



**University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
Executive Meeting (5 PM – 7 PM)  
May 24, 2018**

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

**Regrets / Absent:**

**Guests:** Iloradanon Efimoff

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

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

The President indicated that this was the first Executive Meeting and congratulated everyone for almost completing their first month. She further indicated that at these meetings, Robert's rules of Orders will be followed; however, encourages individuals to ask questions as needed.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. Indigenous Liaison requested to add Item 5.4 The Circle of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Students. The President requested to add Items 5.5 Provost's Advisory Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity, Item 5.6 Spring and Summer Bursaries, and under Other Business Item, 6.2 Mental Health and First Aid Training.

Motion to approve the Agenda as amended moved by the Indigenous Liaison and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

*Motion carried.*

**3. Approval of the May 13, 2018 Executive Retreat Meeting Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the May 13 Executive Retreat Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the May 13 Minutes moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the VP Student Affairs

*Motion carried.*

#### **4. Items for Action**

##### ***4.1. Miyomahcihow Gathering – Funding Request from IGSC***

The President indicated that Iloradanon Efimoff had provided the Executives with a thorough description and budget for the Miyomahcihow Gathering. The President welcomed Efimoff, via telephone, to the Executive meeting and asked her to briefly describe the event.

Efimoff indicated that the event being proposed is the Miyomahcihow Gathering, the Healthy Man Gathering, which is a community and University combined event that has a number of different organizations involved in the planning. The goal is to bring academics, Community members and organizations together to have frank discussions about how we can create pathways for Indigenous men to seek healthier lifestyles in Saskatoon. The background comes from an organization in the downtown eastside of Vancouver, called the DUDES Club, which works with Indigenous men who live in poverty and low income and who lack fundamental necessities – the context seems similar to what we see in the core neighbourhood of Saskatoon. The Dudes Club showed interest in coming to Saskatoon to work with organizations in Saskatoon. Although this is out of the purview of previous GSA funded events, as it is a community event, it is strongly supported by IGSC and it is important to remember that the Indigenous graduate student community extends beyond the campus as our own community is important to us as well.

The VP External wondered why they were unsuccessful in receiving monetary support from the ASC. Efimoff indicated that the ASC was already providing in-kind support; one of their employees is on the organizing committee and has helped secure speakers, location and has brought in community connections. The VP Student Affairs asked how many graduate students will participate in the event. Efimoff hopes that 15 to 20 graduate students will participate in the event. The Indigenous Liaison confirmed that she has received the invitation given to IGSC and has extended the invitation to IGSC members on her mailing list. The Indigenous Liaison assured that the IGSC will participate in the event. The President asked if this will be an ongoing or just a one-time event. Efimoff hopes that this will be a sustainable initiative and one that would catapult other similar events that are geared towards Indigenous men health. The President mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. Efimoff agrees to add GSA logo on posters and advertising material. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event. The President thanked Efimoff for providing the proposal and further information in the in-meeting call.

The VP Finance and Operations moved to approve funding in the amount of \$350 for this event. This motion was seconded by the VP External.

*4 in favour, 1 Abstention (Indigenous Liaison)*

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

##### ***5.1. Chamber of Commerce Health and Technology Committee / Innovation Place***

The GSA is collaborating with organizations outside the University in an attempt to build a strong network for our students who wish to pursue jobs in industry. The VP Student Affairs

explained that this is an opportunity to create a good relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and Innovation Place, promote students' thesis or project work, and help them to connect to industry. This is the first time the GSA has participated in such collaborations. One of the winners from the 2018 3MT, whose work is related to health technology, will participate in the summer event (What is HOT in Health and Technology, June 20) hosted by the Chamber of Commerce Health and Technology Committee. In the fall term, participation will be open to all graduate students. This is a convenient way for graduate students to build good relationships with entrepreneurs and practice pitching their research ideas to industry. This is a wonderful event for graduate students to explore how their projects can be expanded for industry and to network. These sessions are free and hopefully faculty might consider encouraging their students to participate in these events. We will advertise these events starting in the fall term to our graduate students so that they can participate and take advantage of these opportunities.

The Indigenous Liaison indicated that this is definitely a win-win for graduate students in that we can create a network that would ultimately help out in research and future job prospects. The VP External wondered whether any monetary resources were going into this project. Both the President and VP Student Affairs emphasized that no budget was allocated to this and it simply was meant to be a way to connect students to industry and that this only required emailing and personal meetings.

