



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2018

Present: President (Ziad Ghaith), VP Finance and Operations (David Bennett), VP Student Affairs (Ali Kiani), Indigenous Liason (Iloradanon Efimoff), Guest for Open Session (Indiana Best)

Regrets: None.

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The Meeting was called to order by the President at 4:39PM.

President noted that there are many important items on the agenda so that we ought to be thoughtful about our use of time in the discussions. The President welcomed member Indiana Best who will join us for the Open Session to shadow Iloradanon Efimoff as she will likely be the Liaison going forward pending the transition plans in IGSC.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was circulated in advance by the VP Finance and Operations. The President asked if there are any additions or changes. Seeing none the President asked if we are ready to approve the agenda. The agenda is moved by VP External. Seconded by VP Student Affairs. All in favour. The Agenda is hereby adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of the February 20/2018 Meeting Minutes

The President noted that the minutes were posted or circulated in advance.

The VP Student Affairs notes that there is an issue with being marked absent versus sending regrets. He notes that is marked as absent even though he sent regrets.

The VP Finance and Operations asked what time the regrets were sent in. The VP Student Affairs noted that he sent them via text message prior to the start of meeting.

The VP Finance and Operations noted that it is important to send regrets in advance.

The President asked if we are ready to approve the minutes. Moved by VP External. Seconded by the President. Two in favour. Three abstentions. Minutes are approved as modified.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Motion (E001-2018): Motion to Rescind Previously Tabled Item (4.3 February 13/2018 re: Voxco Survey Licences)

The Indigenous Liaison noted that this relates to the license for the survey software. Money that was going to be used for a Voxco License is no longer needed as through the University we can utilize the enterprise edition of Survey Monkey. We had set aside money from the New Initiatives budget line and that money can be released back.

Moved by the Indigenous Liaison. Seconded by VP Student Affairs. All in favour. Motion carries unanimously.

4.2 Motion (E002-2018): Request for Funding from ARCHAIA (Archaeology and Anthropology)

The VP External had received a request from ARCHAIA for funding. The VP Finance and Operations had circulated this via email in advance of the meeting.

The President invited Marissa Evans the representative from ARCHAIA and noted that she is a valuable GSA Council Member. He thanked her for being here and introduced her to the team and commented that this seems like an interesting event.

Marissa noted that ARCHAIA wants to set-up the event as a fundraiser to help students attend conferences as there are many conferences (CASCA, AAA, SfAA and some more regional conferences). These costs are serving as barriers to many students. The event will take the place as a 'Coffee House' at O'Brien's Event Centre. Local performance actor and improv star Marley Duckett has arranged for the venue to be given gratis and there will be artists performing. ARCHAIA seeks to provide funding for the guest artists in the form of honorariums of \$40 (x11). Tickets will be printed and sold for this event.

The VP Finance and Operations asked if the CASCA conference normally held in Canada is being held in Cuba. Marissa noted that it is and is hard to travel to where the conference venue is located in Santiago de Cuba.

The Indigenous Liaison asked if they had sought out funding from other groups. Marissa noted they had approached just their Department and the GSA. She also asked if they had considered gifts to the artists instead of cash payments. Marissa thought that paying via honorariums would be easier and serve as a respectful way to reimburse them for their time and talents.

The VP External asked who will attend. Marissa noted students and community members. O'Brien's is also advertising the event on their website.

The President asked if there was event organization experience. Marissa noted that collectively they have organized smaller events before. The President also noted that the funding from the GSA is based on our budget not the quality of the event or application. He further stated that GSA sponsorship will have to be acknowledged. Marissa noted that if the application is successful she will ensure that is taken care of.

The team thanked Marissa for attending.

A discussion followed regarding the proposal.

The President noted that there may be further funding requests and there is now only a small amount left in that particular budget line.

The VP Finance and Operations noted that he is part of the department but that Marley is very good at events and is sure the event will be successful. The Indigenous Liaison suggests coming up with a better rubric to be used in the future.

VP Student Affairs moved to contribute \$350.00. Seconded by the Indigenous Liaison. 4 in favour. 1 Abstention (VP Finance and Operations abstains). Motion carries. VP Finance will prepare a cheque and contact them shortly.

4.3 Motion (E003-2018): Whereas the Sustainability Committee hereby requests the use of the New Initiatives Budget Line to purchase reusable plastic plates, cups, bowls, and cutlery.

VP External based on her role in the GSA Sustainability Committee suggests we purchase more sustainable plates, cups, utensils, etc. that are reusable and recyclable. As opposed to throwing out the paper plates and disposable plastic cups as we do now. She suggests that this is a new initiative and we use up to \$200 from the New Initiatives Budget Line.

The President asked what kind of things we would buy. The VP External notes that these are still plastic but reusable and they can be recycled. The Indigenous Liaison noted that this will help minimize waste.

VP Finance and Operations stated that this was more of a commons supply expense than a new initiative. He further noted we have lots of inventory so there shouldn't be a rush to buy these items.

The Commons Supply line is already overspent so the President suggested that we need to utilize the New Initiatives budget line for this.

The VP External moved that the GSA utilize up to \$200 from the New Initiatives Budget Line for this. Seconded by the Indigenous Liaison. All in favour. Motion carries unanimously.

