



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting (5 PM – 7 PM)
July 19, 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: N/A

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion to approve the agenda moved by VP Student Affairs and seconded by VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of the June 28, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the June 28, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve June 28, 2018 Executive Meeting Minutes moved by Indigenous Liaison and seconded by VP Student Affairs.

Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1. Fall / Winter GSA Council Meeting Dates

The President wishes to confirm the Fall/Winter Council dates, as previously discussed at the Executive Meeting retreat. Proposed final dates for GSA Council Meetings:

- September 25
- October 16
- November 20
- December 11
- January 22
- February 26
- March 19
- April 9
- April 16 (potential AGM)

Motion to approve the GSA Council dates moved by VP Student Affairs and seconded by VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried.

4.2. 2018 Internal Reconciliation Forum

The President indicates that she received an e-mail from the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching Learning and Student Experience requesting an in-kind contribution, of the GSA Commons, for one of the 'breakout' sessions for the 2nd Annual Internal Reconciliation Forum on September 18, 2018. This event is being organized by the President's office, Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement and Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching Learning and Student Experience

Motion to approve an in-kind contribution of the GSA Commons moved by VP Student Affairs, and seconded by VP External.

Motion carried.

4.3. Oohlala Mobile App

The GSA subscribed to the Oohlala mobile app to advertise GSA initiatives and events. The App was completely subsidised by the CFS. However, they will no longer be subsidizing, it was voted at the CFS Semi-Annual General Meeting in June 2018. Therefore, the GSA Executive is looking to stop using the app since the GSA has not used it very much in the past. The VP External also points out that there is not really an Executive that is ready to take on the task of promoting our initiatives via the app, further demonstrating its uselessness.

Motion to no longer subscribe to the Oohlala App moved by Indigenous Liaison and seconded by VP Student Affairs.

Motion carried.

4.4 Search Committee, Dean, CGPS (Email correspondence, July 15, 2018)

The President received correspondence from the Provost's office that the Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies will resume 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 Naheda Sahtout to serve as the GSA representative on the Search Committee for the Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies moved by VP Student Affairs and seconded by VP External.

4 in favour. 1 abstention.

4.5. Learner Journey Mapping Project

The President, VP External, and VP Student Affairs received correspondence from the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching Learning and Student Experience with regards to a new project. The project is being facilitated to further explore the experiences of incoming international graduate students, with the intention of improving that experience through better coordination of services and supports. The time commitment is about 10 hours. Indigenous Liaison points out that the person sitting on this working group should be an international student.

Motion to approve VP External to sit on the Learner Journey Mapping Project working group is moved by VP Finance and Operation, and seconded by the Indigenous Liaison.

4 in favour – 1 abstention.

4.6. Cheque Remittance

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 expenditures be authorized:

- ❖ Payment to Delta Bessborough in the amount of \$2000 on July 16, 2018 for April 6, 2019 Awards Gala hall booking.
- ❖ Payment to Chip Bookkeeping Services in the amount of \$1163.24 on July 16, 2018 for May and June Bookkeeping Services.
- ❖ Payment to GSA 2018 Spring/Summer Bursary Award Recipients in the amount of \$10000 on July 3, 2018.
- ❖ Payment to Staples in the amount of \$721.39 on June 29, 2018 for banquet tables for GSA rentals.

Motion to approve the above expenditures moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.

Motion carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1. Update: Student-Supervisor Agreement

The President wants to provide an update on the Student-Supervisor Agreement. She met with the Associate Dean of Research with members of the Engineering Graduate Course Council in order to promote the Student-Supervisor agreement within the College of Engineering. This meeting proved to be very promising. Hopefully the College of Engineering will be using the Student-Supervisor Agreement in the future. The GSA strategy has been to engage students to get involved within their respective college so as promote the necessity of this agreement (a bottom-up approach).

