



## University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

### Executive Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2018, 4PM – 5:30PM

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

**Regrets:** none

#### 1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM.

The President thanked the Executives for being flexible and accommodating a change in meeting time.

#### 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 Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.*

*Motion carried.*

#### 3. Approval of the November 13, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the November 13, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes.

*Motion to approve the November 13, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes moved by the VP Student Affairs and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.*

*Motion carried.*

#### 4. Items for Action

##### *4.1 Funding Request: SSGSA (Soil Science Graduate Student Association).*

The VP Finance and Operations indicated that he had received a funding request from SSGSA with a thorough description and budget of the event; Soil Science Christmas party. The President welcomed Aimee Schryer, the President of SSGSA, to the Executive meeting and asked her to provide a brief description of the event. Schryer mentioned that the Soil Science Christmas party is an annual event held by the SSGSA and is an opportunity for both staff and graduate students to interact in an informal setting. The aim of the event is to build a cohesive community amongst

the members. Schryer indicated that one of the SSGSA goals is to minimize costs of all social activities in order to further engage graduate students.

The VP Finance and Operations asked whether they had already started selling tickets for the event or if the revenue stated on the budget provided was an estimation of these sales. Schryer mentioned it is an estimation of the 75 tickets they expected to sell. The VP Student Affairs asked where the food will come from. Schryer explained that the food will be bought from Boryskis, PicNic's, and Costco. The President asked for further explanation to the bartending and alcohol profit. Schryer explicated that any revenue made through alcohol sales and bartending will be donated to the Saskatoon Dog Rescue.

The President thanked Schryer for attending the meeting and mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to appear on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. Schryer agreed to include the GSA logo on posters and advertising material. The President indicated that the decision was based on the budget and not on the event. The President thanked Schryer for providing the proposal and attending the Executive meeting to provide further information.

*The VP Finance and Operations moved to approve funding in the amount of \$200 to SSGSA. This motion was seconded by the VP Student Affairs.*

***Motion carried.***

The VP Finance and Operations will email Schryer to let her know to pick up the cheque.

#### ***4.2 Graduate student representative on the Recreation and Athletic Advisory Council.***

The President received correspondence that the Recreation and Athletic Advisory Council was to meet in the near future. The President indicated that two graduate students sit on the Recreation and Athletic Advisory Council – the GSA President and at least one graduate student amongst the (a) Co-Presidents of the Campus Recreation Student Board, or (b) President of the Huskie Athletics Council. The President had received correspondence that this year, there was no graduate student amongst the Co-Presidents of the Campus Recreation Student Board or the President of the Huskie Athletics Council and therefore the GSA was to appoint one additional graduate student.

The President reached out to the College of Kinesiology Academic Councillors, and Natasha Boyes, who sat on this council last year, expressed interest in sitting once again.

*The VP Student Affairs moved to approve Natasha Boyes to sit on the Recreation and Athletic Advisory Council. This motion was seconded by the President.*

***Motion carried.***

#### ***4.3 Executive meeting dates for December, 2018.***

The President wished to confirm that the Executive meetings for December will occur on December 6 and December 20. Seeing as two of the Executives will be physically absent on the 20<sup>th</sup>, it was indicated that they could communicate via teleconference. It was decided that apart from any other agenda items that may arise, that the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> would be an opportunity for each Executive to indicate their plan for the winter term.

#### ***4.4 Executive Meeting dates for winter term***

The President proposed dates for the Executive meetings for the winter term. She emphasized that all the dates are Thursdays at 5 PM, as usual, and asked the Executives if they had any comments regarding the dates proposed. The Executives agreed with the following dates.

- January 17, 31,
- February 14, 28,
- March 14, 28,
- April 11, 25

#### ***4.5. 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:

- Reimbursement to VP Student Affairs in the sum of \$682.75 issued on October 4, 2018 for September Social Wine and Cheese Chq#3819.
- Bursary recipients (20) in the total sum of \$20,000.00 issued on October 31, 2018 for the GSA Fall Bursary Chq#3833, 3838, 3835, 3839, 3834, 3845, 3841, 3844, 3847, 3837, 3836, 3840, 3858, 3859,3860, 3861, and 3862.
- Transfer of funds to StudenCare in the sum of \$447,671.21 issued on November 13, 2018 for Health & Dental Plan for fall 2018 Chq#3852.
- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping Services Inc. in the sum of \$816.12 issued on November 13, 2018 for bookkeeping services Chq#3851.
- Transfer of funds to Emily Mireles in the sum of \$1560.00 issued on November 16, 2018 for First Aid courses offered on November 15, 16, 17 Chq#3863.
  - o This amount corresponds to individuals who paid the GSA for course registration as they did not feel comfortable with an e-transfer to the instructor.

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

***Motion carried.***

## **5. Items for Information / Discussion**

### ***5.1 Honorarium pay***

The President indicated that honorarium cheques will have CPP deductions and Executives should expect the amounts to be slightly less than their usual pay. The Executives will receive a T4A from the bookkeeper early next year to use when claiming taxes. CPP deductions will begin on payments over \$3500 and therefore it is expected that only the Executives (and not the Chair / Recording Secretary) would get deductions this year.

### ***5.2 CFS report VP External***

The VP External provided an update of the last Canadian Federation of Students' National General Meeting. It was good to know that CFS now has a mental health policy, which aims to address the rigour of post-secondary students, which is seen as a source of significant stress. This policy includes strongly worded statements which are each geared to either support or oppose the mental health services/policies of post-secondary institutions, in the interest of its (CFS) members. One such statement reads, "The Federation supports mental health services that provide graduate students with specific mental health services that acknowledge and support their distinct mental health concerns." Another reads, "The Federation opposes Policies at post-secondary institutions that put international students' residency status in jeopardy based on perceived mental health issues." The Federation is also currently working on producing mental health awareness packages, specifically for graduate students through their Graduate Caucus.

The CFS national executives put forward a motion to have an annual AGM instead of a bi-annual one, as the Federation currently has. This is because of the new financial reality the Federation now finds itself in, as a result of the expulsion of 12 locals. The motion also included a clause to have only one delegate from each local attend the June 2019 meeting, in order to amend the bylaws necessary for the change to occur, according to the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. This motion was, however, defeated on the floor, as member locals argued that one representative per local would not be sufficient for such major decision-takings involved in bylaw amendments. Therefore, a new motion was put forward to hold the June 2019 meeting as usual, with full delegation from member locals, where the bylaws of the Federation can then be changed to allow for an annual AGM starting 2020. This motion passed.

## **6. Other Business**

## **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 5:28 PM.