



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2020

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

Regrets: Chiamaka Ezekwesili (VP External)

Absent: None

Guest: None

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. The president thanked the executives for continuing with the same enthusiasm that they started their term with.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated.

The President added the following items for information:

CFS sponsorship for Annual Gala

Extension of Deadline for Annual Awards Gala nomination

Painting Art

Information on Annual Gala

The VP Finance and Operations added the following items for information:

Extension of Bursary Application Deadline

The VP Student Affairs added the following items for action/information:

Change of dates of 3MT competition

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP Student Affairs;

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

3. Approval of the January 28, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the January 28th Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: to approve the January 28th, 2020 Executive Minutes

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 GSA representative - Sustainability Student Coalition (SSC)

The University of Saskatchewan is moving forward with the new sustainability plan that will be presented during the Board of Governors meeting in December 2020. This plan will have projects that include student's voices in the process, ensuring that students' concerns, wishes, and visions for the future are taken into consideration. Following that, the Sustainability Student Coalition was created to work on the climate and sustainability transformation plan. The President, the VP Finance and Operations and a SENSE representative were present in the first meeting that was held on February 5th, 2020. It is important to have graduate student representation in this type of initiatives and since this is a sustainability initiative, the GSA Executive appointed a graduate student from SENSE as a co-chair of the coalition. The GSA has appointed a SENSE councillor, Mostafa Kamal, to co-chair this coalition.

Motion: to approve graduate student Mostafa Kamal to co-chair the above mentioned coalition.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.2 Graduate representative - President's Advisory Circle

The GSA has nominated a graduate student to sit on the President's Advisory Circle. Since the sustainability student coalition is working closely to recommend the sustainability plan to the President's Advisory Circle, the GSA appoints the graduate co-chair of the SSC to sit on this committee. The co-chair of SSC, Mostafa Kamal, was contacted to represent graduate students on this committee to which he agreed to participate.

Motion: to approve the graduate student, Mostafa Kamal, to sit on the above mentioned committee.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.3 Graduate representative – Search committee Executive Director, School of Environment and sustainability

The GSA has nominated a graduate student to sit on the *Search committee Executive Director, School of Environment and sustainability*. The graduate student, Mostafa Kamal, was contacted to represent graduate students on this committee to which he agreed to participate.

Motion: to approve graduate student Mostafa Kamal to sit on the above mentioned committee.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.4 Graduate representative – Review committee Dean, University Library

The GSA has nominated a graduate student to sit on the Review committee Dean, University Library. The graduate student, Kerry Marshall, was contacted to represent graduate students on this committee to which she agreed to participate.

Motion: to approve the graduate student, Kerry Marshall, to sit on the above mentioned committee.

Moved: President

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.5 Graduate representative – Review committee Dean, College of Kinesiology

The GSA has nominated a graduate student to sit on the Review committee Dean, College of Kinesiology. The graduate student Natalie Houser, was contacted to represent graduate students on this committee to which she agreed to participate.

Motion: to approve the graduate student, Natalie Houser, to sit on the above mentioned committee.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.6 Graduate representative – Review committee Dean, College of Law

The GSA has nominated a graduate student to sit on the Review committee Dean, College of Law. The graduate student, Ekeolisa Chukwunonso, was contacted to represent graduate students on this committee to which she agreed to participate.

Motion: to approve the graduate student, Ekeolisa Chukwunonso, to sit on the above mentioned committee.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: President

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.7 Graduate representative – Search committee Dean, College of Nursing

The GSA has nominated a graduate student to sit on the Search committee Dean, College of Nursing. The graduate student Mary Ellen Walker was contacted to represent graduate students on this committee to which she agreed to participate.

Motion: to approve graduate student Mary Ellen Walker to sit on the above mentioned committee.

Moved: President

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.8 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 culinary services in the sum of \$1132.58 issued on February 06, 2020 for Graduate Student Research Conference.

- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping services Inc. in the sum of \$511.31 issued on February 14, 2020 for bookkeeping services.

Motion: to approve the expenditures outlined in this section above

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 Tuition Discussion

The next university council meeting will be hosted on February 20th, 2020 at 2:30PM in Arts 241 where next academic year's tuition will be discussed. The president encouraged all of the executives to attend the meeting.

5.2 Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) sponsorship for Annual Gala

The president mentioned that the GSA has received sponsorship for Annual Gala from CFS in the amount of \$5000.

5.3 Extension of Deadline for Annual Awards Gala nomination

The President mentioned that a decision has been made to extend the deadline for nomination to March 6th, 2020.

5.4 Extension of Bursary Application Deadline

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the deadline for bursary application submission has been extended to February 28th, 2020 to encourage a higher number of students to submit their application.

5.5 Change of dates of 3MT competition

The VP Student Affairs mentioned that the dates for the Western Canada 3MT Competition has been released and its scheduled to be held on April 21st, 2020 at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. She further mentioned that since the next Western Canada 3MT Competition will be hosted at the end of April, the 3MT competition at University of Saskatchewan will be changed. The University of Saskatchewan 3MT competition at the GSA Commons will be held on March 27th, 2020 and the deadline to submit the abstracts is March 18th, 2020.

5.6 Painting Art

The President mentioned that 2 years ago, the GSA executives had requested an individual for a work of art for the GSA Commons and \$350 were allocated from the budget for it. The painting was delayed and the GSA received the painting this month. As such, the cheque has been re-issued in the amount of \$350.

5.7 Information on Annual Gala

The President mentioned that the GSA has been looking for alternative ways to decrease the cost of the Annual Gala. One of the strategies could be to decrease the amount of money spent on photography. Quotes from other photographers will be obtained and with the input of the VP external, a decision based on the total cost will be made this month.

- 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: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: President

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.