



**University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
Executive Committee Minutes  
Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - GSA Commons**

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

**1. Call to Order at 5 PM.**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The Executive Committee added the following on the agenda: tax filing, IGSC Bursary Committee, Gala updates, and 3MT updates.

*Ghaith motioned to approve agenda as amended. Seconded by Sharma. All in favour.*

**Carried.**

**3. Chair's Remarks**

Ziad explained that CGPS sent an email highlighting the GSA Executive Committee had a great attendance on CGPS Committee meeting this year. He also received attendance list from University secretary office and attendance was also great. Sharma explained that attendance is not captured at some meetings. Ghaith will communicate with university to ensure attendance is properly captured.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings:**

**4.1. Minutes of GSA Executive Meetings on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*Ghaith motioned to approve the minutes as uploaded on the website. Seconded by Sapal. All in favour.*

**Carried.**

**5. Reports**

**1. VP Finance**

- Almost done with finance & audit committee and the GSA budget will be finalized.
- Attended RISE conference.
- Tax Filing is quite active and it's running successfully. Positive feedback. Covered 60 people in totality currently.

**2. VP Academics**

- Attended committee meetings.
- Working on 3MT conference, and the Graduate Research Conference.
- Attended the RISE conference.
- Met with the Vice dean regarding student issues.
- Sat on the Bursary Committee.

### 3. VP Students Affairs

- Helped students with issues regarding their residence.
- Attended the RISE conference.
- Attended committee meetings.
- Helping out with Gala and 3MT.

### 4. VP External

- Attended 7 meetings since the last executive meeting.
- Working on the Think Grad Conference (\$1000 sponsorship from StudentCare).

### 5. VP Operations & Communications

- Bursary Committee met and selected 25 winners for the winter term.
- Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program has matched the mentors and mentees, and will be funding \$10 the initial meeting of each match. This fund will be shared between Absher (\$55) and USSU VP Academic (\$55). Absher will utilize \$55 of her discretionary fund.
- The GSA Sustainability Committee is planning the Sustainability slam and it will take place on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6 PM. Absher invited the Committee to attend, as well as the 3MT participants.
- March newsletter was distributed.
- Promoting the GSA Awards winners on the website.
- Working on the Think Grad Conference (picked up sponsorship items from the U of S).
- Met with the IT regarding the shift to the Microsoft 365 Cloud.

### 6. VP Aboriginal Liaison

- Attended the Student Forum.
- Gave a speech at the Global Village.
- Attended an IPA ~~meeting with~~ on behalf of Indigenous students.
- Attended RISE Summit.
- Went to TLARC and representing as a resource member.
- Attended the University Council.
- Ongoing discussions re: Indigenous Student organization with Indigenous students~~Having discussion on Indigenous Students' Association.~~
- Planning a steak night fundraiser.
- Will be utilizing the discretionary fund the IGSC Bursary.

### 7. President

- Attended 14 meetings since March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with the University Faculty Association to discuss the budget.
- Have been finalizing the student-supervisor agreement.
- Met with the CGPS Dean Selection Committee.
- Met with Bookkeeper and auditor.

- Met with the University Secretary to inform them of the GSA changes.
- Working on the Athletics Fees MOU for the GSA and the University.
- Working to collect the GSA's own graduate email list.
- Communicating with the new provost to build a relationship.
- Met with the Board of Governors members.

## 6. Items for Actions/Information

### 6.1. RISE Event

[I. Efimoff]

Efimoff stated that if re-elected next year, VP Academic and VP Aboriginal Liaison would like to bring it here, particularly since the U of S has two important themes – Indigenization and Internationalization. Furthermore, the ASC and ISSAC have been keen on working together, and thus there may be institutional support. CFS would be open to funding the event if hosted here. However, the GSA would have to start planning this summer. Gaspar explained that CFS-SK could also sponsor this. Kiani explained that the FNU and U of R representatives are also interested in hosting at the U of S.

### 6.2. Academic Integrity Module

[C. Gaspar]

Will be hosting an academic integrity module from TLARC.

### 6.3. Printer/Photocopier

[N. Absher]

Absher explained that the Office Manager has stated that the Commons needs a new printer and asked the Executive Committee to approve \$500-\$550 taking into the account that the current printer is dying. Ghaith explained that this will come from the Budget Renewal line. Sharma explained that there's a separate budget line for printer. There's about \$700 left. The executive inquired whether the Budget Renewal line can be utilized in addition to the printer budget line.

The Executive Committee recommended that the Office Manager to inquire further into a better printer.

### 6.4. Tax filing

[K. Sharma]

Sharma stated there's 14 committed volunteers, and feels that the GSA should host a small appreciation party. Sharma explained that \$500 was fundraised from RBC in the beginning of the year. Sapal recommended having a grand party.

### 6.5. IGSC

Efimoff stated that the IGSC gives out two \$500 bursary to students in need. IGSC would be looking for a representative to sit on this committee from the GSA. Absher will sit on this committee. Ghaith donated \$50 to this bursary from his discretionary fund.

### 6.6. Gala updates

[C. Gaspar]

Gaspar is formally requesting the executive to attend the Gala at 4 PM to help out the volunteers. There has been 2 applications for MC and Efimoff will help-outreach out to find potential candidates. 9 awards will be given out and an executive will be presenting to each of the

recipients. Ghaith explained that last year this system of each executive handing out the award was disorganized, therefore, recommended that Gaspar look into a different method of awarding. Gaspar and Kiani explained that the MC will be introducing the awards and the executive will present it.

**6.7. 3MT**

**[A. Kiani]**

Kiani invited the Executive Committee to be present at the 3MT Competition, and has sent the schedule to the judges and participants.

**7. Adjournment at 6:36 PM.**