



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**  
**Executive Meeting Minutes**  
**February 28, 2019**

**Present:** Naheda Sahtout (President), Jesus Corona Gomez (VP Finance and Operations), Edgar Martinez-Soberanes (VP Student Affairs), Somtochukwu Ufondu (VP External)

**Regrets:**

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:18 PM.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The VP External wished to add an update for the GSA Gala as item for information.

*Motion to approve the agenda as circulated and amended moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.*

*Motion carried.*

**3. Approval of the February 14, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the February 14, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes.

*Motion to approve the February 14, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.*

*Motion carried.*

#### **4. Items for Action**

##### ***4.1 Funding Request from SPHSA***

The VP Finance and Operations indicated that he had received a funding request from the School of Public Health Students' Association with a thorough description and budget of the event; "Meet Me by the Water Pump". The President welcomed Fonseca, Ezekwesili, and Best to the Executive meeting and asked them to provide a brief description of the event. Fonseca indicated this year the SPHSA is hosting the event "Meet Me by the Water Pump" as an end of year meeting. The dinner will take place in St. Thomas Moore as buffet style dinner catered by Choices. The event will have activities and games for all attendees, including students, faculty, staff, and guests. A cash bar, DJ, and photo booth will also be at the event. Best mentioned that last year they had only 2 events, Snowball for the first year students and Gradball for the second year students. This year they want to involve everyone in an informal-formal dinner, and the theme will be related to water pumps. She explained the main objective is to connect to one another, bring everyone together, and exchange experiences and advice for first year students.

The GSA President asked how many students will be expected to attend this event? Best mentioned due to their conservative budget they are hoping to host 50 guests including first- and second-year students, PhD candidates, and faculty and staff. The VP Student Affairs asked if the printing cost is for posters? Fonseca replied this budgeted cost is for the tickets. Best added that the advertising of the event is through social media. The VP Finance and Operations asked if they are planning to contact other sponsors? Best answered that because it is a social grad event, they do not think it is necessary to contact other associations for funding besides faculty have already contributed to the cause.

The GSA President asked the guests to explain a little bit more about the educational component of the event? Best commented that faculty has been invited and confirmed their participation to the event, contributing to the network and mentorship of the first-year students. Additionally, second year students will share their experience to the new students to succeed in their academic career. Fonseca emphasized the importance of the event because there is a lack of communication between first- and second-year students. The VP External asked whether the event will be opened

to the public? Best mentioned that the event will be private since the main purpose is to strengthen the communication among students of the School of Public Health and provide a networking opportunity with their Faculty.

The President thanked Fonseca, Ezekwesili, and Best for attending the meeting and mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to appear on the posters and/or an announcement should be made at the event. Fonseca, Ezekwesili, and Best agreed to include the GSA logo on future posters and advertising material. The President indicated that the decision was based on the budget and not on the event. The President thanked Fonseca, Ezekwesili, and Best for providing the proposal and attending the Executive meeting to provide further information.

*The VP Student Affairs moved to approve funding in the amount of \$250 to the SPHSA for the "Meet Me by the Water Pump" event. This motion was seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.*

***Motion carried.***

#### ***4.2 Working Groups.***

The President mentioned that she had received correspondence from the Vice-President Research regarding a Working Group that focuses on enhancing opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to engage with industry and community in general. This was a concept that the GSA has been pushing for the past few years and involved a meeting with the Provost, Vice-President Research, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning and Student Experience and the Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in January 2019. The President asked the Executives if one of them would like to participate on this working group. The VP Student Affairs expressed interest to participate on this initiative since he has experience connecting students with industry.

*Motion to approve Edgar Martinez-Soberanes to sit on this working group. Motion moved by the VP External and seconded by the President.*

***Motion carried.***

*1 abstention (VP Student Affairs)*

### ***4.3 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.

- Cheque 3529 on February 25, 2019 to Love & Lace RE: Gala expenses of \$1,136.25.

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

***Motion carried.***

## **5. Items for Information / Discussion**

### ***5.1 Rehash Research Graduate Conference***

The VP Student Affairs commented that the Graduate Student Research Conference held at the GSA went well. Unfortunately, 5 out of the 20 presenters canceled in the last minute. Nevertheless, the event went well because the period for questions and answers filled those gaps in the schedule and more time was given to keynote speakers. The amount of food purchased was enough for the number of students who participated. The keynote speakers' presentations went well and there was a reasonable audience during their presentations. More participation of the graduate community will be sought for future events.

The VP External suggested to organize and include a panel who can provide feedback to the presenters so they can work on areas of improvement next year. The President suggested engaging students with awards for the best speakers for each section; gift cards, certificates and other sorts of recognition might be considered.

### ***5.2 Update 3MT***

The VP Student Affairs commented that the 3MT competition will be a one-day event which includes presentations from students across campus conducting thesis based research. There will be appreciation gifts provided for the judges. The President mentioned that she liked how the VP Student Affairs advertised the 3MT competition at the end of the Graduate Student Research Conference and emphasizing the prizes seems to catch the attention of students. The VP Student

Affairs commented that he has been contacted by the Western School of Veterinary Medicine who would like to advertise the 3MT competition in the college.

### ***5.3 Update Gala***

The VP External mentioned the Delta indicated that we are allowed to bring our own audio system for the Gala, which also includes the speakers. The President asked the VP Student Affairs if he knows of a DJ who would accept tickets for the Gala, or a small honorarium in return for acting as the DJ. The VP Student Affairs commented that he will try to contact a DJ and confirm this. The VP External suggested that it would be nice if the DJ can go to the Delta, check the space and verify what he will need to bring.

### ***5.4 Update GSA Bursaries***

The VP Finance and Operations commented the Winter Bursary Applications Deadline for Submission is on March 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM. He indicated that a considerable number of applications have been submitted and normally the number doubles in the last day. He will organize the meeting with the GSA Bursary Selection Committee members, and they will review and select the beneficiaries who will be notified by March 15, 2019.

## **6. Other Business**

The VP External indicated that the Diversity Committee will be hosting an event on March 4, 2019. The hopes of this event is to promote diversity and inclusion both in the University environment and within the community. There will be speakers from different backgrounds who will share the importance of diversity and inclusion in their space.

## **7. Confidential Session**

## **8. In Camera Session**

## **9. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.