



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

February 04, 2020

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

**Regrets/Absent:** None

**Guest:** Mikayla Oldach

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM. The President thanked the executives for their continued devotion to their roles.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The VP Student Affairs added the following items for action/discussion: Student Wellness Strategy Interviews

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs.

*Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.*

**3. Approval of the December 02, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the December 2nd, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: to approve the December 02, 2019 Executive Minutes

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Student Affairs.

*Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.*

#### **4. Approval of the January 20, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the January 20, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: to approve the January 20, 2020 Executive Minutes

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Student Affairs.

*Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.*

#### **5. Items for Action**

##### *5.1 Funding request from Toxicology Graduate Students Association (TGSA)*

The VP Finance and Operations received a funding request from TGSA and invited one of the TGSA executives to join the GSA Executive Meeting. Mikayla Oldach attended on behalf of TGSA. The President welcomed Mikayla to the meeting and asked for a brief description of the event. She explained that the purpose of the TGSA is to develop and promote professional and social relationships among students within the toxicology graduate program and among other communities. For over a decade, the TGSA has organized an annual three-day graduate student retreat at Elk Ridge resort in Northern Saskatchewan. For many students this is their first opportunity to experience the beauty that Northern Saskatchewan has to offer, and for all students it is an excellent opportunity to connect and communicate with their peers, meet new colleagues, and create social bonds that lead to academic and professional advancement. The TGSA believes this retreat is an important team-building experience and are prepared to take on what costs may be necessary, but it is an expensive endeavor for a small student body to accommodate. As such, they are hoping to subsidize their budget with external funding to make the trip less expensive, and thereby more accessible to graduate students, particularly those

paying international students' tuition. This academic year's retreat will take place on January 24th-26th, 2020.

The president thanked Mikayla for giving details of the event and opened the floor for questions. The VP Finance and Operations asked how many students are expected to attend the event to which Mikayla replied that about 20 students are expected to participate. He further asked if there would be professors joining the event and how much the cost per individual would be. Mikayla explained that this event is exclusive to graduate students and it would cost \$ 90 for each individual. The VP Student Affairs asked if they have received funding from the GSA in past years. Mikayla mentioned that as far as she knows they did not request funding last year but TGSA has been receiving funding for this event from GSA in prior years. The President asked if they have looked for other sources for funding. Mikayla said that they have organized several fundraising events and the GSA support will offset the food cost.

The President mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event and thanked Mikayla for providing the proposal and further information. She informed that a decision will be made and communicated through email within a week.

Motion: to approve funding in the amount of \$250 for this event.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations.

Seconded: VP External.

***Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.***

### *5.2 Rate of advertisement on student handbook*

The executives discussed about the rate of advertisement on student handbook. They agreed that it needs to be increased.

Motion: to increase the prices of advertisement by \$10 for each of the categories advertised on handbook.

Moved: President

Seconded: VP External

***Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.***

### *5.3 Student Wellness Strategy Interview*

The VP Student Affairs mentioned that she was approached by a representative of the TLARC committee requesting an interview from the GSA executives on their perspective of the Wellness Strategy. When discussed among the executives, the objective of this interview was not clear and the executives were not sure if the GSA executives will be the best suited to be interviewed about the strategy.

Motion: for VP Student Affairs to ask for more information on the goals of conducting interviews of the Wellness Strategy on the GSA executives.

Moved: President

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

***Vote all in Favour, Motion Carried.***

### *5.4 Cheque Remittance*

Whereas GSA bylaws 5.4.4 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 that the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to Canadian Federation of Students in the sum of \$17,843.73 issued on January 23, 2020 as CFS remittance.

Motion: to approve the expenditures outlined in this section above

Moved: VP External;

Seconded: President

***Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.***

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

### *6.1 Student sustainability coalition*

The Community Engagement Coordinator for the University Of Saskatchewan Office Of Sustainability and a member of the President's Advisory Circle on a Sustainability Strategy; contacted the GSA to participate on the student sustainability coalition. This coalition will be chaired by members from the USSU and the GSA to cement it as a student-led platform. This body will be critical to galvanizing and synthesizing student voices in the development of a new institutional sustainability strategy at the University of Saskatchewan. The President encourages all the executives to attend this meeting on February 05, 2020.

### *6.2 Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Fee Increase*

The GSA at the University of Saskatchewan is a voting member of CFS. As such, the GSA membership is required to pay fees set by the CFS. Every year the CFS increases fee which is based on CPI. This year it was informed that the fees will be increased by 1.94% for GSA members.

## **7. Other Business**

## **8. Confidential Session**

## **9. In Camera Session**

## **10. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked if there were any other business arising. Since there were none, motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 PM.

Moved: VP External

Seconded by: VP Finance and Operations

*Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.*