4.4 Motion (E004-2018): Whereas GSA bylaws 5.2.4 restricts expenditure amounts above certain amounts or percentages of budget lines without a majority vote of the Executive. BIRT the following expenditures be authorized:

- Honorarium Payments of 533.33 to Z.G, A.K., N.S., and I.E. on Feb. 27/2018
- Reimbursement to N.S. for airfare to ROBAM Conference in the amount of 544.41 Feb. 21/2018
- Payment to the USSU in the amount of 18,246.90 for GPASS Administration (6350.40 this year, 5896.80 2015, 5999.70 2016) on Mar 3/2018
- Payment to Bursary Recipients (GSA Contribution Only) in the amount of 7000.00 (7 X 1000) on March 9/2018.

VP Finance and Operations note that pursuant to bylaws these amounts must be approved. He is unsure why this was not being done prior to his by-election.

The President noted that this is too align with our bylaws and thanked VP Finance and Operations for bringing it forward. He suggests that the Governance Committee find a way to address this issue going forward.

Moved by VP Finance and Operations. Seconded by the President. All in favour. Motion carries unanimously.

5. Items for Information

5.1 Update on GSA Survey

The Indigenous Liaison noted this was almost finalized but asked if we should have section regarding parents and parenting. There were no parents as part of the survey committee. VP External noted that there was likely another survey out there on this topic from the Parents on Campus group. The Indigenous Liaison thanked the President for the feedback he provided. A discussion on gift certificates or cash rewards for survey participants took place.

VP Finance and Operations suggested we use funding from the New Initiative Budget Line for this. The President noted that gift cards would be good inducements to get more survey participants.

The Indigenous Liaison asked whether it was better to have one high value gift card to be won via draw or several in smaller amounts. The President suggested more gift cards would be best for our purposes and that we get gift cards for valuable places for students (i.e. Superstore).

The Indigenous Liaison spoke about the possibility of an ethical amendment but noted this will back up the research. Following more discussion on gift cards it was determined the Indigenous Liaison and VP Student Affairs will take the lead and spend up to \$235 from the New Initiatives Budget line on this.

So moved by the Indigenous Liaison. Seconded by the VP Student Affairs. All in favour. Motion passes unanimously.

The President suggests a special email communique about the survey and the possibility of winning gift cards.

5.2 Update on the GSA Bursary Committee

The VP Finance and Operations announced that the Bursary Funding for the year is completed. The last round saw 22 successful applicants based out of 103 completed applications. The recipients have been notified.

President noted he will add more in camera about funding for this in the coming years in camera.

5.3 GSA Diversity Launch Event

This event comes from the VP External and the Diversity Committee. There was/is a planned Diversity Launch on March 28th. At this point she is unsure if it is going to happen. It is a major challenge to find speakers and there is a lack of RSVPs. The event may have to be cancelled.

VP Finance and Operations notes that we no longer have any funding for this event as we have used up the New Initiatives funding in previous motions this evening. VP External noted that she doesn't want an event without good speakers or a limited turnout as this would be too much work for such a small payout. She will further consult with members of the Diversity Committee.

5.3.a Flags for the GSA Commons

Also stemming from the Diversity Committee. The VP Finance and Operations noted he would be pleased to donate a Pride Flag to the GSA Commons to be hung alongside the existing GSA flag. There was a brief discussion about the need for Indigenous Artwork in the Commons. The Indigenous Liaison is working on this.

The Indigenous Liaison queried if the Queer community is okay with this. VP Finance and Operations notes he has never heard any complaints about this from the Community.

5.4 GSA Election for 2018-2019

The Chairperson noted in his discussion with the President that the election is coming up soon. Likely in early April. The Chair and Elections Committee intend to have multiple

information sessions. The President invites the current Executive Team to make sure they are able to attend these and answer questions and provide information about what the position entails and so on and so forth. He notes that we ought to make ourselves available and assist students who show interest. It is part of our responsibility to engage in new leaders who come into the GSA.

5.5 GSA Executive Annual Reports

The President noted that the Executive must provide annual reports to be presented in AGM. These should include achievements and plans for future. The President will also compile an annual report for the whole GSA. He invites Executive members to send specifics they would like included. This report will also include nice graphics, etc. so please feel free to send those in as well.

5.6 GSA Gala Update

The VP External noted that the gala planning process is well underway and going well. She needs a commitment from the Executive Team to sell tickets for the event in order to ensure success is maximized. She noted there are many important dignitaries coming to the event. She is in the process of seeing if we can hire a classical musician like a violinist or cellist for the dinner.

The Indigenous Liaison noted she can sell some tickets.

VP External wants us each to try and sell ten tickets. Free tickets have already been given to sponsors so absolutely no free tickets can be given out. She will provide tickets to sell us to sell and we must note any dietary restrictions.

President noted that many will buy their tickets last minute.

5.7 GSA Bookkeeper

The VP Finance and Operations reported that our current bookkeeper can no longer fit the GSA in her schedule. She has recommended a colleague and a meeting is in the process of being set up. VP Finance and Operations further notes that this this is very unfortunate timing with financial year end coming up but it is what it is.

6. Other Business

VP External noted that we might not have therapy dogs, as the dogs are very busy :(

An Art Therapy event is next Friday. She requests that we promote this event.

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The Meeting was Adjourned at 6:22PM.