



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020, 05:00 PM –07:00 PM

Present: Humaira Inam (President), Hadi Ramin (VP Finance and Operations), Carmen Marquez Mellidez (VP Academic and Student Affairs), Qasim Shahzad Gill (VP External Affairs).

Regrets: None; Absent: None

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The President thanked the executives for being actively involved and committed towards their roles. She expects that the executives will continue the same spirit throughout the term.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

4 in favour

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of May 14, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the May 14, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve May 01, 2020 Retreat Meeting Minutes was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External Affairs. Vote: Passed.

4 in favour
Motion Carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 New graduate representative for the Faith Leadership Council.

Motion to approve Carmen Marquez as the new graduate representative for the Faith Leadership Council was moved by the President and seconded by the VP External Affairs.

3 in favour
1 Abstained
Motion Carried.

4.2 GSA Council Meeting dates for 2020/2021.

The President wanted to confirm the GSA council meeting dates for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. The dates were proposed as follows:

- August 18, 2020
- September 22, 2020
- October 20, 2020
- November 10, 2020
- December 8, 2020
- January 26, 2021
- February 23, 2021
- March 16, 2021
- April 6, 2021
- April 13, 2021 (Potential AGM)

Motion to approve the GSA Council meeting dates for 2020/2021 was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External Affairs.

4 in favour

Motion Carried.

4.3 Newsletter Content

The President proposed that the content for the newsletter would be provided by the GSA executives 1 week prior to the newsletter being published, and the newsletter would be published every third week of the month.

Motion to approve the monthly GSA newsletter for publication during the third week of the month was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the President.

4 in favour.

Motion Carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 VP External update on initiatives

a.) The VP External Affairs reminded the executives about the upcoming standalone meeting with the Canadian Federation of Student (CFS). VP External Affairs informed the executives that the registration deadline is June 12th and he has registered himself for this meeting after consulting with the President. The meeting will be held via Zoom on July 17, 2020. He further informed the executives that if the executives would like to submit agenda items for the meeting or want to pose any question, they can do this before June 12th as well. The president thanked the VP external affairs for registering himself and attending the event on behalf of GSA.

- b) The VP External Affairs reminded the executives about the Phase-Three plan of Government of Saskatchewan which had begun on June 8th. Under the plan, the government expand the capacity of gathering. The VP external affairs asked the executives if they are willing to open the GSA common for students. All executives discussed all the aspects in detail and unanimously agreed that they will continue to follow the university protocol and guideline that are currently in place, and as such the GSA Commons would remain closed for now.

- c) The VP External Affairs asked if the executives would like to organize an event to celebrate Canada Day. Some executives brought up the concern of social distancing and how it is difficult to arrange an in-person event at the moment due to COVID-19. The executives agreed to delay any in-person event until further notice. The President suggested that perhaps the VP External could do an online event instead for Canada Day.

- d) VP External Affairs informed the executives reminded the executives about the recommendation by the Canada West board concerning the cancellation of first term competition team sports due to the ongoing pandemic and the decision by the University of Saskatchewan to cancel Huskies' first term season of football, and men's and women's soccer. All the executives stated that they were aware of this announcement by the university.

5.2 Monthly Financial Expenditure Report per bylaw 5.3.1

The President asked the VP Finance to present his financial expenditure report for the month.

The VP Finance's report was as follows:

The GSA's May 2020 ledger has been reviewed and approved. During the month of May, there was no revenue for the GSA and expenses included banking, debit, credit fees and charges, staff salaries, executive honoraria, and GSA operating costs.

5.3. Executive Responsibilities & Review Bylaws

The President stated that the executives needed to go over the bylaws in order to ensure that they were carrying out their roles and responsibilities. The President went through the roles and responsibilities according to each of the GSA bylaws for the VP of Academic and Students Affairs, the VP of Finance, and the VP of External Affairs. The President stressed that it was important to be aware of the bylaws and to follow them, and that we would review them often in future meetings.

5.4 Studentcare

The President informed the executives of the health-dental orientation meeting that took place with Robyn from Studentcare on June 11, 2020, which the VP Finance attended as well. The President explained what services Studentcare provided to the GSA and its members through the health and dental insurance coverage, and asked Robyn for clarification on some questions that she had. The President asked the executives to keep their schedule open in the coming days as there may be an urgent meeting required for decision-making concerning improved benefits for the health and dental plan. The executives acknowledged this information and confirmed that they are aware.

5.5 Virtual Events

The President informed the executives that she and the VP Academic and Student Affairs are collaborating on a virtual event with the Student Wellness Centre/Peer Health, which will engage students online in order to combat loneliness and isolation due to the pandemic. They are pleased to report that this is going well and that the GSA will be releasing more information on this event in the coming weeks.

5.6 Fall Orientation

The President informed the executives that the Student Handbook for 2020/2021 has been finalized and the order placed. The President wanted to know what idea the executives had in mind for the fall orientation, and when we should put in the orders for the swag bags. The VP Academic and Student Affairs suggested placing orders by the end of June, and she would coordinate the ordering process. The other executives stated that we should work on ideas for the orientation closer to the end of June when we are aware of what CGPS is doing for their orientation so there is no overlap. The President agreed and stated that we would visit this topic in the next meeting in order to get a good idea of how we will be proceeding for this year's orientation due to the impact of the pandemic.

6. Other Business

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

7. Confidential Session

8. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked if there was anything else that needed to be discussed. There was none.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by the VP Academic and seconded by the VP External.

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM