



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Executive Committee Minutes
Friday, April 7th, 2017 - GSA Commons**

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

1. Call to Order at 5:10 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Executive Committee added the following items: CFS Conference Meeting, Council Cheques, Sociology Graduate Students Council, Staff Evaluations, VPTL (In-Camera).

Kiani moved a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Sharma. All in favor.

Carries.

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:

4.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on March 24th, 2017

Tabled until next Executive Committee Meeting.

5. Reports

1. VP Finance

- 126 students benefited from the UFile. Recommendation for next VP Finance & Operation to continue providing this service
- Budget is almost done, going to be approved prior to the AGM
- I sat on the University Graduate Student Scholarship Committee

2. VP Academics

- 3MT thesis & Conference more than 60 participants over the course of the 3-days.
- 4 meetings for different committees
- Will meet with Associate Dean regarding student issues this month
- Kiani will be utilizing a portion of his discretionary fund towards purchasing clothes for Gala. Sharma explained that there was an open agreement to use the money for student initiatives. Sharma asked how this is fair as the committee decided to use this money towards student initiatives. Ghaith said that you can use it based on the decision of the executive during the Executive Retreat that it can be used based on the discretion of the Executive.

3. VP Students Affairs

- 3 university/CGPS committee meetings
- Helped with 3MT conference
- Served on GSA Gala committee

4. VP External

- Organized Gala. We had approximately 270 attendees
- Attended 3MT and conference
- Planning the ThinkGRAD conference that is to happen at 19-21st
- Represented graduate students on CGPS committees

5. VP Operations & Communications

- The Sustainability Committee hosted a successful Sustainability Slam and Carbonless Concert. Attendees, judges and participants provided positive feedback.
- Attended CGPS APC and SPH Search Committee Meeting.
- Served as the Judge for the Research Video Competition.
- Served on the IGSC Bursary Committee.
- Helping plan ThinkGRAD Conference.
- Planning to host a Mindfulness Meditation session on April 12th.
- Coordinating the notification of matches for the Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program.

6. VP Aboriginal Liaison

- Helped at Gala
- Helped with the 3MT and provided opening remarks
- Sitting on a subcommittee for TLARC looking at Indigenizing the Learning Charter.
- CGPS committee for Indigenous Graduate Student Leadership award.
- Attended the governance committee.
- PSAC general meeting.
- Organizing the IGSC steak night and could give away 2 bursaries.

7. President

- Working on GSA annual report
- Working on Summer UPASS and will be meeting with City Transit.
- Graduate student agreement is finalized

6. Items for Actions/Information

6.1. Volunteer Appreciation Night

[K. Sharma]

Sharma explained that Tax Filling had 14 dedicated volunteers and would like to organize a volunteer appreciation night specifically for them. Efimoff inquired whether it would be better to host one volunteer appreciation night for all the GSA volunteers throughout the evening to save on resources. Sapal stated that it would be beneficial to host this event along with the April social. Sharma agreed will be planning a volunteer appreciation night and it will take place after AGM.

6.2. AGM Video

[K. Sharma]

Sharma explained that it would be great if the executive could create an AGM video as a

promotional tool to increase attendance of AGM. The Absher stated that it would be beneficial to create such videos in the beginning of the academic year to promote the GSA YouTube page. Gaspar added that it would also promote the social media and the GSA App. Executive Committee suggested to create videos at the beginning of the academic term to introduce the incoming GSA Executive or to promote services in the future.

6.3. Discussion on ThinkGRAD

[Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith stated that expenses will be made for the ThinkGRAD prior to the event and will be using the GSA credit card and this will be covered by the registration fees once tallied. Gaspar added that 7 student leaders from 3 GSAs are coming, and potentially 3 more coming. We have received sponsorship from student care.

6.4. Executive Transition Reports

[Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith notified that Executive Committee that according to our bylaws, each executive has to write a transitional report to the incoming Executive prior to getting paid this month. Ziad will circulate a template.

6.5. Summer UPASS

[Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith explained that he has set up a meeting with the City Transit to discuss the potential of having the UPASS for the spring/summer term for graduate students on April 20th. He has invited some councilors and extended the invitation to the Executive Committee to join.

1.1. CFS Conference Meeting

[C. Gaspar]

Gaspar stated that CFS will be hosting a Circle Stand Along, an Aboriginal Caucus Meeting in Regina, and recommended to send Efimoff to represent that GSA. The purpose of this meeting is for aboriginal students to come together and discuss their experience on university campuses and they will be electing a national aboriginal CFS representative. CFS will cover accommodation, however, the GSA must cover the registration (\$500) to the event

Gaspar moved a motion to allocate \$500 to register efimoff to the CFS Conference Meeting. Seconded by Absher. All in favor.

Carries.

1.2. Council Cheques

[K. Sharma]

Sharma explained that council cheques were made in November and councilors were informed at the council meeting to pick up their cheques. A council member inquired why he was missing a cheque, but this is because he didn't pick up, and Sharma will notify him.

1.3. Sociology Graduate Students' Council

[K. Sharma]

Sharma inquired about SGSC's sponsorship. Ghaith explained that this was approved 1.5 months ago, and cheque for their pizza event was \$130. Sharma will write this cheque.

1.4. Staff Evaluation

[Z. Ghaith]

Ghaith stated that according to our policies and bylaws, VP Operations and himself should evaluate the staff. Vp operations will coordinate a meeting for this and evaluate the staff.

1.5. VPTL (In-Camera)

[Z. Ghaith]

2. Adjournment at 6:25 PM.