



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Executive Meeting



Executive Agenda
Friday, September 15, 2017, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
GSA Commons

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

Regrets: J. Bonkowski (VP Finance & Operations)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Meeting called to order at 4:22 pm.

Ghaith welcomed Sahtout to the executive team and wishes her all the best. Ghaith reminds everyone that we are all here as a team working together for the benefit of all graduate students.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ghaith adds GSA representation for Vice-Dean Indigenous Engagement search committee (# 8c) and PEGASUS funding proposal (# 8d).

Efimoff adds summary update (# 7a) and RISE conference motion (# 7b).

Ghaith moves to table items for VP Finance and Operation until next meeting.

Ghaith moves to approve agenda as amended. Seconded by Efimoff. All in favour.

Carried.

3. Approval of August 30 minutes

Edits were circulated after August 30 meeting. No changes were suggested. Ghaith moves to approve minutes. Efimoff seconds. All in favour.

Carried.

4. VP External

a. International Activities Committee Meeting

- i. Sahtout is unable to attend IAC meetings for this term as they coincide with her class. Both Kiani and Efimoff have class during that time. Ghaith will therefore attend the meetings for the first semester. Sahtout will continue to receive emails and meeting minutes for a smooth transition in term 2.

b. Networko - Inter-University Student Network

- i. Sahtout mentions that she received information about a new initiative from Simon Fraser University. The network, which is funded by NRC/IRAP (National Research Council Canada), was launched a year ago to establish networking ties between university students/groups and to share each portfolio with the general public and industries.
- ii. Efimoff said that the initiative is a good idea to have but was concerned about the time commitment. Ghaith asked Sahtout how much of a commitment this would be. Sahtout voiced concern that this needs to be constantly updated.
- iii. Ghaith suggested that perhaps the staff could be in charge of constantly updating the portfolio, to increase visibility of our GSA. Kiani agreed that updating the portfolio was a suitable task for the staff. Efimoff voiced concern that the executives would not be benefiting as they would not be observing what other GSA's are doing. Kiani mentioned that the executives could keep on top of what other GSA's are doing by checking the website themselves.
- iv. Ghaith suggests to making staff in charge of updating the profile and executives in charge of monitoring GSA activity.

c. Campus Companion

- i. Ghaith explained that he received an invitation from the Saskatoon Open Door Society to participate in their Campus Companion program. Sahtout elucidated that in this initiative high school newcomers are paired with university students and as a group they have biweekly coffee meetings and possible outings (free of charge). Efimoff suggested that ISSAC should be contacted. Sahtout mentioned that USSU had already suggested this to them. Ghaith suggested that the Open Door should contact WUSC. Sahtout said that she will email to provide them with this information.
- ii. Sahtout has asked the organisers to provide the GSA with more information pertaining to the event so that the GSA can seek volunteers. The main criteria for volunteers were that they needed to have graduated from high school in Canada, so as to relate to the newcomer high school students.
- iii. Efimoff voiced concern that these events should be housed in a secondary environment where they can be engaged with. Sahtout explained that the

GSA did not want to hinder ties with the Saskatoon Open Door Society and therefore offered the GSA commons for free as a kind gesture.

- iv. Sahtout moves to allow the GSA commons to be used for their biweekly coffee meetings. Ghaith seconds. All in favour.

Carried.

- v. Kiani mentioned that he had a meeting with the Alumni association in which there were discussions of a possible newcomer-student initiative. Kiani will forward all material that he receives pertaining to this initiative to the other executives.

d. CFS Workshops

- i. Sahtout will forward the list of workshops that CFS offers, to the executives and would like feedback about whether these workshops would be beneficial to the graduate students at this university.
- ii. Efimoff mentioned that the workshop on indigenous funding would be an asset to have and would be great to have hosted at the Gorden Oakes, although it would only be beneficial if an indigenous person is giving the workshop. Sahtout will confirm this with CFS.
- iii. Ghaith concluded that all of the executives will have a look at the workshops and will give Sahtout feedback as to which ones sound interesting.

5. VP Student Affairs

a. GSA Orientation Update

- i. Kiani thanked the GSA executives for coming and mentions that the event was successful. Kiani says he was approached by many students that said they had a positive experience. Kiani says that a little over \$7000 was spent on the orientation. Any remaining items from the BBQ will be used for continuous events throughout the year.
- ii. Kiani asked what the total budget for the orientation and the social events. Ghaith said that they have \$8600 for both. This meant that \$1600 was left for the socials.

b. September Wine & Cheese Event

- i. Efimoff mentioned that in previous years, the wine and cheese event cost more than \$1000.
- ii. Ghaith suggested that managing the budget for the wine and cheese event would be a good idea so that all other social events could be managed and so that there was no loss. Ghaith mentions that once money has run out from a budget line, the other executives need to be informed of where money can be withdrawn from.

