



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2020

Present: Humaira Inam (President), Hadi Ramin (VP Finance and Operations), Qasim Gill (VP External Affairs), Carmen Marquez (VP Academic and Student Affairs), Tina Alexis (VP Indigenous Engagement).

Regrets/Absent: None.

Guests: Raina Kim, Multicultural Student Association President

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM. She also welcomed Raina Kim, the Multicultural Student Association President. The President asked all the executives to introduce themselves to the new Vice President of Indigenous Engagement, Tina Alexis, and welcomed her on board.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked whether there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. Seeing none, the President asked for a:

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Motion to approve the agenda as circulated was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP Indigenous Engagement. Vote: Passed.

***5 in Favour
Motion Carried.***

3. Approval of the November 19, 2020, Executive Meetings Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Seeing none, the President asked for a:

Motion to approve November 19, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes was moved by VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by VP External. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour and 1 Abstain.

Motion Carried.

4. Items for action

4.1 MSA Funding Proposal

The President asked Raina Kim, to present the funding proposal on behalf of the Multicultural Student Association (MSA). Raina stated that Jesus Corona Gomez, previously the VP Finance for the MSA, had previously presented a funding proposal to the GSA, but there have been some changes to the events since the last proposed budget. Then she went over the events outline for the winter 2021 term and what their funding money would be going towards. President Inam asked whether all of MSA's events would be open to any graduate student at USask. Raina responded that all their events would be open to all graduate students. Then President Inam asked what type of gift cards MSA had planned to buy and how would they be distributed, considering the situation with the pandemic with some students being out of province or out of the country. Raina said she had not planned this yet, but it would be something that MSA's executives would look into. President Inam then continued, and informed Raina that the GSA Executives would move forward with MSA's proposal once they have resolved the gift card distribution issue and are able to ensure fairness when giving out prizes. President Inam then asked whether MSA had collaborated with the Residence Office as they are have also organized events similar to the events being proposed by the MSA. Raina responded, that because of the COVID-19 measures in place, it might not be easy

to collaborate with the Residence Office. The final question asked by President Inam, was whether MSA had contacted any other student organization to collaborate on events. Raina said that they had been in contact with other organizations, but they have not yet planned any events together. The VP Finance asked the MSA to follow the GSA bylaws, particularly where it says that social clubs must present their expenses' receipts within 14 days after the event's date for reimbursement. The President asked the MSA president to send the poster of each event to the GSA for approval before distributing and posting it on social media.

After Raina exited the meeting, the GSA Executives further discussed the MSA's funding proposal and unanimously agreed to provide funding, on the condition that the gift card situation is clarified.

Motion to approve the sum of \$170 for the MSA event on the condition of clarification for visa gift cards and goodie bags was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

5 in Favour
Motion Carried.

4.2 Winter 2021 Orientation

The President informed the Executives that the items being ordered for the swag bags that will be distributed for the winter 2021 term has been finalized. The additional item that we have decided to order, with input from the Executives, are grey toques with the GSA logo. These toques are the same ones that were given out by the GSA last year as part of their winter orientation.

Motion to approve the purchase of 150 toques with the GSA logo for a total of \$1,811.14 for the Winter 2021 Orientation was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.

5 in Favour
Motion Carried.

The President stated that the VP Academic and she were planning for a curbside pickup event for the winter 2021 orientation, similar to what we did for the fall term. We could open the GSA Commons building for one day to distribute swag bags in the lobby, rather than outside, due to the cold weather. The lobby of the building would also allow for students to enter through one door and exit through another, thereby ensuring that there is only one entry and exit. The President informed the Executive team that she had submitted a request for on-campus activity to the Pandemic Response Team (PRT). Unfortunately, due to the recent spike in COVID cases, the PRT advised us to hold off on the request until January or to proceed with our alternative method of distribution. Therefore, the President suggested that we distribute swag bags by appointment only for the winter 2021 term. Additionally, since the winter break has been extended for students, the President asked the Executives if we should change the date of our virtual orientation presentation.

There was some discussion among the Executive team, and it was concluded that changing the date of the virtual orientation and providing swag bag pickup by appointment were good solutions. The President proposed a:

Motion to approve the Winter Virtual Orientation for January 11, 2021 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

5 in Favour
Motion Carried.

4.3 Cheque Remittance

The VP Finance and Operations provided a financial report and stated that several items on the November ledger require approval from the Executive team as the amount exceeds \$500. The President asked for a motion to approve these expenses as follows:

Motion to approve the expense of \$17,849.47 for CFS Fall 2020 Remittance moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

5 in Favour
Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the expense of \$57,358.56 for SaskTransit Fall 2020 Remittance moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.

5 in Favour
Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the expense of \$23,000 for Fall term 2020 Bursaries was moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.

5 in Favour
Motion Carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 Holiday Hangout Reinvented

President Inam informed the Executive team that the Council has agreed to reallocate the budget line #53309 for the Holiday Hangout Reinvented initiative. Additionally, the VP Academic and Student Affairs and she had also reached out to the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) for funding, and they had agreed to provide \$500 to support this initiative. The President stated that so far, we have 200 students who have signed up for a holiday meal, and since a large student turnout was anticipated, the GSA requested additional funding from members of our Faith Leaders. The delivery of meals will be taking place on December 28 and December 29, 2020.

5.2 College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) Associate Dean Candidate Meetings

The President informed the Executive team that they had all been sent a meeting invitation for the CGPS Associate Dean candidate meetings, where graduate students and the Executives will be able to ask questions from the candidates who have been finalized by the Associate Dean Search Committee. The President encouraged all Executives to attend these meeting, ask questions, and provide input.

5.3 GSA-UPASS

The President mentioned that the distribution and processes of the UPASS for the winter 2021 term will be the same as what was done for the fall term. The GSA is awaiting updated links and deadlines from USSU before updating the information for the winter 2021 term on the GSA website. There was some discussion regarding the re-routing of buses to Place Riel as per a few student's request, the President stated that she is still working on this matter.

5.4 Graduate Research Conference 2021

The President asked the VP Finance to provide an update to the Executive team in regard to the Graduate Research Conference. The VP Finance proposed that we allocate part of the Graduate Research Conference budget for prizes that can be awarded to the best presenters. There was some discussion among the Executive team, and it was decided

that this decision will be made once the VP Finance provides a timeline and detailed plan for the Graduate Research Conference as there was not enough information to make a decision at this time.

5.5 Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

The President asked the VP External to provide an update on the CFS meetings. The VP External stated that he had attended the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) meeting, the Annual General Meeting for CFS, and the U15 SSC meeting in the last couple of weeks. He could not provide a complete update at this time because he had not yet received the meeting minutes from these meeting. In regard to the NGC meeting, the VP External said that he has already shared the pertinent information with the Executive team. He briefly informed the Executives about the main points of the NGC meeting in which student leaders from other Canadian universities discussed the challenges they were facing due to the pandemic, and also discussed the strategies they are utilizing to navigate those challenges.

6. Other Business

7. Confidential Session

8. In-Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting.

The President asked if there was any other business to discuss, there was none.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

5 in Favour

Motion Carried.