



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting (5 PM – 7 PM)
September 13, 2018**

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

Regrets / Absent: Naheda Sahtout (President)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The VP Finance and Operations called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The VP Finance and Operations asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated.

Motion to approve the agenda put forward by the VP Student Affairs and seconded by the Indigenous Liaison.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of the August 23, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes

The VP Finance and Operations asked whether there were any further amendments to the August 23, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve August 23, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes put forward by the Indigenous Liaison and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.

Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Search Committee for the Vice-President Research (Email correspondence September 8, 2018)

The President received correspondence from the University President's office that the Search Committee for the Vice-President Research will begin in the fall 2018 term. The composition of

senior admin search committees, as approved by the University Board of Governors, must include a graduate student appointed by the GSA.

Motion to approve Somtochukwu Ufondu to serve as the GSA Representative on the Search Committee for the Vice-President Research put forward by the Indigenous Liaison and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.

4 in favor. 1 abstention.

4.2 Search Committee for Vice-Dean Indigenous for the College of Arts and Science (Email correspondence September 11, 2018)

The President received correspondence from the University President's office that the Search Committee for the Vice-Dean Indigenous for the College of Arts and Science will begin in the fall 2018 term. The composition of senior admin search committees, as approved by the University Board of Governors, must include a graduate student appointed by the GSA.

Motion to approve Marie-Eve Presber to serve as the GSA Representative on the Search Committee for the Vice-Dean Indigenous for the College of Arts and Science put forward VP External and seconded by VP Finance and Operations.

4 in favour. 1 abstention

4.3 Cheque remittance

The GSA has received an invoice from McDougal LLP Re: Professional services/consultation that have been provided to the GSA Board of Director Chair for the period between January 19 to January 26, 2018. The total amount to be paid after discount is \$1,956.89.

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 expenditure in the amount of \$1,956.89 be authorized and a cheque of this amount to be mailed to McDougal Gauley by August 17, 2018 for legal services.

Motion to approve these expenditures put forward by VP Finance and Operations and seconded by VP External.

Motion carried.

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 expenditure be authorized:

- Payment to Buckeberger Baerg in the amount of \$4,995.00 on August 27, 2018 for accounting services.

Motion to approve this expenditure put forward by VP Finance and Operations and seconded by VP External.

Motion carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 GSA Orientation Recap

VP Student Affairs will write a report of the GSA Orientation, so that the Graduate Student Body will be able to review the budget. The GSA was able to save money, waste less food, and also receive support from the Faith Leader's Council, who attended the Orientation and served ice-cream and popcorn. The little leftovers that were left were given to the PSAC BBQ, which was happening the next day. It's important to note that PSAC members are also GSA members, since PSAC represents those graduate students who are part of the union, so our student body still benefitted from the leftovers. This year, we invited different social clubs, ratified with the GSA, to be present. The VP Student Affairs recommends finding a way to keep the students engaged with the guest speakers. It was difficult to keep students close to the stage during the speeches. This has been a reoccurring problem in the past. In general, the event was successful.

VP Finance and Operations and Indigenous Liaison suggest the VP Student Affairs should have shared more details so that the Executives can help better in the coordination of the volunteers. VP Student Affairs agrees and says a shared plan should be created in the future.

VP External also suggests using less plastic, and more paper/cardboard in order to be more sustainable. VP Student Affairs says that can definitely be an option to look into.

5.2 Executives Plans

VP External:

Health Chats:

- September 27th: “Tips for being an excellent graduate student”. The speaker will be the winning candidate for the exceptional graduate supervisor student award of the 2018 academic year. This will be held during lunch – so participants will be provided a snack.
- October: “Surviving Canada with Humour” - it would be good to have a panel discussion. There is a possibility of it being held at lunch time again, or during the evening.
- November: “Laughter Therapy” – based on last year, students really enjoyed themselves. The individual in question holding the health chat will be given an honorarium. This will be coming out of the Health Chat Budget.
- January: “Indigenous Health Perspective” – information session on Indigenous Health (traditional and contemporary). Open discussion/sharing circle on Indigenous health issues student face on campus. VP External is asking the Indigenous Liaison to help facilitate this health chat. The Indigenous Liaison accepts on the condition that she is available. They will work together on a date that suits them both.
- February: “Self-defense/Martial Arts class”.

Gala theme: Constellation of Stars

- Going to meet with event decorator once every month until the date of to discuss the specifics of the event.

First Aid and CPR session:

- Looking into offering a First Aid and CPR session for students at a discounted price.

VP Student Affairs:

- Fall Wine and Cheese: 28th September
- Halloween Party/Movie Night in October
- Holiday Party in December
- January: Winter Orientation
- Research Conference (February)
- 3MT (March)
- Will start working on Research Conference and 3MT
- Continue advocating for students

- Possibility to get some advocacy training for Executives
 - Potentially from the College of Law at the U of S. VP Student Affairs will continue to enquire for further information from the University Secretary.

VP Finance and Operations:

- GSA Bursaries: the Fall Bursaries are fast approaching. VP Finance and Operations will ask GSA Council for new member on the Bursary Selection Committee in the October Council meeting.
- Winter Tax Clinic: help GSA members to do their taxes. VP Finance and Operations will look into volunteers.
- Will continue to keep the financials of the GSA up to date.

Indigenous Liaison:

- The IGSC's Annual General Meeting is being held next week. Thereafter, once community input is received, the Indigenous Liaison will come back to the GSA with a concrete plan of action for this academic year.
- Reminder that the Building Reconciliation forum is on the 18th of September. Indigenous Liaison encourages everyone to attend.
- Will continue to liaise between the GSA and the IGSC regarding Indigenous student issues and advocacy.

5.3 ALertUs App

VP External alerts every one of the ALerUs App. VP Student Affairs thinks its city wide for alerts. VP Finance and Operations confirms that all the computers in the GSA commons have the AlertUs app, and that they will be running a test/drill for all the University on October 1st at 9 AM. The GSA staff will ensure that the app is functioning on the computers that day. The Office Manager and Coordinators know how to proceed in cases of emergency or alerts from the app.

5.4 Health Campaign

The Director of Student Affairs has asked the GSA to participate in a Mental Health Campaign around suicide prevention for the University. It's similar to the Awareness of Sexual Assault week. He would like the GSA to give some input about the nature and message of this campaign.

5.5 IGSC Liaison Report

The IGSC was happy to hear about the change to the GSA Bursaries application form – adding Indigenous after the question: “Are you an international [or Indigenous] student?”

They were also happy to hear about the potential Breakfast Initiative to help out students that are food insecure. The Indigenous Liaison will wait until after the AGM to liaise further business between the GSA and IGSC.

6. Other Business

No other business.

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting put forward by VP Finance and Operations and seconded by VP External.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.