### ***5.2. June GSA Council Meeting***

The President explained that Executives are expected to be at the GSA Council Meeting on June 19 at 5 PM. An individual written report is needed where initiatives, meetings and contributions can be outlined. This is also an opportunity to explain what has been done and explain our future initiatives and proposals. The President recommends looking at the February or March agendas from previous Council meetings to have an idea of the nature of this report, which should be concise (no more than 2 pages) and verbal participation, should not be longer than 3 minutes.

### ***5.3. Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgment***

Indigenous Liaison recommended adding a Treaty 6 and Homeland of the Métis Land Acknowledgment as a signature to emails. She mentioned that there is an active discussion about the process of Reconciliation, Indigenization, and tokenism. She would like to hear Indigenous and non-Indigenous students' perspectives about Reconciliation since that is a topic of interest for everybody in Canada. The Indigenous Liaison considers that the GSA could remark itself and have more participation on this item by adding a Treaty 6 and Homeland of the Métis Land Acknowledgment on the email signatures. VP Student Affairs would be willing to move forward with the idea and also proposes to add Cree words (and their translation) to provide more value to the acknowledgment. The President mentioned that GSA is an association that goes in favour with the process of Reconciliation and Indigenization, but feels we cannot dictate the email signatures of each Executive, as long as they are within the respectful purview of the association. Furthermore, we need to be careful of putting words that we cannot follow through due to our limited capacity as an association and prefers that we show support for the process of Reconciliation rather than putting empty gestures. VP Student Affairs mentioned that it would be authentic for the Indigenous Liaison to have it on her email signature. Indigenous Liaison mentioned that it would also be a good idea to review the IGSC policies in terms of

acknowledgments in personal signatures and will also talk to her predecessor about this topic in order to know why it was not used before and have continuity with the future Indigenous Liaison. The President thanks the Indigenous Liaison for sharing her point of view.

#### ***5.4 The Circle of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Students***

Indigenous Liaison mentioned that The Circle meeting was a successful event with a variety of students from all over Canada coming, including 6 Inuit students. Different topics were discussed; discrimination within post-secondary education, Indigenous governance, anti-colonial perspectives, how to work with members of different Treaty's and Indigenous education and research in different fields. The President explains that the GSA will continue to strive to create a non-discriminatory environment for all graduate students on campus and will raise up issues of discrimination when we are made aware of them.

#### ***5.5 Provost's Advisory Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity***

The President was informed by a previous Executive that the GSA has had a representative sitting on this committee before. The President considered that it is important to participate on this Committee as the GSA is an Association that prides itself on diversity and inclusivity. Indigenous Liaison showed interested to participate in this Committee due to the experiences of Two-Spirit people (and the larger non-Indigenous LGBTQ2+ community) being discriminated against. The President will follow up to have Indigenous Liaison as a representative.

#### ***5.6 Spring and Summer Bursaries***

The President explained that GSA offers spring and summer bursaries. The application will be accepted from June 4th to June 22nd and after that the Bursary Selection Committee will decide who will be awarded. The GSA funds allow the Executive to give out 10 awards, 1000 dollars to each student. GSA already provided the funding proposal to CGPS requesting more funds for fall and winter, with the hopes of it being accepted. The President explained that this is a needs-based bursary; unfortunately we don't have the capacity and funds to offer a bursary to all applicants. Nevertheless, all graduate students are encouraged to apply for it. VP Finance and Operations will post an announcement promoting the spring and summer bursary on the PAWS by May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. Other Business**

#### ***6.1. Important Dates***

Convocation attendance is confirmed for everyone. Council meeting is on June 19th, thus reports and items to discuss are due to the Chair by June 11th. Graduation Powwow is on May 30th. The President asked who would like to attend the Graduation Powwow. Indigenous Liaison encouraged everybody to participate in the Graduation Powwow to experience indigenous music, dancing, traditions, etc. VP Student Affairs and VP External will register for it and split the attendance for the morning and afternoon, respectively. The President asked the executives to save the day of September 18th for the Annual Building Reconciliation Internal Form.

### ***6.2 Mental Health and First Aid Training***

The President mentioned that there are open spots for the Mental Health and First Aid Training on July 11 and 12, and Executives are invited to attend it. VP Student Affairs and VP External confirmed their participation. Indigenous Liaison and VP Finance and Operations will review their calendar and confirm participation.

### **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 7:03 PM.

Next Executive Meeting will be on Thursday June 27, 2018 @ 5 PM.