



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting

December 6, 2018, 5PM – 7PM

Present: Naheda Sahtout (President), Jesus Corona Gomez (VP Finance and Operations), Edgar Martinez-Soberanes (VP Student Affairs), Somtochukwu Ufondu (VP External).

Regrets: n/a

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. Seeing none:

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of the November 22, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the November 22, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the November 22, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes moved by the VP Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External.

Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Search Committee Pharmacy and Nutrition (as per email dated November 25, 2018)

A graduate student is being requested to sit on the Search Committee for the Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. As with all senior admin search committees, the composition, as approved by the University Board of Governors, must include a graduate student appointed by the GSA. Furthermore, the graduate student must be a member of that particular College.

The President had reached out to Franklyn De Silva to see whether he would be interested in sitting on this search committee. Mr. De Silva has been an engaged member of this College and was an active member on the GSA Diversity Committee last year. He has indicated that he is indeed interested; therefore:

Motion to approve Franklyn De Silva to serve as the graduate student representative, appointed by the GSA, on the Search Committee for the Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried.

4.2 Search Committee Engineering (as per email dated November 30, 2018)

A graduate student is being requested to serve on a Search Committee in the College of Engineering for the Associate Dean Graduate Studies and Strategic Projects and the Associate Dean Research and Partnerships. This search committee is being convened for the appointment of two Associate Dean's and is expected to begin early in the New Year. As with all senior admin search committees, the composition, as approved by the University Board of Governors, must include a graduate student appointed by the GSA. Furthermore, the graduate student must be a member of that particular College.

Motion to approve Edgar Martinez-Soberanes to serve as the graduate student representative, appointed by the GSA, on the Search Committee for Associate Dean Graduate Studies and Strategic Projects and Associate Dean Research and Partnerships, College of Engineering. Moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried. 1 abstention.

4.3 GSA Drug Exemption Policy

The President indicated that Studentcare approached the GSA with regards to a new policy implementation; a Drug Exemption Policy that would limit students from exceeding \$2000 of claims per year per student. This policy is intended to create more transparency as it directly communicates to graduate students the limit in claims allowed per year. If students exceed this limit and there is no tool to monitor this, it could result in increasing the cost of the insurance premium for the following year for all the students. This policy guarantees sustainability and consistency of insurance costs between student generations, which ultimately is for the benefit of the entire graduate student community. The data suggests that only 1 or 2 students have made claims over \$2000 and even then, because their over usage was only a few hundred dollars, they were still allowed to make the claims.

Motion to recommend to Council the approval of a drug exemption maximum of \$2000 dollars per year per student starting in September 2019 moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried

This will be brought forth to the January Council meeting, along with the proposed increase in the Health and Dental fees, and will be included in the presentation made by Studentcare and the GSA Health and Dental Committee.

4.4 Cheque remittance

Whereas GSA bylaws 5.4.3 restricts expenditure amounts above \$500, of any budget line, with the exception of salaries and Executive honorariums, without a majority vote of the Executive.

BIRT that the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to HUB International in the sum of \$5348.00 issued on November 23, 2018 for GSA Insurance 2018-19 Renewal Chq#3865.

Motion to approve the above expenditure moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.

Motion carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 GSA sport teams in Campus Rec leagues

The VP External proposed to have three (3) teams in the campus rec leagues in the winter 2019 term, including a volleyball team. The President asked whether there were people interested in playing volleyball. In response, the VP External explained that there were as many people interested in volleyball as there was for basketball in the fall campus recreational league. The VP Student Affairs indicated that a captain for the volleyball team would be needed. Finally, the President inquired as to whether there was enough funds in the budget allocation to allow for 3 teams. The VP Finance and Operations replied by saying that there was enough funds remaining in the budget line, "GSA Campus Rec./Intramural Sports," to support a third team. The VP External was permitted to register a third GSA recreational team in the winter term campus rec league.

5.2 Winter Social update

The VP Student Affairs indicated that the GSA Winter Social wine and cheese will take place on December 14th. PSAC will contribute to pay for some of the food and alcohol tickets will be sold at 3 dollars.

5.3 Google Analytics for GSA Website

The VP Student Affairs proposed to use Google Analytics for the GSA. This will help the Executives to know more about the engagement of the graduate community, provide insight on how to attract more students to our online site, improve the flow of information between the GSA and its members, and find other viable ways to approach its student membership. The VP Student Affairs will investigate on that and pass the information onto the Office Manager.

5.4 GSA Attendance on Council Committees

The President emphasized the importance of participating on University Council and CGPS meetings. After receiving the attendance report, it was seen that the Executives are attending the majority of the meetings, and always send their regrets to the ones they could not attend. The President said it was a good practice, and she encouraged the executives to remain diligent in doing so.

5.5 GSA Email Migration

The President asked if the Executives had any problems with their emails due to the previous migration of Outlook to Microsoft 365. The Executives commented that they did not have any problem with their emails. The President mentioned the possibility of opening a Gmail business email in order to be more autonomous from the University. The VP External mentioned that unlimited email accounts can be obtained with the purchase of a domain, which costs around 100 dollars per year. The President thanked the suggestion and mentioned that it would be helpful to look at the details as a future initiative.

5.6 Implied Status Update

The President mentioned that last week she, along with the VP Student Affairs, a graduate student, and the PSAC representative, met with Human Resources, Connection Point, and the Vice-Provost, Teaching Learning and Student Experience. The President mentioned the GSA needs to know more cases of student under implied status in order to help and direct them to PSAC.

5.7 GSA Commons Upgrade

The President mentioned that a quote for amplifiers and all the equipment necessary to renew the current audio system is around \$20,000. The President indicated that sponsors were needed to change the audio system that was purchased in 2010. She further stated that even though they were still in a working condition, they would eventually need to be changed.

6. Other Business

The VP Student Affairs mentioned that he will be out of office from December 17 to January 11. The VP Finance and Operations also mentioned that he will be out of office from December 10 to January 13. Both Executives emphasized that they will check their emails regularly and be available in case of an urgent or important request.

7. Confidential Session

8. In-Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.