



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**November 19, 2020**

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

**Regrets/Absent:** None.

**Guests:** None.

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President asked whether there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. Seeing none of 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 Finance. Vote: Passed.*

***4 in Favour***

***Motion Passed.***

**3. Approval of the November 5, 2020, Executive Meetings Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to November 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

*Motion to approve November 5, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP external. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour**  
**Motion Carried.**

#### **4. Items for action**

##### *4.1 Winter 2021 Orientation Items*

The VP Academic and Student Affairs stated that she had shared the budget proposal for the food items that would be included in swag bags for the GSA winter 2021 orientation with the President. There rough estimate of the food items' the VP Academic proposed was \$200 and she asked for approval of this amount from the GSA Executive team. The President proposed a:

*Motion to approve \$200 for food items that will be included in swag bags for the GSA winter 2021 orientation was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour**  
**Motion Carried.**

The President added that there were two other items that would be purchased for the swag bags; however, they have not been finalized yet.

##### *4.2 Financial Expenditure*

The President asked the VP Finance if there were any financial expenditures that needed approval. The VP Finance stated that there were two items from the October ledger that need approval from the Executive team.

*Motion to approve the expense of \$655.62 for bookkeeping was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour**

***Motion Carried.***

*Motion to approve the expense of \$801.06 as an outstanding balance for bookkeeping moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and second by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

***4 in Favour  
Motion Carried.***

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

### *5.1 Graduate Research Conference 2021*

The President asked the VP Finance and Operations to update the Executive team on the progress of the Graduate Research Conference. The VP Finance stated that the Graduate Research Conference will be held on Feb. 12 and 13, 2021. He mentioned that he has prepared an initial draft of the conference schedule, a Survey Monkey questionnaire for abstracts gathering, and a poster to be shared with students. Then he asked the team to propose keynote speakers for the conference.

### *5.2 Health Chat Events Winter 2021*

The President asked the VP External to provide an update on Health Chat events. The VP External informed the Executive team that an average of 4-6 students are attending the weekly yoga event. He also stated that the turnout for the “Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop” was good with positive student engagement. He suggested focusing on graduate student skill workshops for the winter 2020 term, which the other Executives agreed with. He then added that he is currently working on the mental health seminar initiative for the winter term. The President then asked if the other Executives think the GSA continue offering yoga nidra for the winter term as well. The Executives stated that it would be a good idea to continue offering weekly yoga nidra as students are still attending, even if they are in a small number.

The President then added that she would like to organize a workshop on plagiarism for next term with the help of the VP Academic. The VP Academic stated that this was a good idea, and she can reach out to the Learning Skills Centre to invite a speaker. The VP Academic also added that these are more meaningful events to students than the coffee afternoon events that were organized this term, and perhaps we should shift our focus in this direction for the winter term.

### *5.3 Graduate Student Societies of U15*

The President asked the VP External to provide the Executives an update on the recent meeting that took place with GSA student leaders from the U15 universities. The VP External stated that at this meeting the GSA executives from the U15 universities discussed issues that were important to them and the graduate students at their respective university, which led to compiling a letter to the federal government that brought up issues that were a priority to graduate students at this time. He is currently waiting on the recorded video to be provided, so this can be forwarded to other Executives.

### *5.4 Canadian Federation of Students*

The President asked the VP External to provide the Executives with an update regarding the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The VP External mentioned that currently, he is attending the CFS Annual General Meeting. He also informed the Executives about the motion he jointly put forward with Local 97 (University of Toronto Students' Association). The motion focused on reinstating financial support to students with disabilities due to the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CESB) claw back by the Saskatchewan government's social assistance program and urged the CFS to write a letter to the provincial and federal government on this matter. He added that he would share the report and meeting minutes with the Executive team when he receives them. There was also an executive election during the CFS meeting, and the new CFS executives were

elected. The President added that the Executives are looking forward to hearing his report at the next meeting.

### *5.5 Holiday Hangout*

The President informed the Executives that the Holiday Hangout this year will consist of volunteers delivering a meal to students who will be in Saskatoon for holidays. There will be a registration form and students will need to register prior to delivery so we know how many meals need to be ordered. She asked if all Executives were in agreement to deliver the meals on December 28, 2020. The Executive team were all supportive of the proposed date for this event.

### *5.6 Winter 2021 Events*

The President asked the VP Academic and Students Affairs and the VP External if they would still be proceeding with the cultural event for next term. She raised the concern that we might be very busy with organizing our annual GSA events (3MT, GSA Research Conference, orientation, GSA gala) for next term. The VP Academic said it's likely that we will not be able hold the cultural event next term because of our busy schedule. She also added that the Multicultural Student Association may have a similar event next term, and we could provide them support for this event.

The President informed the Executives that the GSA winter orientation is planned for January 4, 2021 next term and she has submitted a request for on-campus activity, which are currently on hold right now until December due to the rise in COVID-19 cases. She also shared that the VP Academic and her were considering ordering two items to be added to the swag bag for the winter orientation, but the price had not been finalized yet. The President said that once she has a final quote from the supplier, she will then share this with the Executives for approval.

**6. Other Business**

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

**7. Confidential Session**

**8. In-Camera Session**

**9. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked for the adjournment of the meeting.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.*

***4 in Favour  
Motion Carried.***