



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

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2020**

**Present:** Humaira Inam (President), Hadi Ramin (VP Finance and Operations), Qasim Gill (VP External)

**Regrets/Absent:** Carmen Marquez (VP Academic & Student Affairs).

**Guests:** None.

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM. She informed the Executive team that the VP Academic & Student Affairs, Carmen Marquez, sends her regrets as she won't be able to attend the Executive meeting today due to extenuating circumstances.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President requested the removal of the agenda items that the VP Academic & Student Affairs wanted to discuss today. She also asked whether there was anything else to add or remove from today's agenda. Seeing none, the President asked for a:

*Motion to approve the amended agenda as circulated, was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

**3 in Favour**

**Motion Passed.**

### **3. Approval of the October 8, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President informed the Executives that the meeting minutes from October 8, 2020 had not been finalized and asked for the delay of approval until the next Executive meeting.

*Motion to delay the approval of October 8, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

**3 in Favour  
Motion Carried.**

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

#### *4.1 Funding Request from Multicultural Student Association*

The President stated that per the GSA Policy 11.4.2, the Multicultural Student Association executives need to submit a receipt for their prizes after each event has occurred. The President asked to approve the following motion:

*Motion to approve funding for prizes that the Multicultural Student Association (MSA) will be giving out during their social events for the 2020-2021 academic year, provided that a receipt is submitted after each event takes place. The motion was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

**3 in Favour  
Motion Carried.**

#### *4.2 Cheque Remittance*

The President asked the VP Finance if there were any finances that needed to be approved by the GSA Executives for amounts that exceed \$500. The VP Finance stated that there were no expenses that needed approval at this time.

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

#### *5.1 Senate Meeting*

The President informed the Executives that the University Senate meeting will be taking place on October 24, 2020 via email, and she encouraged all Executives to participate in this meeting. The President stated that she has already submitted the GSA report for University Senate, and it will be available for viewing on the University of Saskatchewan website, but historically the GSA President would also verbally present their report to Senate.

### *5.2 Renewal of Insurance*

The President asked the VP Finance to provide an update to the Executives regarding the renewal of insurance. The VP Finance informed the team that we are in the process of renewing the GSA's insurance for liability which happens on an annual basis.

### *5.3 Mental Health Seminar*

The President asked the VP External to provide an update on the mental health seminars that were to be organized for "Mental Health Monday". The VP External said that he has contacted the Saskatoon branch for the Canadian Mental Health Association but hasn't heard anything back yet. He also reached out to the Student Wellness Centre again, and they also did not respond. The VP External suggested postponing the "Mental Health Monday" events until the winter term so we can better prepare, as no one has replied to his communication yet. The President asked the VP External if there was anything else, besides the seminar, that we could do to bring awareness to mental health issues. The VP External stated that we are inviting a speaker from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to the next GSA Council meeting to talk about the Mental Health Toolkit and based on the input we receive from students regarding the toolkit, we could move forward with the initiative as appropriate. The President stated we could invite someone from Studentcare to talk about Empower Me so more students will be aware of this service provided by the GSA.

### *5.4 Canadian Federation of Students*

The President asked if the VP External received the agenda for the next Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) meeting. The VP External said that he had received an email regarding the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) Standalone meeting but hasn't received the agenda yet. The VP External stated that he will share the agenda with other Executives once he receives it. The CFS General meeting will be after the NGC meeting, and the VP External was asked to send any items for discussion or action for the agenda. The VP External asked the Executives to provide an item that they would like to add to the agenda. The President asked the VP External to share the agenda with other Executives when received so we could include the items for action or discussion to the agenda as appropriate.

#### *5.5 Fall 2020 Bursary*

The President asked the VP Finance about any updates regarding the fall 2020 bursaries. The VP Finance stated that so far, we have a decent number of applications for the fall term bursaries, however he would suggest extending the deadline by two weeks to allow more students to apply. The President responded by saying that graduate students have had plenty of time to apply for fall bursaries as the application will be available for 31 days and extending the deadline would just delay the process of giving out bursaries. The President asked the VP Finance to let her know how many applications will be received by October 31, 2020 and if an extension is required then that can be further discussed.

## **6. Other Business**

The President asked if there was other business to discuss.

The VP External stated that he would like to discuss the Yoga Nidra event that is taking place every Wednesday. He said that there were a few people who attended the last Yoga Nidra session, but we should advertise the event more in order to improve participation. He also stated that he had advertised the event on PAWS on the day of the yoga event. The VP External emphasized that sending out a reminder to students for our events is quite

important, especially when it is close to the date/time of the event. The President thanked the VP External for his input and stated that the GSA's social events would be reposted online to remind students of upcoming events.

**7. Confidential Session**

**8. In-Camera Session**

**9. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked for the adjournment of this meeting.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

***3 in Favour  
Motion Carried.***