



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**  
**GSA Executive Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, February 13, 2018- GSA Commons, 4:30PM – 6:30PM**

**Present:** Ziad Ghaith (President), Ali Kiani, (VP Student Affairs), Naheda Sahtout (VP External)

**Regrets:** Iloradanon Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison)

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

Meeting called to order at 4:36 pm.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Kiani would like to add item 4.7 – request for money for social events. Kiani would like to add item 4.8 – approval of money for the CareerTalks Session by Student Employment and Career Center on February 16, 2018.

*Ghaith moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Kiani. Motion carried.*

**3. Approval of the January 30, 2018 GSA Executive Minutes**

*Kiani moved a motion to approve the minutes as appearing on the website. Seconded by Sahtout. Motion carried.*

**4. Items for Actions**

**4.1. Funding Request: Nepalese Students' Association**

The Nepalese Students' Association provided a funding proposal for a multicultural event, translated into English as Nepalese Evening. Nepalese performances as well as performances from other student associations will be shared. The main purpose of this event is to promote the cultural diversity on campus as well as to increase cultural events for university students. Another objective is to collect funds for a charity. Last year the event raised funds of \$1000 for the Saskatoon Children's Hospital. This year they will be raising funds for flood victims of Nepal. The NSA requests sponsorship of \$700 from the GSA for the event, which includes \$400 for rental of Louis Pub, \$100 for posters and advertisements and \$200 for snacks and pop.

Members of the GSA Executive team asked whether they had approached other funding sources, whether the USSU was providing funding and whether there were any plans for generating revenue to fund the event. The guests indicated that there were no other funding sources at the moment and that as they are a ratified group under the GSA, they would not be receiving funding from the USSU. Furthermore, they indicated that although they will approach their individual departments, they do have money that they have generated from participating in events such as Folk Fest, which could be used as an emergency source in case they are unable to generate the desired funding.

Representatives of the NSA were asked how many graduate students were expected to be in attendance and whether they would consider hosting the event at a venue that was less costly. They responded by indicating that of the 100 or so individuals that are expected to attend, probably 70 of them would be graduate students. They also indicated that while they realize that other venues might be less costly, they require a good light and sound system, which is why Louis Pub is the ideal location for the event.

President Ghaith stressed that because we are limited to a budget, any decision is made based on the budget and not on the event. If funding for the event is approved, we ask that the GSA logo be present on any advertisements / social media for the event. We also ask that an announcement be made during the event mentioning that the GSA sponsored the event. Ghaith stressed that money cannot be used towards the purchase of alcohol.

*Ghaith moved a motion to approve \$250. Seconded by Kiani. Motion carried.*

#### **4.2. Funding Request: Nigerian Students Association**

The NSA sponsors this event and it is a means to celebrate cultural diversity where different cultures have the opportunity to participate. Although the theme of the event is 'Black history month', the program is intended for everyone. This program is beneficial for everyone, especially for graduate students, as it provides them with an opportunity to network with all levels of the University community (including faculty, staff and undergraduate students). This will be an opportunity for graduate students to excuse themselves from their studies, come out and have fun and network. The graduate students can also act as mentors to undergraduate students at these events, by providing support, strength and inspiration; a sense of fulfillment.

The Executive members asked whether there were other funding sources or fundraising in place to provide funds and how will the remaining cost be covered should GSA be unable to cover the cost of the entire event. The NSA representative indicated that USSU has provided swag items and funded the cost of printing and posters. The NSA has considered trying to seek funds from the community; however, as it is still a new group, it is important for them to have a strong footprint in the University prior to doing so. Should maximum funding not be available, there will be things from the budget line that would have to be removed to compensate. The NSA is proud that there will be performers that are coming in from outside Saskatoon, and this requires extra funding as some will have to be provided with accommodations for the night.

President Ghaith reiterated that we have a limited budget and the amount of money provided to sponsor events is based on the budget. Any requests for sponsorship requires that the GSA logo be on posters and any sort of advertising on social media. We also request that the sponsorship is announced during the event. Money sponsored by the GSA cannot be used for the purchase of alcohol.

*Ghaith moved a motion to approve \$250. Seconded by Kiani. Motion carried.*

#### **4.3. Funding Request: School of Public Health Students' Association (5:30 pm)**

Representatives from SPHSA explained that this is an annual event, which has been happening for the past few years, a celebration of students from SPHSA that are graduating with a Masters of Public Health or a Masters in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. Graduating graduate students will be the primary audience that the event will be catered to as it will be their final event for the

program. The event will start off with an introduction; all professors in the School of Public Health will be invited so this is a good networking opportunity for students that haven't graduated. There will be games for both the professors and students. There will be a dinner planned at the Park Town Hotel, with the venue already booked, and the evening ends with a bit of a dance. They indicated that the majority of those attending will be graduate students.

Members of the Executive team inquired as to whether there is any fundraising efforts, whether the budget will remain as is and how will the net negative budget be covered. Representatives of SPHSA indicated that they have done fundraising and have reached out to the School of Public Health; however, as the Director is currently out of the country, they cannot confirm whether they will receive any funds. The budget might change slightly as the number of people attending changes. The worst case scenario would be to use money from that is allocated for the next years SPHSA, leaving them with less money to use for their events.

Ghaith mentioned that any decision about the amount of money provided to sponsor events is based on the budget. We appreciate all events but we are limited on the budget. If the GSA decides to sponsor the event, the GSA logo should be on all posters / social media / and SPHSA should announce GSA sponsorship during the event. Ghaith stated that sponsorship money from the GSA should not be used for the purchase of alcohol.