- iii. Kiani suggested that other executives should be here to help out with the event so that tickets can be sold and drinks appropriately given, so as to recuperate the liquor costs. Ghaith and Sahtout will be present to help out with the event. Efimoff will be out of the city. Efimoff will join Kiani for purchasing the alcohol.
- iv. Ghaith suggests that the executives try to ensure that the net expense for the Wine and Cheese social is no more than 600.

c. Workshops

- i. Kiani had meetings with the Alumni association and the International Student Centre. Kiani has made attempts to fundraise so that GSA does not have to spend money on these workshops.
- ii. Kiani mentions that the first workshop will be in October and will probably be with the International Students Centre on the topic of immigration. More will be discussed next meeting.

6. VP Finance & Operations (tabled)

- a. Fall Bursary Plan**
- b. Council Funding**
- c. Agenda Format**

7. Indigenous Liaison

a. Executive Summary:

- i. Efimoff was part of Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre welcome in which she discussed the GSA and got to meet the prime minister.
- ii. Efimoff attended and was part of the Campus Expo.
- iii. Efimoff is in charge of the guppies and requests that if anyone knows any graduate students interested in soccer or volleyball, to contact her.
- iv. Efimoff was part of the IGSC meet and greet. 4 new indigenous graduate students were in attendance. Efimoff is currently communicating with graduate students so that someone can take over the aboriginal liaison next year. For a smoother transition, she will ask one of the graduate students to attend meetings with her.

b. RISE Conference

- i. Efimoff moves to accept the motion to send Iloradanon Efimoff, GSA Indigenous Liaison, and one deserving aboriginal graduate student to the RISE 2017 conference, at a cost of \$400 for the second person (the first person is free) This includes meals, accommodation, and registration fee. The goal is to learn about solidarity between Indigenous and Racialized students, and bring learnings back to the GSA community. *CFS-*

Saskatchewan will use funds from its account to sponsor these two students from each Saskatchewan local to attend the summit. Seconded by Ghaith. All in favour.

Carried.

c. Carbonless Concert

- i. Ghaith welcomed Maillet to the meeting and introductions were made. Sahtout had circulated a document to the executives from Maillet that describes this event. Ghaith asked Maillet to give a brief introduction.
- ii. Maillet is in his 2nd year PhD in the School of Environment Sustainability. The purpose of the event was to try and merge music, sustainability, energy and environment. Maillet has built solar generators that can be used to source lighting and sound systems. These concerts have been hosted the last Saturday of every month since last October. They have been held at D'Lish by Tish with at least 2 local performers featured.
- iii. Maillet explained that the one held in the GSA commons on Saturday September 30 will be free of charge to the general public. In order to cover the cost of admission, Maillet has partnered with Nykole from the Ukrainian Congress youth engaging youth program, who has agreed to help fund the events. Musicians / foods / non-alcohol beverages have been covered by the costs. Alcohol beverages will be sold. There are door prizes available.
- iv. Ghaith asked how many graduate students will participate in the event. Maillet expects 40 / 50 graduate students to attend and the rest to be undergraduate students and the community.
- v. Ghaith asked if Maillet could share the budget with the executives. Maillet estimates that the cost is about \$ 2000.
- vi. Sahtout brought to the executives attention that she has booked the stage with FMD and it will be brought to the commons on Friday September 29 at 4 pm.
- vii. Ghaith has clarified that the GSA is being asked to promote the event. Maillet has agreed to forward some online material to promote on facebook.
- viii. Ghaith asked about the liquor license and Sahtout has said that is ready to go. Sahtout mentioned to Maillet that all receipts for alcoholic beverages need to be attached for the permit to be valid.
- ix. Ghaith asked about volunteers and Maillet has mentioned that he will probably be getting some volunteers from the Ukrainian Congress, although he expressed that he would like some of the GSA executives to be present. Sahtout and Ghaith said they will be present. Efimoff asked anyone from the GSA Sustainability Committee has suggested interest in volunteering for the event. Maillet mentioned that there are certain members that are no longer in town or are busy but will look into it.

- x. Efimoff mentioned that Maillet could try and approach the Sustainability Office and contacting Matt with regards to swag.
- xi. Ghaith thanked Maillet for coming to the meeting and asked Maillet to acknowledge the help of the GSA during the concert. Maillet said that he will email advertising material as soon as possible. Ghaith concluded that the official capacity of the building is 99 people so numbers should be monitored.

