



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**  
**Board Meeting**  
**March 14, 2019**

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

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was circulated prior to the meeting. The President asked whether there were any further additions to the agenda.

*Motion to approve the agenda moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.*

*Motion carried.*

**3. Items for Action**

***3.1 UPASS Fee 2019-2020 (email communication March 1, 2019)***

The UPASS is currently available in the fall and winter terms for GSA Members. Our agreement with Saskatoon Transit indicates that the increase in price of the UPASS is correlated to the Saskatoon January CPI. According to the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics, the Saskatoon January 2019 CPI has been determined at 0.8 %. The increase in fee for the UPASS must account for the Saskatoon January CPI (0.8 %) and a \$ 3.00 administration fee, which will be used to cover the 1 % University administration charges as well as the USSU charges for administering the UPASS to GSA members. Our current UPASS fee is \$111.01, of which \$108.01 is remitted to Saskatoon Transit. The added 0.8 % makes the new fee remitted to Saskatoon transit as \$108.87. The added administration fee makes the new UPASS fee as \$111.87.

*Motion to recommend to Council for approval the new UPASS fee increase from \$111.01 to \$111.87 for the 2019-2020 academic year, so as to account for the Saskatoon January CPI, moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.*

*Motion carried.*

### **3.2 Advocacy and Problem-Solving Skills for Student Leaders**

One of the projects that we have been working on over the past year is to create a workshop where student leaders can learn about conflict resolution and advocacy. The College of Law has developed a two-day workshop (September 28 and 29, 2019) that will focus on the following topics;

- Understanding dynamics and patterns of conflict;
- Understanding interests;
- Communication skills which assist problem solving;
- Process steps / stages in a problem-solving model;
- Advocacy roles;
- Mediator and facilitator roles.

The costs of the workshop will be covered by the Office of the University Secretary, the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching Learning Student Experience, the GSA and the USSU. The goal is for the GSA Executives to participate in this workshop, along with other student leaders that would benefit in learning and understanding more about advocacy and conflict resolution. There will be a restriction to the number of students that can participate; however, between the GSA and the USSU, it has been agreed that each Association can register 10 - 12 students. There would be a minimum registration cost to each student, of \$25, that would cover the costs associated with meals. The Budget and Finance Committee was only able to allocate \$1,000 to support this New Initiative. The Board unanimously agrees that there is great value to having this initiative available for students and hopes to see this as a sustainable yearly endeavor.

*Motion to recommend to Council for approval allocation of \$1000 to the New Initiative budget line to support the Advocacy and Problem Solving Skills for Student Leaders workshop for the 2019-2020 academic year moved by the VP Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External.*

*Motion carried.*

### **3.3 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget**

The Board once again discussed the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget and supplementary notes. It was agreed that this proposed budget was balanced, focused greatly on student-supports and services and provided ample funds for initiatives, workshops and major events. As with other years, it was emphasized that fundraising was a requirement for the 3MT® competition, the Graduate Student Research Conference and the Awards Gala. With the Awards Gala requiring the most funds, it was appreciated that there was a small buffer that would aid in the start-up costs to the event. With the increase in student fees, an upgrade to the office computers and the audio system in the Commons could be afforded, over a multi-year span.

*Motion to recommend to Council for approval the new 2019-2020 Fiscal Year budget and supplementary notes moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.*

*Motion carried.*

#### **4. Confidential Session**

#### **5. In-camera Session**

#### **6. Adjournment of Meeting**

Seeing no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.