSA to send a formal letter to the Premier congratulating him on his victory but also emphasizing the importance of post-secondary graduate education to our members. This should be done soon and sent it on behalf of the Executive and the Association.

**VP Academic:**

- Working on transition manual and annual report.
- Dealing with hearing cases and Building Bridges events. This month, 2 events are planned: non-violent communication + anti-racist workshop.
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**VP Student Affairs:**

Working on annual report, summary of many reports [What reports?] + transition manual towards the AGM. Sitting on university committees. Received an email about student wanting to change supervisor. Advised student to not escalate to create problems. Also got an email about childcare services, USSU Child Care was perceived as only for undergraduate – however, new allotments will also include grad students.

**VP External:**

Shared the information that was on PAWS that there is a town hall for parents on campus. Notes that Futsal team that got into playoffs for GSA Guppies – got injuries. She got hit on the face twice. Is following-up with CFS on funding. CGSR Dean search town hall – not well-publicized (although she is not the GSA rep on that committee). Health chat organized with 25 or so in attendance – we did Irish dance. VP Finance interjects that he excelled at that activity. \*VP External doesn't look convinced\* GMCTE is recognizing teaching awards for USSU and CGSR, but not GSA. She is working to rectify this and inform them of GSA awards as well.

**GSA President:**

I have also been working on the transition manuals, please send materials to me. Trying to make it similar to the USSU report – structured and well-designed. The GSA website has been taking most of his time.

**VP Operations and Communications:**

- Serving on IGSC bursary committee
- Sitting on Library Dean Search Committee
- Attending GSA Health Chat
- Very important Meeting with the Board of Governor members along with VP Finance and VP External

**Aboriginal Liaison:**

The IGSC is hosting our annual Steak Night Fundraiser at Sports on Tap on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We have sold over 100 tickets for the event, many of which were donated to give to Aboriginal students. I would like to extend a thank you to Ziad, David and Sherri from the GSA for donating tickets and supporting our fundraiser! Funds raised from the event will be used by the 2016/2017 IGSC

Executive to host various events, subsidize student costs to attend events on and off campus, and give a \$500 bursary to an Aboriginal graduate student in financial need.

The IGSC announced the successful applicants of the 2015/2016 IGSC Bursary. We gave away one \$500 bursary from our funds raised at last year's steak night fundraiser, and we also gave away an additional \$500 bursary with money donated from myself, Natalia, and Rajat from our executive discretionary funds. I would like to extend a thank you to Natalia and Rajat for your generosity in contributing to the bursary, to David for preparing the cheque for IGSC on behalf of the GSA Executives, and to Ziad for participating on the IGSC bursary selection committee.

The GSA Guppies Year End Social is taking place this Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 pm. At the GSA Commons. There will be food, games and prizes. David and Natalia have offered to help with planning this event, as they were active members of the GSA Guppies teams this term. Also, both made it to playoffs – David for curling and Natalia for futsal – congrats guys! A total of three GSA Guppies teams made it to playoffs this term – men's basketball, co-rec curling, and co-rec futsal.

I am currently on two search committees, Edwards Dean Search Committee and Provost Search Committee, both of which are still ongoing and updates will be provided at a later date.

## **5.2. GSA Achievement week Volunteers Appreciation Dinner**

**[J. Chapola]**

Jebunnessa asks about the conference revenues and expenses. VP Finance notes they are as follows:

Revenues – 6700

Expenses – 5511.69

VP Finance supports funding for the volunteers for the event. It is noted that this appreciation dinner should not be expensive.

VP Ops – supports executives that helped by being there.

VP Academic – notes she will go for a reasonably-priced restaurant.

VP Finance motions a budget of up to \$350 from the conference line. All in favour. Motion carries.

VP Academic would like to use her discretionary funds for her non-violent communication workshop. Date not finalized but after 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## **5.3. Send a condolence letter to St. Denis' family**

**[J. Chapola]**

VP Academic Jebunnessa takes responsibility for the same

## **5.4. Vending Machine**

**[D. Bennett]**

VP Finance notes that the vending machine is just taking up space and that we either need to use it or lose it. Following discussion with VP Ops we have listed it on Kijiji – just to see if there is interest. He notes his minimum expectation (off the record) and notes that the offers haven't been close to that. If we can't sell it than we need to try and make some revenue for it and it needs to be maintained. Office manager reached out to Consumer Services to see if they or their suppliers might be interested.

#### **5.5. Board of Governors**

**[D. Bennett]**

VP Operations, VP External and VP Finance were at the BoG Meet and Greet. BoG were open to discussing the idea of having GSA President sitting on this committee – this is a multi-year process. Need to start the process – drafting strategies for the same. Senate has less representation as well. Under-represented at the GSA as well. Tag-team strategy to meet separate members. We have too many graduate students now to not be represented as compared when the University Act was written.

VP Ops notes that is was a positive discussion and thanks to those that participated. It would be good if we start something and give this to the new exec and continue for years on.

**6. Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5.55 p.m. Quorum is lost.