8. President

a. Executive / Council Meetings

- i. Sahtout has mentioned that she has seminars on Fridays and would like the executive meetings be shifted to a later time. Sahtout moves to motion that meetings start at 5 pm. Seconded by Ghaith. All in favour.

Carried.

- ii. Council meetings will be on September 26 / October 26 / November 21 / December 14.
- iii. In a December executive meeting, term 2 council meeting dates will be decided.

b. GSA Survey Update

- i. Kiani and Efimoff will be taking the lead on this. Ghaith has asked if there were any updates on this initiative.
- ii. Efimoff mentioned that she was aware that Kiani met with the Ethics committee. The committee had emailed Kiani and cc'ed Ghaith with suggestions, on July 15, 2017.
- iii. Efimoff concluded that Kiani and herself should meet together to look over the suggestions to see what is best suited for Graduate students.
- iv. Ghaith suggested that a timeline should be placed on this. Kiani and Efimoff will meet next week to discuss these suggestions so that the survey can be approved by the end of the year. Efimoff voiced concern that this depends on the Ethical committee but that they will try their best.

c. Vice-Dean Indigenous Engagement Search Committee

- i. A request was made to have a graduate student from the College of Arts and Science sit on this search committee. Efimoff expressed interest.
- ii. Ghaith moves to allow Efimoff to represent the GSA on this committee. Seconded by Kiani. All in favour.

Carried.

d. PEGASUS Funding Proposal

- i. Ghaith welcomed Ho from PEGASUS to the GSA to discuss their funding initiative for the BBQ that they will be having. Ho is the chair of PEGASUS, and a graduate student. Traditionally the welcome back BBQ is held every year and it gives them a chance to connect with upper graduate students, have discussions on graduate school and be acquainted with the professors. The BBQ will be with a cash bar (have a liquor license). The attendance is somewhere between 25 – 50 students, depending on the year. Due to funding changes, PEGASUS has now come before the event to request some support for the event. Ho mentioned that they like having the event at the GSA commons so that graduate students can be acquainted with the commons. Ho said they are aiming for 30 students in attendance. PEGASUS Was requesting \$250 from the GSA.
- ii. Ghaith informed Ho that no GSA support should be given to the purchase of alcohol. Ghaith mentioned that in general the PEGASUS events are usually well attended by graduate student.
- iii. Ghaith confirmed that the event will take place at the GSA commons; the event will be from 4 pm – 7 pm. They will come in to start prepping at 3 pm and clean up usually finishes by 8 pm.
- iv. Ghaith mentioned that PEGASUS needs to place the GSA logo on their advertisement / mention that the GSA has supported this event. Ho reaffirmed that although there is no printed material, this will be mentioned at the BBQ.
- v. Efimoff asked about coordinator presence after hours. Ho clarified that Bassey will be the coordinator volunteering for that evening, since he is a Physics and Engineering student.
- vi. Ghaith let Ho know that the executives will be in touch with regards to the finances. Ghaith thanked Jason for coming by and discussing the event.
- vii. Ghaith said, to the executives, that PEGASUS is a registered academic council. They have been active in the GSA for a very long time and that Ho is a council member. Ghaith reiterated that PEGASUS has always been helpful in the GSA with communications, decision and in participation. Ghaith asked what others suggested with regards to the finances.
- viii. Efimoff voiced concerns of the difficulty of doing this at the beginning of the year. Ghaith said that although the VP Finance was not present, a decision needed to be made. Ghaith mentioned that there is a club budget line that was used effectively last year, a great way to keep connections with the student groups.
- ix. Efimoff moved to motion to supply PEGASUS with \$200 for their barbeque. Seconded by Kiani. All in Favour.

Carried.

9. Other Business

- a. Kiani mentioned that there will be an event with ISC and USSU on September 30 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Kiani will be in attendance, as well as other student leaders from other associations. There will be speeches from the different organizations and a lunch will be included.
 - i. Efimoff is on the organizing committee and the idea is to have better communication with international student leaders and indigenous student leaders and to facilitate the educational component of university life.
 - ii. The event will be on September 30 from 10 am – 4 pm. There will be a bus at 9 am from Place Riel that will go to the event.
 - iii. Sahtout asked Kiani / Efimoff to forward the email with information regarding the event so that the other executives can try attend.
 - iv. Kiani and Bonkowski will be in attendance as representatives of the GSA.

10. In Camera Session

11. Adjournment

Ghaith confirms that the next executive meeting is at 5 pm, September 29, 2017. Efimoff sends her regrets as she will be attending the RISE conference in Toronto.

Ghaith moves to adjourn meeting at 6:44 pm. Efimoff seconded. All in favour.

Carried.