



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

March 02, 2020

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: Tulika Sen, Syed Adnan Khalid, Josseline Ramos-Figueroa

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM and thanked the executives for continuous support throughout the term.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

The VP Finance and Operations added:

GSA Bursary Information and GSA Tax Clinic as Items for Information.

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 February 04, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the February 4th Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: to approve the February 04, 2020 Executive Minutes

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President

Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Guest Speaker – Annual Gala

The President mentioned that Dr. Ingrid Pickering is a leader in the STEM field and she has previous leadership experience in local, national as well as international level. She has previously worked with the GSA when she was in an administrative role. She is a Canada Research Chair and is very supportive of her students taking leadership positions.

Motion: to invite Dr. Ingrid Pickering as Guest Speaker of Annual Gala

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.

4.2 TLARC wellness strategy

The President and the VP Student Affairs had a meeting with the coordinator of Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning and representative of TLARC wellness strategy, Saalimah Saeed. Saalimah is working on the teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC) of University Council Project which examined learning and teaching practices that enable or constrain student mental health and well-being. This project is focused on teaching and learning practices for student mental wellbeing, and the Executive was invited to represent leader on campus and participate in this project. Since all the executives are international

students and we would expect that this project included diverse students from the community, (e.g. Domestic Students, indigenous students, others). The executives wanted to have perspectives from various student groups included.

Motion: to invite the councilors to participate in this project

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.

4.3 Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) funding Request

The VP Finance and Operations indicated that he had received a funding request from the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS). The President welcomed Tulika and Syed, representatives of JSGS, to the Executive meeting and asked them to provide a brief description of the event. They mentioned that the JSGS have students from both, University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan and is one of Canada's leading policy schools for educating graduate students and public servants devoted to advancing public value. To promote a networking event for the JSGS (USask) students, they are organizing a panel discussion on Crystal Meth Addiction on March 25th, 2020 from 5:30 pm-7:30pm at Louis' Loft. This event is directed, planned and executed by the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association-Saskatoon (JSGSSA-Saskatoon), for the first time. This event will host panelists who are distinguished public servants including Charlie Clark (Mayor City of Saskatoon), Dan Florizone (Executive-in-Residence, JSGS & former President and CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region), Chief Troy Cooper (Chief of Saskatoon Police Service), and Colleen Christopherson-Cote (Safe Community Action Alliance coordinator) to share their knowledge on the subject and to interact with the students. The main objective for this event is to serve as a networking event for JSGS students, where they can interact with distinguished public servants and prospective employers. This is a platform where students will get an opportunity to build a professional network with prospective employers. They are also inviting prospective employers from: City of Saskatoon, Innovation Saskatchewan, Western Economic Diversification, Saskatchewan Health Authority,

Indigenous Services Canada, Corrections Service Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, USask senior leadership, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Central Urban Metis Federation Inc, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Health Quality Council, Elizabeth Fry Society, Cameco Corporation, Federated Co-operatives Limited, Global Institute for Food Security, Global Institute for Water Security, United Way of Saskatoon and Area, Saskatoon Public Libraries, Open Door Society, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. This event is free for all JSJS students and attendees. The President thanked Syed and Tulika for the detailed explanation and opened the floor for questions.

The VP Finance and Operations asked if it was open to all students. Syed mentioned that the event is open to JSJS students at University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan. The VP Student Affairs asked who will be receiving the honorarium (mentioned in the funding request). Syed explained that the panelists will be receiving honorariums. The President asked how many graduate students they are expecting to attend the event. Syed mentioned that they are expecting 90 students to participate in the event. The President further asked what the most expensive component in the event was. Syed explained that food is the most expensive item and the financial support from GSA would help offset some of its cost.

The President thanked Syed and Tulika for attending the meeting and mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to appear on the posters and/or an announcement should be made at the event or presentations. The President indicated that the decision was based on the budget and not on the event and thanked Tulika and Syed for attending the Executive meeting to provide further information.

Motion: to approve funding in the amount of \$400 for this event

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.

4.4 Dates for the retreat

The President mentioned that the dates for the retreat 2020 will be on April 18th and 19th at the GSA commons. The VP Finance and Operations will email Candace about the updated dates.

Motion: to have retreat on April 18th and April 19th at the GSA Commons.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: President

Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.

4.5 Women in Chemistry Funding request

The VP Finance and Operations indicated that he had received a funding request from Women in Chemistry (WiC). The VP Finance and Operations welcomed Josseline Ramos, representative of WiC, to the Executive meeting and asked her to provide a brief description of the event. Josseline mentioned that the WiC was established to advocate equal opportunities for everyone in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields as well as to promote networking and professional development through social events and workshops. WiC organized the IUPAC 2020 Global Women Breakfast celebration on February 12th, 2020 (<https://iupac.org/event/iupac-global-breakfast/>). This is an international event happening at every institution around the globe and seeks to promote the theme “Building bonds to create future leaders”. With the aim to bring this celebration to USask, they invited former USask professor of History and Women’s and Gender Studies, Dr. Leslie Biggs for a 45 min workshop titled, “Crucial conversations: Reflecting on Identities, Intersectionality and Privilege.” This event was registered formally to the IUPAC (<https://iupac.org/global-womens-breakfast/events/iupac-global-women-breakfast-hosted-by-usask-women-in-chemistry/>) and they are mostly looking for financial support to cover the cost of these expenses of the breakfast snacks and gifts for the speakers. The President thanked Josseline for explaining more about the event and opened the floor for questions.

The VP Student Affairs asked how many graduate students participated in the event. Josseline mentioned that she was not sure about the exact numbers but there were about 5 to 10% faculty, and the remaining were graduate students. The VP Finance and Operations asked since the event

already happened, how they funded the event. Josseline mentioned that they want to remain sustainable and the financial support from GSA would help with the goal for future events.

The President thanked Josseline for attending the meeting and mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to appear on the posters and/or an announcement should be made at the event or presentations. The president indicated that the decision was based on the budget and not on the event and thanked Josseline for providing the proposal and attending the Executive meeting to provide further information.

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

Moved: VP Student Affairs;

Seconded: VP External

Vote (3 in favour, 1 abstention (President due to Conflict of Interest))

Motion Carried.

4.6 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 GSA Recording Secretary Osai Clarke in the sum of \$540.88 issued on February 25, 2020 for recording minutes.

Motion: to approve the expenditures outlined in the section above

Moved: VP Student Affairs;

Seconded: President

Vote All in Favour, Motion Carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 Spring/summer orientation

The President mentioned that new graduate students will start a Master of Professional Accounting program in May, 2020. Last year, the previous executive team worked together with the department to host a welcome event. This year the department has requested 150 swag but we only have 60 swags which the GSA will provide to the department for their orientation event.

5.2 Next board of directors/executive meeting dates

The President mentioned that the next board of directors/executive meeting will be held on March 24, 2020 at 4:30PM.

5.3 GSA Bursary Information

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the deadline for application for bursary dates were extended until February 28th, 2020. However, the dates for the notification to successful recipients has not been extended. The bursary selection committee will sit together on March 5th, 2020 to go through the applications and contact the successful recipients within the original deadline.

5.4 GSA Tax Clinic

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that this year the tax clinic will be held for 5 days at the GSA Commons. The dates are:

March 23, 4-7 PM

March 30, 4-7PM

March 31, 4-7PM

April 1, 4-7PM

April 6, 4-7PM

The VP Finance and Operations also mentioned that he will circulate this information through social media, PAWS, and newsletter so that the information could reach to students who need help filing their taxes.

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 Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.