5.2. Update: Fall 2018 Orientation

VP Student Affairs says he has all of the promotional materials (ex: t-shirts). The specific dollar amount is still to be determined, so he will consult with the VP Finance and Operations. VP Student affairs has been assured by USSU that there will be no charge for the tables used during Orientation. He is also finalizing invitations to speakers and guests, and will then start looking at the food that we need. He has also checked the BBQs and they are in good working condition. VP External inquires about the broken valve on one of the BBQ, and if it is safe to use. VP Student Affairs assured him that it is safe to use, and that there is only one burner in each BBQ that is out of service. There is currently no plan to fix it as it could be expensive. VP Finance and Operations asks about volunteers. The VP Student Affairs and President state that the GSA called for volunteers in our July communication e-mail. So far 11 volunteers have reply back showing interest in helping at the Orientation.

5.3. Update: GSA Survey

President has the results of the GSA survey. She will present them to Council at the next GSA Council Meeting in August. These will also be presented at the August 23, 2018 meeting with the CGPS Dean's Executive team.

5.4. Update: Preparations for the Health Chats and the Gala

VP External met with a Health Education and Promotion Coordinator (HEPC) to discuss health chats. This individual has helped the GSA over the years to give ideas on how to promote mental health and health chats. Last year, Public Health Students were the ones that helped organize the Health Chats – it was a project for them and they were given credit for it. They discussed whether or not this is possible this year, but there is a new Faculty member in charge so it depends on them and what they decide. Some brainstorming ideas: Laughing Therapy, Zumba, Art Therapy, Mindfulness, Martial Arts, Meditation Exercises, Yoga, Karaoke Therapy, Coffee with Faith Leaders Council, Discussion on Financial Life, Surviving Canada with Humour (Police or Councillor to talk to students), and Fighting Stereotypes. We only have five months (one activity a month). Another option was to improve Student-Supervisor relationship, so that Supervisors and Students can come and discuss how to have a healthy relationship. Indigenous Liaison suggests having a health chat that approaches health from an Indigenous perspective and have it cater to our Indigenous students.

Fighting Stereotypes could also be a good potential topic for the GSA Research Conference held at the end of February. President suggests that VP External work with the GSA Diversity Committee to be able to encourage participation of all groups on campus, engaging the entire University community. Indigenous Liaison points out that this is very important for Indigenous students as well, since many Indigenous individuals face stereotypes within systemic discrimination. There will be further discussions on whether or not “Fighting Stereotypes” should take up a whole day of the two-day Conference.

VP External settled on a theme for the GSA Gala: “Constellation of Stars”, with glitter and star-themed decorations. He is also thinking of naming tables after Constellations. VP External will work with the Office Manager to set a date with the decorators in order to discuss the specifics of the event.

5.5. U of S HR Pay issues

The Indigenous Liaison brings up the fact that she has heard from Indigenous and non-Indigenous students that they have had issues with pay regarding their work for the University. She enquires as to whether the GSA can do anything about this. The President states that the GSA unfortunately cannot do anything with HR. It is outside of GSA governance or jurisdiction. The Indigenous Liaison also enquires about Connection Point and Crisis Aid and if the GSA can help students that are rejected aid from these units. The President states that the GSA contributes monies to Crisis Aid every year, so as to help all graduate students. The Indigenous Liaison enquires about cases of discrimination. The President states that the students would have to file an official complaint through the Crisis Aid channel. The Indigenous Liaison would like to note that equality does not mean equity, and with regard to Indigenous Students it is important to consider the history of the impact of colonialism and to view their situation as unique. She will continue to think of ways to cater to the needs of Indigenous students.

5.6. Support for (Indigenous) mothers and women

The Indigenous Liaison is liaising the fact that many Indigenous mothers are struggling on campus and asks if there are any initiatives the GSA would be willing to take on. One aspect that is common between Indigenous graduate students and other graduate students is food insecurity. The

Indigenous Liaison relates that she would like to work with the Diversity and/or Sustainability Committee to discuss ways in which we could help students who face food insecurities, among which are Indigenous mothers.

5.7. GSA Commons Lease

The Commons Lease expires April 2019. The President indicates that she is currently working on renewing the lease with the University.

6. Other Business

The Indigenous Liaison indicates that she and the GSA Office Manager went to the “Bringing in the Bystander” session and have received certification. The Indigenous Liaison took notes and will send them to the rest of the GSA Executive so that they have the information.

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting:

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

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourns at 6:46 PM.