



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Executive Committee Agenda
Friday, March 10th, 2017 - GSA Commons**

1. Call to Order at 5:06 PM

Present: Z. Ghaith (President), , S. Sapal (VP Student Affairs), K. Sharma (VP Finance), I. Efimoff (VP Aboriginal Liaison), C. Gaspar (VP External), & A. Kiani (VP Academic)
Regrets: N. Absher (VP Operations)

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ghaith nominated Efimoff to take the minutes for this meeting.

The Executive Committee added a discussion on check for mathematics course councils. All in favour.

Carried.

Ghaith motioned to approve agenda as amended, seconded by Gaspar. All in favour.

Carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair discussed the importance of following Roberts Rules of order, sending agenda items beforehand, and being on time at meetings.

4. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:

Ghaith adds that meeting on February 24th 2017 was adjourned due to quorum loss at 7:18. All in favour.

Carried.

5. Presentation by Bengali Students' Association (BSA)

The BSA presented to the GSA again to see if funding could be increased. They were seeking funding retroactively for their International Mother Language Day Celebration on February 21st 2017 and for an event coming up in mid-May.

Sharma motioned to sponsor \$100. Seconded by Gaspar All in favour.

Carried.

6. Presentation from Sociology Graduate Students' Association (SCGA)

SCGA wanted to obtain funding retroactively for a pizza sale that they used to fundraise for the “Everyone needs a rescue” organization and student experience. They also presented a proposal for funding for their next pizza sale. Executive members clarified communication among themselves with SCGA.

Kiani motioned \$130., seconded by fimoff. 4 in favour, 2 abstained.

Carried.

7. Reports

1. VP Finance

Shapal provided updates on the finance committee, tax filing training and dates, and dean’s scholarship and university scholarship committees.

2. VP Academics

Kiani has been helping students with personal issues, attended committee meetings, attended the Truth and Reconciliation forum, has been working on the 3 Minute Thesis and GSA Conference, and is planning a workshop for next month.

3. VP Students Affairs

Sapal has attended several meetings, organized a social event (board game night) and helped to organize the International Women’s Day Poetry event, is helping with 3MT and sitting on the Gala committee, and attended the Reconciliation Forum.

4. VP External

Gaspar updated the executive team on the gala (tickets are being purchased, décor, award selection committee), updated us on the Think Grad Conference, and the CFS National Graduate Caucus Meeting.

5. VP Operations & Communications

Absher has been working on the GSA Winter Bursary and coordinating the Committee to meet to select 25 winners for this term. Additionally, the GSA Sustainability Committee has been meeting regularly and planning the Sustainability Slam & Carbonless Concert for March 29th at 6 PM in the Commons. The Office of Sustainability sponsored this event with \$700 and the committee will utilize this fund to purchase prizes, gifts, refreshments and hire musician. Absher has represented graduate students on different committees. She is currently planning the ThinkGrad conference along with VP External and the President, as well as the Gala Coordinator and Naheda Sahtout. The office manager will be receiving her Mental Health First Aid training on March 14 & 15. Absher is also promoting the Graduate Achievement Week and will make a call for volunteers. The March Newsletter will be sent out mid next week.

6. VP Aboriginal Liaison

Efimoff attended several meetings (TLARC, University Governance Committee), Hosted student events (Indigenization student panel, Student definition of Indigenization), helped plan and delivery Aboriginal Achievement Week with the Aboriginal Student Centre (ASC), worked with the ASC to hire an IGSC student assistant, attended the Reconciliation Forum and One Day for Students event, Networked with administrative members and faculty to discuss Indigenous Graduate Student support, and had a telephone interview with Catherine Porter (NYT correspondent) about Indigenous student

experience at U of S.

7. President

Ghaith sat on finance and governance committees, is preparing a presentation for the SGM on Monday, will be speaking at the Student Forum about the student-supervisor agreement, attended One Day for Students event and networked with Dr. Nasser, will be attending the Global Village on Tuesday, had a KPMG interview, is helping with the Think Grad conference, and attended the Reconciliation Forum.

8. Items for Actions/Information

8.1. UPASS

[K. Sharma]

Transit Saskatoon does not provide an invoice for purchase of UPass. GSA is currently following the same protocol as USSU. Sharma will be sending a check for UPass to Transit Saskatoon next week based on auditor.

8.2. RISE Event

[I. Efimoff]

Efimoff discussed the selection process for the RISE event and stated that the GSA should be selecting graduate students who are directly involved in racialized or Indigenous movements/circles on campus.

8.3. Indigenous Leadership at U of S

[I. Efimoff]

Efimoff explained that several Indigenous students on campus have been discussing the possibility of an Indigenous Student Union (in the same capacity as the GSA or the USSU). Efimoff will bring this idea to Breakfast with the President next week.

8.4. Gala Tickets

[K. Sharma]

Discussion about post-docs – they are to purchase student tickets. Executives attend for free, but not guests. Award recipients will get a free ticket. Sharma to send Smith's contact information to Gaspar RE tickets.

8.5. Tax Filing

[K. Sharma]

Training is underway for Tax Filing clinic, and will use the office space on the 21st of March. Materials have been received from CFS and UFile, and Sharma will print out a summary page of taxes for students to put in those folders when giving them to students. Ghaith asked Sharma to send out an email to all graduate students about tax filing.

8.6. Discussion on check for councils

[K. Sharma]

Sharma informed the executive committee that one academic council does not have a bank account and they requested their check to be endorsed to their department. She added that this is not our practice

Sharma and the executive agreed that council checks should be only endorsed to ratified course councils, not departments. All in favour.

Carried.

9. Adjournment (6:50)

Motion to adjourn by Gaspar, seconded by Sharma. All in favour.

Carried.