



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Meeting



Executive Agenda

Tuesday, June 27, 2017, 5 – 7 pm

GSA Commons

Present: Z. Ghaith (President), J. Bonkowski (VP Finance & Operations), C. Gaspar (Interim VP External), A. Kiani (VP Student Affairs), I. Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Meeting called to order at 5:39 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Executive briefings have been added to the end of the agenda. Ziad moves to approve agenda. Efimoff seconds. All in favour.

Carried.

3. Approval of May 30 Minutes

Minutes were posted to website. Ghaith moves to approve minutes. Kiani seconds. All in favour.

Carried.

4. Summer UPASS

VP External was originally in charge of this initiative as per GSA retre. Since her resignation no movement has been made. Kiani suggests that we wait until a new VP External is appointed in order to tackle this project. In the meantime, Ghaith will work with Kiani and Gaspar to keep the ball rolling.

5. GSA Survey

This initiative was designated to Kiani, Efimoff and the former VP External during the GSA retreat. Kiani has had a meeting with ethics since; it appears the ethics application has been misplaced. Kiani has re-sent the documents and will meet with them again.

Efimoff will join the second meeting. Ghaith asks Efimoff to begin preparing a digital version of the survey for circulation. Efimoff says she has had good experiences with Google Forms, but that this may not be conducive with University survey standards.

Efimoff will inquire at SSRL for Qualtrix licensing to see if this will be possible. Ghaith hopes to see progress on the survey at next Exec meeting and that information will begin being collected in September. Ghaith also suggests asking a question about incorporating a legal service provided by Student Care as informed by Gaspar on the survey.

6. GSA Health & Dental Plan

As per last month's discussion, there has been a fee increase in order to account for the provincial government's inclusion of PST on health insurance premiums. GSA would like to reach out to the government to express concerns about this mandate. Gaspar will work with Ghaith to draft this correspondence. Gaspar travelled to Montreal for a StudentCare stakeholder meeting and says it was incredibly informative. New mental health initiatives and legal services are potential additions for the plan in the coming year. Details will be available from StudentCare rep at the Council meeting on June 28. Side note: Bonkowski is to remove expired services from the website. Bonkowski will discuss Health and Dental decision at tomorrow's Council meeting.

7. Executive Attendance

GSA attendance is critical to represent the graduate student community. Executives should make as many meetings as possible and mitigate absences with an appropriate proxy. Ghaith reiterates importance of the attendance when seeking further representation on other committees at the University level.

8. GSA Commons Indoor Conditions

Ghaith has reached out to the Vice President Finance of the University to inform them of the conditions in the building. There has been verbal discussion regarding Commons temperatures last year, but no progress has been made since. The GSA Office Manager has reached out to FMD to obtain measurement conditions. A report of this assessment was sent to administrative members at the University. Bonkowski and Ghaith will seek a meeting if there is no movement in the next few weeks in order to communicate the seriousness of the issue.

9. Relationship w/ Graduate Employees Union

Ghaith has met with Union President Isaac Pratt and they have agreed to draft a Memorandum of Agreement between the two bodies. The discussion is ongoing, with negotiation of representation on appropriate committees TBD. Legal consult will likely be sought to ensure the agreement is appropriate. Bonkowski will need to develop an email template to welcome students and explain the differences between the two bodies as per Ghaith and Pratt's agreement.

10. CFS Report – Indigenous Liaison

Efimoff attended the 70th semi-annual Canadian Federation of Students conference at the beginning of June. She has highlighted some initiatives that may fit with the GSA's mandates. Of interest are Our Turn (sexual assault policy development), Graduate

Student Association Survey (details of student union operations, upcoming for this academic year), copyright issues (discussion about bill seeking restriction of access), rate of pay and minimum wage lobbying, and rallies to oppose provincial budgetary cuts to funds that are essential for student initiatives and life. Ghaith is concerned that the GSA has not been involved with the latter initiative to date. Moving forward a representative will be appointed to begin strategic participation to represent the GSA's stance on the movement.

11. Spring / Summer Bursary Update – VP Finance & Operations

77 bursary applications were collected for the spring / summer period. 10 bursaries will be awarded. Discussion of evaluation criteria and assessment of applicants will begin on June 28, with completion of evaluations by Friday, July 7. Ghaith has asked Rohovich to create a list of previous winners so that it is easy to identify ineligible candidates.

12. Executive Briefings (3 min.)

Kiani – Meetings regarding student issues, GSA survey, University Council meeting, Orientation planning (food in the process of being pre-ordered), working on hiring coordinator for events (would like Bonkowski's help w/ application process), Attended hearing board, Mastermind Workshop has been moved to September to maximize attendance and mitigate Commons conditions, U of S Wellness Initiative Focus Group and Campus Master Plan meetings also attended.

Gaspar – Health and Dental meeting in Montreal, ThinkGrad planning and composition of white-paper. Planners have been ordered (total TBD) w/ expected delivery in mid-August, Brand Ambassador applications are being collected until June 30 and the

evaluation process will begin thereafter. Gaspar also represented the GSA at two convocation ceremonies this year.

Efimoff – Attended CFS meeting, several other end-of-year meetings, also working with Aboriginal Student Centre to develop SAGE program (mentorship program to help undergrads transition to grad studies), attended Campus Master Plan meeting (Town Hall meeting tentatively scheduled by consultants for September)

Bonkowski – Convocation and Board meeting, opened and completed bursary application period.

Ghaith – Represented GSA at Grad Powwow, participated in Dean and Research search committees, helped select Distinguished Supervisor recipient, drafting memorandum of understanding with Graduate Union, working w/ newly hired employee to develop Board handbook.

13. In Camera Session

14. Other Business

Discussion regarding the President's report at the Council meeting tomorrow and whether or not these reports should be individual. For the sake of time it will be one report, but there may be discussion in the future.

15. Adjournment

Efimoff moves to adjourn at 7:08 pm. Ghaith seconds. All in favour.

Carried. Meeting Adjourned.