***Ghaith moved a motion to approve \$300. Seconded by Kiani. Motion carried.***

#### **4.4. Commons Office Duty**

- Wed, February 14 – Naheda 9- 4:30.
- Thurs, February 15 – Naheda 9 – 2:30; Kiani 12-2:30
- Fri, February 16- Kiani 9-12; Ziad: 2-4
- *Mon, February 19: Holiday*
- Tues, February 20: David 9-2:30; Ziad 2:30-4:30
- Wed, February 21: David 9-4:30
- Thurs, February 22: Naheda 9-2:30; Ziad 2:30-4:30
- Fri, February 23: David 9-2; Ziad 2-4:30
- Mon, February 26: Efimoff 9-11:50; 1:10-4:30
- Tues, February 27: Efimoff 9-12; Kiani 1-4:30
- Wed, February 28: Efimoff 9-4:15
- Thurs, March 1: David 9-12; Kiani 12-4:30
- Fri, March 2: Efimoff, 9-11:50; Kiani 12-4:30

#### **4.5. Conference Motion – Reclaiming our Bodies and Minds** (email, February 1, 2018)

Whereby the "Reclaiming our Bodies and Minds" Conference will be held in Toronto from March 2 - 4, 2018.

Whereby this conference will be a great opportunity for the GSA to gain information, implement strategies and understand best practices of how our Association can be more inclusive.

Be it resolved that the VP External submit an application for funding to the Canadian Federation of Students;

Be it Further Resolved that the Association send Darcia Roache, a member of the GSA Diversity Committee, to the conference as a representative of the Association.

Be it further resolved that Darcia Roache is expected to attend the workshops / sessions and provide a detailed report to the GSA Executives with regards to what she has learned and how this information can be used for the betterment of the Association.

*Sahtout moved to approve this motion. Efimoff seconds. 3 In favor. 1 abstention.*

#### **4.6. Purchasing of Survey Software**

On February 1, 2018, Information and Communications Technology announced that members of the University community will now have access to the University's SurveyMonkey enterprise account, with no added charge.

*Resolved*, that in light of this new information, the Executives hereby reverse the following decision from its October 27 Executive meeting;

*Efimoff moves to utilize \$400 from the New Initiatives budget line to fund the Voxco license for 2 months, as needed. Bonkowski seconds. All in favour.*

Tabled until information pending the functionality of SurveyMonkey is available from the Indigenous Liaison.

#### **4.7. Request for Money for Social Events**

There will be a social on February 16, 2018. Kiani suspects that the cost of the food will be around \$200. Kiani requests that perhaps the Executives could cover from their discretionary fund. Ghaith indicates that each Executive is responsible for his / her own use of the discretionary fund. Ghaith indicates that perhaps Kiani will have to look into using part of his discretionary fund for funding of this and future social events. Kiani asks whether there are other budget lines that could be used. Ghaith said that changes in allocation to budget lines need to be made with the approval of Council. Ghaith and Kiani mentioned that the "Wine and Cheese" social in September should be part of the Fall Orientation. Sahtout will make the adjustments accordingly to determine the budget available for social events.

#### **4.8. Request for Money for the CareerTalks Session by Student Employment and Career Center on February 16, 2018**

*Kiani moved to approve \$100 from the "Workshop" budget line for this workshop. Ghaith seconded. Motion carried.*

### **5. Items for Information**

#### **5.1. Office Manager Recruitment**

President Ghaith explained that the job posting has been placed internally on the University Career website, as well as SECC and Indeed. Sahtout will extend the deadline for SECC and Indeed to February 23<sup>rd</sup>. To date we have 23 applications. We hope that by the end of this month, there will be a Search Committee and interviews will proceed thereafter. Ghaith requested from

the University for a Human Resource member to help during the interviews, to ensure that the interviews are fair and done in a professional manner.

Ghaith recommends that the Search Committee consist of 2 Council members, 2 Executives, and a Human Resource member. Ghaith says that in the call for agenda items for the February 27 Council meeting, a call for Council members to be part of the Search Committee will be included. Council will then be asked to confirm the composition of the search committee.

### **5.2. UPASS 2018 / 2019 Rate**

Saskatoon Transit provided the GSA with a CPI of 1.8%. Based on this, the new rate of the UPASS for the 2018 / 2019 will be \$110.16, in keeping with our agreement with Saskatoon Transit. Council will be asked to formally approve this increase at the Council meeting on February 27. This will then go to the University Fee Review Committee for incorporation.

### **5.3. A/V Projector and Screen Quotes**

Sahtout has solicited advice from FMD and is waiting for them to get back with a response. Sahtout will look at the budget to see where we can allocate more funds into the project, as this will probably require more than \$10,000. Sahtout will bring this budget allocation changes in Council meeting for approval to ensure that the required funds are available when required.

### **5.4 Salary Increase for Commons Coordinators**

The notion of increasing the Commons Coordinators salary was discussed in the November Executive meeting. As per the new agreement, the TA rate has increased from \$18.51 to \$19.64 and in keeping with, the new rate was applied to the Coordinators salary from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Retroactive pay for January was paid to all Coordinators by cheques. The Executives have agreed that it is important for our Coordinators to be paid as per the PSAC agreement.

## **6. Other Business**

## **7. Confidential Session**

## **8. In Camera Session**

## **9. Meeting Adjournment**

*Kiani moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Ghaith Seconds.  
Motion carried.*