

## University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association



### GSA Executive Meeting Minutes Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 –GSA Commons 5:00PM – 7:00PM

**Present:** K. Sharma (VP Finance), Z. Ghaith (President), C. Gaspar (VP External), N. Absher (VP Operations), A. Kiani (VP Academic), D. Carriere (Aboriginal Liaison), & Shaliza Sapal (VP Student Affairs)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting is called to order at 5:04 PM
2. **Approval of Chair:** Ghaith nominated himself. Seconded by Gaspar. All in favor. President Ghaith will chair the meeting
3. **Approval of Minutes Taker:** President nominated Gaspar. Seconded by Aboriginal Liaison. All in favor. Gaspar will take the minutes.
4. **Approval of the agenda:** Kiani moved to approve items 6.17 Anti-Oppression & Racism Workshop, and 6.18 Conference, seconded by Sapal and motion passed. Carriere moved a motion to add 6.19 GSA Guppies, Seconded by Gaspar. Carriere moved to discuss 6.6. to be not in camera, seconded by Gaspar. 5 in favor, 1 abstain, motion carries. Carriere moved a motion to add 6.20 an apology from the Executive committee to those named in said report. Ghaith moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Carriere, 5 in favor and 1 abstain. Motion Carries. The agenda is approved as amended.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:**
  - 5.1. **Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on April 20, 2016**

Ghaith mentioned that the minutes is available on the association website. Ghaith moved to approve minutes. Seconded by Gaspar. All were in Favor. Motion passed.
6. **Items for Actions/Information**
  - 6.1. **GSA Commons Hours** [Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith moved a motion to close the GSA commons May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm and reopening on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Seconded by Sapal. 1 opposed, 5 in favor. Motion passed.
  - 6.2. **University Council Committees** [Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith informed the executive committee that he received a request from the university secretary to give them a list of the executives that will sit on different university committees.

Ghaith asked for nomination based on the interest. Carriere noted that we should put names based on the University term of reference. Ghaith noted that the university doesn't have term of reference for all committees, the terms of reference is only available for one committee (Award and Scholarship Committee). Carriere mentioned that she believes that other committees have term of reference. Ghaith mentioned that he doesn't mind any reference as the nomination based on interest and portfolio. Executives nominated and voted on the following committees:

**University Council Subcommittee:**

**Academic Programs Committee – Kiani**

**Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee – Kiani**

**International Activities Committee – Gaspar**

**Planning and Priorities Committee – Sapal**

**Research, Scholarly & Artistic Work Committee – Kiani**

**Scholarships and Awards Committee (this is the Vice-president Finance of the GSA as per the Bylaws) – Sharma**

**University Council - Ghaith & Kiani**

**University Senate – Ghaith**

**CGSR Subcommittees:**

**Executive Committee – Gaspar**

**Awards Committee – Sharma**

**Equity and International Committee – Absher**

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee – Kiani**

**Graduate Programs Committee – Sapal**

**Interdisciplinary Committee – Carriere**

**Earned Degrees committee - Absher**

Ghaith will email the corresponding committees with the appropriate VP for the committee.

**6.3. Spring Convocation**

**[Z. Ghaith]**

Ghiath brought to the table a request for outgoing VP Academic to sit on May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 2pm because of her partner convocation is at that time. Approved by all. Executives decided which date they are available to attend the convocation. The executives attendance to the spring convocation is as follows:

**May 30 at 2 – Ghaith**

**May 31 at 9 – Kiani**

**May 31 at 2 - Jebunnessa**

**June 1 at 9 – Gaspar**

**June 1 at 2 – Sapal**

**June 2 at 9 – Absher**

**June 2 at 2 – Sharma**

#### **6.4. GSA Retreat**

**[Z. Ghaith]**

Ghaith inquired about the budget for this event. Sharma concluded that the budget is \$250. Ghaith explained that this is for one retreat and 24 meetings. Sapal recommended hosting the retreat outside the office, perhaps BBQ at Pike Lake. She asked if the budget would allow for this. She recommends allocating a \$100 for this. Ghaith explained that the retreat will be 7-8 hours, and it would cost more than \$100. Sharma and Kiani agreed the retreat should take place outside the GSA commons. Absher asked if the executives had to save money for the meetings. Ghaith explained that the executives sometimes get refreshments. Sharma recommends dedicating \$150 for the retreat and \$100 for the meetings. She also recommends moving money from one budget line to another within the executive operations budget line. Carriere stated that it would cost more than \$150 including gas, lunch, snacks and transportation at Pike Lake. She also replied that the executives couldn't move budget lines without consulting with the council. Ghaith stated that budget couldn't be altered without the consultation of the council. Sapal asked how much gas would cost. Gaspar replied that it would be expensive. Carriere recommended putting together a budget and looking at options. Ghaith recommended having the retreat at the commons. He asked when the retreat should be held. All executives agreed on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 9AM – 4PM at the GSA commons.

