



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Meeting



Executive Agenda

Friday, December 15, 2017, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

GSA Commons

Present: Z. Ghaith (President); N. Sahtout (VP External); A. Kiani (VP Student Affairs); I. Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison – Remote)

Regrets: J. Bonkowski (VP Finance & Operations)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm.

EGCC is unable to come to the meeting today so item 4a will be tabled until the following Executive meeting. Ghaith will inform them of the date of the upcoming Executive meeting to ensure their attendance.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ghaith will add updates to the student-supervisor agreement – item 5 and updates to the UPASS – item 6.

Under other business (item 7) – Executive reports and GSA office hours during December will be added.

Under confidential session; B4 – industry academic engagement principle, B5 – GSA position statement regarding Board of Governors, B6 – tuition consultation session and B7 – CGPS funding for GSA events.

Motion to approve agenda – Moved by Kiani, Seconded by Ghaith. Agenda approved as amended.

3. Approval of December 1 Executive Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as appearing on the website. Moved by Kiani, Seconded by Efimoff. December 1 agenda approved as appearing on website.

4. Funding Requests

a. EGCC – Feb 15, 2018 Event

Tabled until next meeting.

5. Student Supervisor Agreement

Sahtout and Ghaith met with the CGPS Associate Dean on December 15. Ghaith mentioned the SSA as an additional item. The Associate Dean discussed the possibility of a MoU between CGPS and GSA to ensure that CGPS and GSA will continue working on promoting the SSA. Ghaith believes this should be a part of our by-laws/policies to ensure that this initiative will keep moving forward in the future.

Efimoff would like to obtain more information with regards to how a MoU can further support this. Ghaith said that this can be discussed further in the January Executive meeting with regards to how the GSA can move forward on this.

Ghaith met with the computer science graduate chair, who supports the SSA. The chair said that she will be sharing this and discussing this with students / faculty. There are other departments discussing this agreement; visibility of the agreement has increased. Ghaith hopes to have numbers, with regards to how many are using the SSA, by the March CGPS Council meeting.

6. UPASS Agreement

Transit Saskatoon sent an email today asking if the GSA would like to meet next week to discuss our UPASS agreement for the Summer. Ghaith suggests that it is probably a good idea to have a general meeting next week to discuss general concerns with the agreement.

Kiani suggested that it is a good to have a meeting next week to have initial discussions with Saskatoon Transit. Both Sahtout and Efimoff expressed similar opinions. There will potentially be updates for the Council in January and formation of a working group to further move forward \

7. Other Business

a. Office hours for Next Week – December 18 – 22

Executives will cover office hour shifts next week

- *Monday*: Sahtout, whole day
- *Tuesday*: Sahtout until 2:30 pm, Ziad from 2:30 pm
- *Wednesday*: Kiani until 12 pm, Sahtout 12 – 4**, Ghaith from 4 pm
- *Thursday*: Bonkowski, whole day
- *Friday*: Sahtout until 12**, Ghaith after 12 pm

** Will confirm.

Shifts in January will be determined via email.

b. Indigenous Liaison update

Efimoff has still not heard from the survey committee with regards to the questions. Ghaith will submit some comments for the survey before the middle of next week so that Efimoff can submit to Ethics next week. Efimoff will discuss with Peter Hedley regarding what data has already been obtained. Efimoff suggests that they submit to Ethics a long version of the survey and ensure that the one circulated to students will be much shorter so that students will feel motivated to complete.

Sahtout and Efimoff have provided \$35 from their discretionary funds towards the Shoebox Campaign for the I Love First Peoples initiative.

The first Sustainability committee occurred. Currently looking at improving signage in the GSA Commons, divestment initiatives, planning the Sustainability Slam for February 15th. The committee will also be participating in a Sustainability Campaign with the City of Saskatoon.

Efimoff participated in the tuition consultation with Dean Crowe.

At the final TLARC meeting of the semester; Efimoff brought forth the need for more Indigization efforts built into policy, and the need for policy/action around more teaching opportunities for graduate students. Efimoff is also on a TLARC working group, which is in the final stages of updating the Learning Charter, which will probably be made public in early January.

c. VP Student Affairs Update

Met with students. Met with CGPS regarding student's issue. Currently working on the 3MT / GSA Conference, survey and winter orientation. Had a meeting with the Secretary's Office about the academic hearing board at the University level.

d. VP External Update

Sahtout had earlier mentioned the need to encourage more teaching opportunities for graduate students at the University. In order to see what is available, Sahtout met with Nancy Turner and Kim West to discuss what opportunities are available / will be made available to graduate students. Sahtout was pleased to learn that the Gwenna Moss centre is currently working on two certificate programs that would provide graduate students with varying levels of teaching experience. The Gwenna Moss is currently working on these certificates.

Sahtout and Ghaith met with Nancy Turner regarding a potential module for faculty that would be aimed at improving the graduate student experience by ensuring that faculty are aware of the resources available to understand differences in culture, accommodate students with disabilities and how best to maintain a positive student-supervisor relationship. Further discussions with the CGPS Associate Dean were favourable for such a module. Meetings regarding how best to proceed forward with this will convene in the New Year.

Ghaith informed Kiani that these items are probably something that could be introduced in the Student Forum. Ghaith encourages Kiani to work with Sahtout and the Vice-Provost Teaching

and Learning to introduce this in the Student Forum, which will be in March. Sahtout will write something for Kiani so that he can bring this up to the Executive meeting of Student Forum.

e. General Update

Ghaith mentions that the GSA has received many greeting cards from members of the University and community celebrating the holiday season and New Year. These cards will be made available to the Executives to see.

8. Confidential Session

9. In Camera Session

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.