



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Meeting



Executive Agenda

Tuesday, May 30, 2017, 5 – 7 pm

GSA Commons

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

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Meeting is called to order at 5:10 pm.

First official Exec meeting of the year.

A. Kiani Update – 5 students came to Kiani w/ concerns, began subsequent processes.

Kiani also began formatting the call for hiring coordinator for GSA events. Kiani started to buy some supply for the orientation. Kiani attended different meetings like University Council meeting, meeting with candidates for CGPS Dean, meeting with associate deans.

J. Bonkowski Update – Administrative meetings, H&D plan decisions, University Council meeting, will meet w/ Bookkeeper tomorrow (May 31)

C. Gaspar Update – Working to catch up on VP External portfolio, has been working on the planner with imminent deadlines (June 2, 2017).

I. Efimoff Update – Working with search committee for new VP Indigenous

Engagement position, working with Gaspar to coordinate for upcoming CFS NGM (June

4-7), reached out to CFS regarding RISE funding but they have indicated that they are already funding the national RISE conference

Z. Ghaith Update – Has just returned from 2 week “vacation”, participated in CGPS Dean Search Committee, Action Plan, Health & Dental discussions

2. Approval of the Agenda

Kiani adds discussion regarding upcoming events

Bonkowski would like to discuss Bursaries for the Spring / Summer term.

Ghaith moves to approve agenda. Kiani seconds. All in Favour

Carried.

3. Approval of April 21 minutes (Final GSA 2016/17 Exec Meeting)

Ghaith moves to approve meeting minutes. Kiani seconds. 3 approval, 2 abstention.

Carried.

4. Approval of May 6/7 minutes (GSA 2017/18 Retreat)

Bonkowski will implement Efimoff’s suggestions after the Exec meeting.

Kiani moves to approve minutes. Ghaith seconds. 4 in favour, 1 abstention.

Carried.

5. Interim VP External Appointment

Gaspar accepted the role of Interim VP External following Andersone’s resignation.

Ghaith expresses sincere gratitude on behalf of the Executive. Gaspar has reached out to the outgoing VP External regarding initiatives that started in May.

6. GSA Health & Dental Plan

GSA has faced issue of inclusion of 6% PST on insurance premiums beginning July 1, 2017. Discussion took place late last week and over the weekend. Necessary movement is underway in the University. New H&D increase is ~ \$47 from last year.

7. Annual Work Plans

This is a new initiative as requested by the GSA Board of Directors. Bonkowski has provided a template to formulate action plans. Deadline for submission to Board Chair is end of day today. Short report of activities for the month of May should also be submitted to the Chair.

8. Executive Funds

Each Executive has access to a discretionary fund for their use towards student initiatives, training, etc. Ghaith poses the question to fellow Executives as to how the funds will be used for this year. Kiani and Efimoff say that the funds are open to the corresponding VP's discretion but should always be used toward student initiatives.

9. Convocation Ceremonies

Monday, June 5th @ 2 pm – Ghaith

Tuesday, June 6th @ 9 am – Gaspar

Tuesday, June 6th @ 2 pm – Kiani

Wednesday, June 7th @ 9 am – TBD

Wednesday, June 7th @ 2 pm – TBD

Thursday, June 8th @ 9am – Bonkowski

Thursday, June 8th @ 2pm – Gaspar (tentative)

Kiani and Bonkowski will attend Convocation dinners with Ghaith on June 6th and 7th respectively.

10. Upcoming Events – VP Student Affairs

Five-week workshop about Mastermind Group Studies in works. Will take place in GSA Commons. Only cost to GSA will be printing and binder costs. Workshop is just for students. Cost is based on attendance. Kiani hopes for the workshop to begin in mid-July and go into August. This may change based on consultation with the GSA Office Manager regarding availability of students and Commons. This workshop is about working on communication skills, positive spaces, leaderships. Efimoff asks if the summer is best for maximizing attendance. Kiani says there is always the opportunity hold another group of sessions in the subsequent terms.

Kiani is also beginning to look into hiring a coordinator for Fall Orientation as well as beginning to explore items to purchase and other parts of the event. Kiani would like to buy everything in July and use the Commons for storage. Ghaith is working on obtaining funding for the coordinator. Once funds are concerned the call can be made. Orientation will occur on September 6 (tentative). Kiani would also like to coordinate with the International Student Centre.

11. Spring / Summer Bursaries – VP Finance & Operations

Bursary applications require a cover letter, application form, reference letter (1) and copy of tuition statement. Plan to provide checklist w/ CTA so students know what application package requires. Discussed options for collection of bursaries (hard copy vs. Fluid Surveys in particular). Bonkowski hopes to begin the bursary process on Monday, June 5th, and will touch base with the Bursary Committee in the meantime.

12. In Camera Session

13. Other Business

No other business has arisen during the meeting.

14. Adjournment

Ghaith moves to adjourn meeting @ 6:30 pm. Kiani seconds. All in favour.

Carried. Meeting Adjourned.