#### **6.5. GSA Executive Training**

**[Z. Ghaith]**

Ghaith states that there's two training sessions required. The first is the training to use the AV system and microphones for Absher and Sapal. The GSA Admin or Ghaith can do this at any time. The second training is the governance training session by Beth on policies,

governance and structures of the university. Ghaith will meet with Beth on Thursday and update the executives on this.

#### **6.6. Outgoing-Incoming GSA Executives Potluck**

**[Z. Ghaith]**

Ghaith recommends holding a GSA potluck for incoming and outgoing executives. This will be great to enhance and build relationships. Family, partners, pets can be invited to this event. This would be help in two weeks. Sharma recommends sending a doodle poll. Ghaith states that the executives will be send a doodle poll to book this event.

#### **6.7. Student's Survey**

**[S. Sapal]**

Sapal states that she has spoken with Eleanore and that the CGSR is flexible to help the executives with the survey. She requests each executive to contribute to the survey. It should explore all areas of graduate students' needs. Sharma states that it is crucial to include financial matters in the survey to provide evidence of how much graduate students are spending on living expenses and tuition. The survey should also explore student-supervisor relationships, lab equipment shortage, etc. Carriere proposes to create a survey committee. She will also work on the indigenization portion of the survey. Sapal recommends including 10-15 students in the committee from a variety of departments to begin planning. Absher this will be useful as evidence for program planning and policies. Sharma inquires on ways to make the survey mandatory. Ghaith states that the executives do not hold the power to make the survey mandatory. He recommends that the survey should be general to inquire about students' general needs. He also recognizes that the survey committee will be important and that councilors should be included, as well as general members. Sapal will take lead of this committee. Sharma recommends gifting participants of the committee an SSRL. Gasper agrees. Ghaith volunteers to sit in this committee. Absher will be the contact person for this committee and be in contact with Eleanor. Two tasks for the committee: 1) develop the survey and the committee. 2) Survey should be launched in September. Ghaith moves a motion to extend the meeting by half an hour to 7:30 PM. Sharma seconds this. 1 was in favor. 5 opposed. Motion failed. Ghaith moves a motion to extend the meeting by half hour to 7:15. Carriere seconds it. All were in favor. Motion Passed.

#### **6.8. Introduction of revenue lines for year 2016/17**

**(Vending machine money)**

**[K. Sharma]**

Sharma proposed two revenue lines for year 2016/ 2017, one for the vending machine & one for ISIC card. The ISIC card is issued to graduate students free of charge, but undergraduate students are charged \$10. Ghiath states that Sharma needs to do this at the council meeting. Sharma moves a motion to take this item of adding two revenue lines for the year 2016/2017 to the council. Seconded by Sapal. All were in Favor. Motion passed. Gaspar moved motion to table items 6.10, 6.11, and 6.12 to the retreat. Seconded by Sapal. All were in Favor.

Motion passed

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| <b>6.9. Garden</b>                       | <b>[C. Gaspar]</b> |
| <b>6.10. Sustainability</b>              | <b>[C. Gaspar]</b> |
| <b>6.11. Planner Update</b>              | <b>[C. Gaspar]</b> |
| <b>6.12. Positive Spaces Initiatives</b> | <b>[N. Absher]</b> |

Positive space training is canceled because of time confliction with convocation. Absher will reschedule the training. Absher moved motion to table items 6.14, 6.15, and 6.16 to the retreat. Seconded by Gaspar. All were in Favor. Motion Passed.

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| <b>6.13. Indigenization Initiative</b> | <b>[N. Absher]</b> |
| <b>6.14. GSA Website Needs</b>         | <b>[N. Absher]</b> |
| <b>6.15. New GSA App</b>               | <b>[N. Absher]</b> |

Kiani moved motion to table items 6.17 and 6.18 to the retreat. Seconded by Ghaith. All were in Favor. Motion Passed.

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| <b>6.16. Anti-Oppression Workshop</b> | <b>[A. Kiani]</b>   |
| <b>6.17. Conference</b>               | <b>[A. Kiani]</b>   |
| <b>6.18. GSA Guppies</b>              | <b>[D. Carrier]</b> |

Aboriginal Liaison moves a motion to approve \$50 for a guppies soccer team. Seconded by Sapal. All were in favor. Motion passed.

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| <b>6.19. Apology to those named in VP Student Affairs Report</b> | <b>[D. Carrier]</b> |
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Executive committee decided to apologize to those identified in the outgoing student affairs report, and update them that the report was rejected at the AGM. Ghaith will send the email.

Aboriginal Liaison will help with drafting email. President Ghaith will call for input.

**7. Adjournment** at 7:06 PM.