



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association GSA Executive
Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 - GSA Commons, 4:30PM – 6:30PM

Present: David Bennett (VP Finance and Operations), Naheda Sahtout (VP External), Ziad Ghaith (President).

Regrets: Iloradanon Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison - sent in advance)

Absent: Ali Kiani (VP Student Affairs)

1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 4:38PM.

The President welcomed the newly elected VP Finance and Operations to the Team and congratulated him on his election victory and for joining the team. He is looking forward to having him bring his expertise to the GSA team.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was circulated in advance pursuant to usual practice.

The President asks if there are any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. VP External requested to add Item for Action 4.3: Interdisciplinary Committee Graduate Student Representative.

So moved by VP Finance and Operations. Seconded by the President. All in favour. Motion carries.

3. Approval of the February 13, 2018 Executive Committee Meetings

Minutes were posted and circulated in advance. No changes or additions were brought forward. Motion to approve the minutes brought forward by VP External. Seconded by President. All in favour. Motion Carries.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Request from the Nepalese Students' Association to Re-examine their funding request.

The President reported that this ratified organization contacted the GSA with a request to re-examine their proposal for event funding. At this time the President invited the representative of the NSA Mr. Ajay Shrestha to join the Executives. Informal introductions were given by all parties.

Mr. Shrestha indicated that the \$250 is likely not enough for their planned event. It was indicated that the previous year they got \$300 for their event. This year they want their event to be bigger and better. They wish for more students' associations to join this event. Hosting at Louis costs approx. \$350.00 and they wish to use that venue because of its stage and lighting systems. They seek \$350.00 to cover the cost of the venue.

VP External asked if they were charging an entrance fee. The reply was in the affirmative at the amount of \$10.00 and they expect approx. 100 guests to attend. They will reach out to people in the residence buildings to get more guests interested in their event.

The President summarizes that we provided \$250 and they are seeking \$350. He further states that the Executive will examine their request and reply as soon as possible. The Executive thanked Mr. Shrestha for attending. He concluded by noting that it is very hard to find other funding sources. The President again offered the use of the GSA Commons as a venue.

A discussion on this request occurred. The President confirmed with VP Finance and Operations the amount remaining in the budget line. VP External notes that after an examination of their provided budget and door charges their event appears like it will be financially successful without further GSA support. The VP Finance and Operations notes that he wasn't elected at the timing of the previous meeting so he defers to the others.

The President reiterates that their event looks wonderful but our budgets are extremely limited and our lack of further funding isn't a reflection on their event.

A decision is made to not further contribute beyond the \$250.00. The VP Finance and Operations will communicate that with them.

4.2 Request from a Group of Graduate Students to use the GSA Commons for a fundraiser for an Indigenous/International Women's Group at Station20 West.

The President notes that this is not a formal social club just a group of engaged students. He forwarded the information and notes the event will be on a weekend. They are seeking no funding, just asking for use of the Commons.

The President indicated that this is for a very good cause that is closely aligned with the values of the GSA and he offers to donate his time to work at this event.

Pending availability of the GSA Commons, it is agreed that the President will facilitate this event and volunteer his time. He further notes he cares deeply about this cause.

4.3 Interdisciplinary Committee of CGPS

The President notes that the GSA had a student sitting on this committee who has had to step away and we must replace this student.

VP External noted that the Chair of this Committee is seeking female representation on this committee in order to achieve some gender balance. Women are underrepresented on this committee.

The President reiterates that this is a CGPS Committee and it is important for the GSA to continue to have great representation on all committees.

The VP External and the Indigenous Liaison will discuss this committee opening and report back on who will serve on this committee.

5. Items for Information

5.1 Introduction from newly elected VP Finance and Operations along with updates on the 2017/18 Budget.

The VP Finance and Operations thanked the team for being so welcoming and thanked VP External Naheda for all her extremely hard work in this portfolio in the meantime.

VP Finance and Operations notes that he is committed to financial transparency of the GSA. He provided the budget update but noted that there were still some discrepancies to work out and that he and the VP External will try to solve these issues as soon as possible. This will help us know how much we have left in each budget line.

It was unanimously agreed that the budget will be posted on our website for the benefit of all members.

6. Other Business

VP External noted that there is one health chat left, which will focus on art therapy. The facilitator has asked for an honorarium of \$150 for supplies and cost. In April we will likely have therapy dogs visit. All were supportive of such a prospect.

VP External also noted that the GSA's Diversity Launch event will take place on March 28th. This will be a great event. Special guests will attend this event. She further notes that the gala prep and planning is well underway.

President concludes by noting our motion in the Uni. Council passed and that this is a big achievement and received very positive feedback from council members. This opens doors for the next step in our just proposal for representation.

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Section

9. Adjournment of Meeting

Motion to Adjourn at 5:31PM by VP External. Seconded by President. All in favour.
Meeting Adjourned.