



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**  
**Executive Meeting Agenda**  
**October 25, 2018, 5PM – 7PM**

**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:**

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:07PM.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated.

The VP External combined items 4.3 and 4.4, making a new point 4.3 entitled, Proposed Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system - Downtown All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Cycling Network. The Indigenous Liaison added: 4.4 Indigenous Liaison report. The VP Student Affairs added: 4.5 Wellness Champions session report.

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

***Motion carried.***

**3. Approval of the October 11, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the October 11, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes.

*Motion to approve the October 11, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes moved by Indigenous Liaison and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.*

***Motion carried.***

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

### **4.1 GSA Standing Committees**

The President mentioned that in the last GSA Council meeting, members were approved to sit on the nine GSA Standing Committees. The President recommends that meetings begin for the Diversity Committee and the Sustainability Committee as soon as possible, and for the other committees as the year progresses. There are funds available for a sustainability initiative; however, it is important to note that our funds are limited to the approved budget. The President reminds the Executives to write a final report of each GSA standing committee to present at the Annual General Meeting.

### **4.2 Senate Meeting**

The President thanks the Executives for attending the Senate meeting last Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>. The motion that the GSA put forth, regarding graduate student participation on the Board of Governors, passed.

### **4.3 Proposed Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system - Downtown All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Cycling Network**

The VP External got an invitation email (October 23, 2018) from the City of Saskatoon mentioning that they will have two information sessions for stakeholders. The topics to be discussed at these sessions will be the BRT to increase the frequency and improve the service, and the AAA cycling network. The President encouraged the VP External to attend these meetings in downtown.

### **4.4 Indigenous Liaison report**

The Indigenous Liaison mentioned that she was contacted by an Indigenous graduate student regarding the GSA bursary policies. Despite the fact that the GSA did add the consideration of Indigenous self-identification on the selection of the bursary, due to their previous request through the Indigenous Liaison, they recently requested to consider the internal policy of the bursary selection, particularly the one that states that previous recipients are not eligible to re-apply for the bursary in the following three terms. The Indigenous Liaison requested the GSA to consider this policy and wondered if the GSA has ever had a discussion about the application process. Furthermore, she asks if the GSA is willing to consider this request and lower down the policy to two terms rather than three, so that recipients who are in need may reapply every year instead of once every year and three months.

The President mentioned that the GSA represents all graduate students, including international, domestic, Indigenous, marginalized, non-marginalized, and that our funds for bursaries are

limited. The GSA's mandate is to accommodate graduate student as a whole and the idea of having the policy of winning the bursary every three terms is to ensure that our funds are covering more people who are in need. This policy helps the GSA to allocate the limited funds to a wide range of students who are in financial need. The VP Student Affairs mentioned that the GSA Bursary can be used by recipients to alleviate financial emergencies that they might face in the short run. The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that allowing reapplication in a short period of time would be unfair for students who had not obtained this bursary before and also find themselves in extenuating circumstances. Additionally, it was suggested that graduate students should look at other awards and scholarships that are offered by CGPS and are available and sometimes designated for specific groups of students. Sometimes students do not know about all of the awards and scholarships that CGPS offers.

The Indigenous Liaison asked apart from the GSA Bursary, what else is the GSA doing to help Indigenous students. The President mentioned that within our own limited capacity, this is the best that can be done to help all graduate students, including Indigenous, international and domestic. The President mentioned that the GSA is willing to meet with an Elder in the Saskatoon community to listen and talk about how else the GSA could alleviate some of the issues Indigenous students face.

#### **4.5 Wellness Champions session report**

The Wellness Centre invited several student groups, including the GSA and the USSU, to work together on initiatives related to wellness on Campus. Additionally, in these meetings there is room for feedback from students with regards to different events and projects held by the Wellness Centre. The VP Student Affairs attended the first meeting and he observed a low representation of graduate students in the group, so he suggested inviting more graduate students who would be interested on this. The President suggested bringing this to council and asking if someone would like to participate.

#### **5. Other Business**

The President encouraged the Executives to look at the proposed new CGPS plan. The President will be out of office from November 1 to 10, inclusive, with full access to emails and phone calls. The Indigenous Liaison will be away from November 7 to 11, inclusive, due to an academic conference commitment. The VP External will be away from November 16 to 19, inclusive, due to him attending the Canadian Federation of Students general meeting.

#### **6. Confidential Session**

## **7. In Camera Session**

## **8. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.