



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Meeting



Executive Agenda

Friday, September 29, 2017, 4:00 –5:30 pm

GSA Commons

Present: Z. Ghaith (President), J. Bonkowski (VP Finance & Operations), A. Kiani (VP Student Affairs), N. Sahtout (VP External)

Regrets: I. Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

- a. Ghaith calls the meeting to order at 4:21 pm. Ghaith thanks everyone for coming to the Council meeting on Tuesday. Good feedback from the meeting, good start to the year.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. No additions at this time.
- b. Ghaith moves to approve agenda. Seconded by Kiani. All in favour.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of September 15 Minutes

- a. Minutes were taken by Sahtout. Minutes as amended by the Executives will be published ASAP. Sahtout moves to approve the minutes. Bonkowski seconds. All in favour.

Motion carried.

4. VP External – Update

- a. Suicide prevention workshop next week. 19 participants registered from various backgrounds (undergrad, alumni, etc).

- b. HealthChats in Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb. Seeking funding via StudentCare

5. VP Student Affairs – Update

- a. Meetings w/ students regarding issues (non-academic / academic)
- b. Meeting w/ CGPS about 3MT regarding initial process / budgeting
- c. Planning / arrangements for first Wine & Cheese Social
- d. Participate in Mental Health First Aid
- e. Participate in university Campus Master Plan Workshop for whole day
- f. Immigration workshop is in the works, sometime in October
- g. Order Confirmation for Federal Funding Announcement at the University of Saskatchewan
- h. GSA Survey is in progress

6. VP Finance & Operations – Update

- a. Presently working with Russ Isinger and his team to create a GSA mailing list that would allow the Association to have a more consistent means of communication with its Members. The collection will take the form of a “sticky” announcement on PAWS asking students to share their email and subscribe to a GSA newsletter. Bonkowski hopes to have this underway prior to the end of October. She is in contact with the appropriate people on Isinger’s team.
- b. Bursary applications for the Fall term will begin being collected on Monday, October 16, with the deadline for submissions being the following Friday, October 27. Once the collection of applications has ceased, Bonkowski will arrange for the Bursary committee to meet similar to last term and evaluate the applicants.

7. President - Update

- a. GSA Communication Plan** – Memo from Dean Crowe regarding the communication plan between CGPS and the GSA. These guidelines will be in place until the end of November. Since emails can only be sent twice per month, there will be messages sent at the beginning of the month and mid-month to follow up. Executives will send their items to Bonkowski at least 4 business days before the emails are to be sent, and Bonkowski will forward the messages to CGPS.
- b. Student-Supervisor Agreement** – Met with new Associate Dean to discuss increasing visibility of the agreement and have consultation with faculty members. There will be a message sent to notify students that the tool is available for their use. There will also be a meeting with the Secretary forum to discuss the agreement. The goal of this is to collect some data regarding how many students and supervisors utilize the tool in order to position the agreement to be a mandatory portion of the graduate student experience. Ghaith encourages his fellow Executives to promote the tool amongst thesis-based programs. Dean Crowe also encouraged promotion through the GSA's own channels.
- c. CGPS Council** – All the Executive serve as Council members for the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The Council meets twice each year, once in October and once in March. The Council serves to discuss items and decisions brought forward by CGPS committees. Ghaith encourages attendance from all Executives. The meeting is October 10, at 1:30 pm.

d. UNESCO Recommendations Concerning the Status of Higher-Education

Teaching Personnel 20th Anniversary (Oct 26/27) – Ghaith and Sahtout will attend this event and provide a presentation. The event will take place on campus. The GSA will provide the graduate perspective regarding post-secondary education. They will discuss academic freedom, working conditions, and the involvement of graduate students in higher education governing bodies. Please attend if you are able.

8. Other Business

9. In Camera Session

10. Adjournment

- a. Ghaith moves to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm. All in favour.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.
