



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

October 7th, 2019

Present: Mery Mendoza (President), Mohammad Wajih Alam (VP Finance and Operations), Chiamaka Ezekwesili (VP External), Alejandra Fonseca (VP Student Affairs).

Regrets: None

Absent: None

Guest: None

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The President added three items for action/discussion:

4.1 BRT Nutana Committee

4.2 Review committee for Dean of Western College of Veterinary Medicine

5.5 Board of Governors

5.6 Networking Opportunities

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President.

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3. Approval of the September 9, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the September 9th, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes. There were none.

Motion: To approve the August 21st, 2019 Executive Minutes
Moved: VP Student Affairs
Seconded: VP external

Vote all in Favour, Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Nutana Stakeholder Committee

The President mentioned that she had received an email from the City of Saskatoon public engagement consultant, Mandy Fehr, about the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. They are forming a BRT Nutana Stakeholder Committee which will be made up of representatives from various organizations as well as citizen representatives. The purpose of this committee is to foster connections between the Nutana community and the BRT project team with the ultimate goal of the successful implementation of the BRT system in Saskatoon. For this, they have requested a representative from the GSA. The VP Finance and Operations showed interest and volunteered himself to serve on this committee.

Motion: To appoint the VP Finance and Operations to serve on BRT Nutana Stakeholder committee.
Moved: VP Student Affairs
Seconded: VP External

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried

4.2 Review Committee for Dean of Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM)

The President received an email from the Director of Administration, Lori Auchstaetter, from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic explaining that they are constituting the review committee for the Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine. For this committee, they are looking for a graduate representative, specifically an academic councillor from the WCVM. The president checked the list of councillors and contacted Breanne Murray, whom agreed to serve on this committee.

Motion: To approve graduate student Breanne Murray to sit on this committee.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried

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, BIRT the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping Services Inc. in the sum of \$728.91 issued on September 27, 2019 for bookkeeping services.
- Payment to Buckberger Baerg in the sum of \$5,550.50 issued on September 27, 2019 for Financial Auditing services.
- Payment in the form of reimbursement in the sum of \$510.14 issued on September 27, 2019 for Fall Wine & Cheese event.
- Payment to a Coordinator of GSA, in the sum of \$621.24 issued on October 1, 2019 for Coordinating services provided to GSA.

Motion: To approve the expenditures outlined in this section above.

Moved: VP External

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 *Co-curricular record*

The VP External mentioned that it is important for the GSA Governance Committee to sit every year and go through the requirement and eligibility for awarding CCRs as the work performed by various committees every year is different. The primary activity of the GSA Governance Committee include: (i) revising existing documents; (ii) creating required policies and/or bylaws absent in the existing documents; (iii) authoring recommendations and bringing forth motions to Council for policy documents; and (iv) authoring recommendations and bringing forth motions to General Meetings for bylaw documents and constitutional matters. As such, she mentioned that every year there will be some committee which might not fulfill the criteria to receive CCR and there will be others (new and old) which might fulfill these criteria. Therefore, it is necessary to revise these documents carefully each year. All executives agreed to the VP External's proposal and it was decided that the committee will carefully revisit these criteria each year.

5.2 Transit

The VP external mentioned that she, along with the President and the VP Student Affairs, had a meeting with Caroline Cottrell, from the USSU, to gather more information about the agreement between the USSU and transit. The VP Finance and Operations was updated about the details of the meeting. Among these details, more clarity for the opt-out criteria was identified and the GSA website has been updated accordingly to reflect this information. The executives read these criteria again and hope that this will remove the existing confusion regarding the opt-out criteria for the UPASS. The president mentioned that she is going to send an email to the representative of Transit to schedule a meeting to further discuss our options to better serve the graduate students. All executives showed interest in attending the meeting.

5.3 Annual Gala

The VP External mentioned that she received a quote from the GSA Annual Gala planner and she explained more details about the event. The event will start from 5:00 PM and end at 9:00 PM. She discussed the food menu, the performance, speakers, MC, honorable guest, schedules, etc.

She also requested the VP Student Affairs assist her with designing posters and tickets. The VP Student Affairs agreed.

5.4 GSA Fall Bursary

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that GSA has already sent information to graduate students about the fall bursary applications, through the GSA newsletter and an email. He will be updating PAWS as well this week to reach more students. He also mentioned that he talked about this in the September Council Meeting and requested the council members to circulate the news among the graduate students so that the students in financial need can be supported through this bursary. The VP finance and Operations has been receiving numerous emails daily in regard to the eligibility, application process, and details related to the documents required which he has been responding to in a timely manner. The GSA Bursary Selection Committee will need to sit together, evaluate and select successful recipients by November 18th, 2019. The invitation is now open to council members to serve in the GSA Bursary Selection Committee.

5.5 Events this year

The President mentioned that the GSA wants to have several events this year that will benefit graduate students. She asked the executives to come up with ideas regarding events which would better serve graduate students. The VP Finance and Operations put forth an idea of having a career fair specifically targeting graduate students. He mentioned that there are already events of this type that target undergraduate students. Having such events for graduate students would greatly benefit the student community. The President mentioned having an event which could benefit students academically such as a networking event. The VP Finance and Operations mentioned having events related to mental health (suicide prevention, etc.). The VP External mentioned that she is organizing such events related to mental health under health chats and she would be happy to contact more organizations to provide better service and opportunity to graduate students.

6. Other Business

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. There were none.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved: President

Seconded: VP External

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.