



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2021

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Present: Rifat Zahan (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Olusola Akintola (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Leslie Tetteh (Vice-President External Affairs).

Absent: Tina Alexis (Vice-President Indigenous Engagement)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 PM by President Zahan.

2. Approval of the Agenda

President Zahan asked whether there were any more amendments to the agenda as circulated. President Zahan stated that we need some amendment to the agenda to move everything related to the orientation to discussion.

Motion: To approve the agenda with the proposed amendments.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

***Vote: All in Favour,
Motion Carried.***

3. Approval of the June 17, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes

The June 17, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes were circulated by emails. President Zahan asked whether there were any amendments to the last meeting minutes. There was none.

Motion: To approve last meeting minutes.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

***Vote: All in Favour,
Motion Carried.***

4. Items for Action

4.1. Cheque Remittance

The VP Finance explained that we have no cheques that need Executive approval.

5. Items for Discussion/Information

5.1. GSA Fall orientation

The President mentioned that she ordered the swag bags and some items and also that GSA has some money left from fall orientation that can be used to provide some snacks. VP Finance mentioned that we need some bins for storing the snacks and other items due to the mice problem in the GSA commons. The President mentioned that we may need to store the food items at executives' homes. Executives agreed on that. Therefore, the President thanked executives for storing items in their homes. The President asked all executives to be present in the virtual orientation. The VP academic continued that it is critical that all of us be present that day so we can answer all questions. He also mentioned that it would be great if we have social clubs and councils in the virtual orientation so they could meet new students. The President stated that she will ask all councils in the council meeting to join us in the fall orientation.

5.2 GSA Fall orientation Curbside pickup

The President stated that we received approval from the Pandemic Response Team which allows us to provide curbside pickup for the fall orientation. VP Finance mentioned that everyone who says he/she will be there for curbside pickup should make sure of their presence on that day. The President mentioned that we invited senior leaders from CPGS to join us so they can meet new students.

5.3 Empower Me

The President stated that EmpowerMe is a service provided by Student Care since last year for students that need phone consultations. But we understand this service is used by only 1% of the students. So we start a discussion with student care if we can discontinue this service since we are paying for this for 1% of the total number of students at GSA. President Zahan said that she and VP Finance and Operations have been exploring options with Studentcare and if we can replace it with services that are more useful to students. The President asked other executives if they have any questions about EmpowerMe. VP Finance asked for a clarification on StudentCare

explanations if they agreed for a promotion? The President explained that it is completely up to executives what they want from Studentcare. Executives must study the Studentcare services and decide what they want to do with it.

5.4 GSA Newsletter

The President asked Executives to send their updates for the upcoming GSA newsletter. The President asked executives to read the last GSA newsletter so they can contribute to it.

5.5 Summer/Spring bursary

The VP Finance and Operations reported that 83 applications from 150 are completed and the Bursary Selection Committee is going to select 12 applicants for this bursary. He explained that the bursary committee will have two meetings: one to distribute the applicants and another one to conclude the results. VP Moradi mentioned that he is hoping to announce the names of the bursary recipients by the end of next week. The value of each bursary is 750 which is 250 less than the other semesters. He said that executives decide to reduce the amount so that they can distribute the funding among more students.

5.6 Vaccine Contest

The President explained that she and VP External affairs have been working on promoting the vaccine contest and University vaccine clinic on social media. The President suggested that all executives participate in this contest. VP External asked the process of getting vaccines in the University vaccine clinic if anyone can get the vaccine from the walk-in or if the students need an appointment. VP Tetteh also asked if students need to provide proof of studentship before getting a vaccine on campus. The President requested VP Tetteh to contact the Student Wellness Center about such information.

5.7 2022 Executive meetings

The President asked executives if they have a suggestion for possible dates and times for the 2022 executive meetings. VP Finance and Operations asked the executives if they agreed they

could wait until the next couple of weeks for determining the 2022 meeting dates, which all agreed. The President asked executives to address this matter soon since it is very important for all executives to be involved with this decision.

5.6 Career Services

The President asked VP External Affairs to explain the Career Services request. VP Tetteh stated that Career Services asked us for a meeting with the executives at GSA. Therefore, VP Tetteh requested the executives to provide their availability for the meeting.

5.7 CGPS Discussion

The President stated that she and other executives have been trying to create a better experience for the graduate students. For instance, the GSA encourages the students and the faculty members to have the student-supervisor agreement in place. Therefore, the President and VP Academic and Student Affairs communicated with CGPS to have some events related to student-supervisor relations throughout the academic year. CGPS assured GSA to look into that.

5.8 Future events with student wellness

The President asked executives to send her any suggestion about having events with the Student Wellness Center, or the Director of Student Affairs. The VP External mentioned that he has a day-long programme for mental health, which he will propose to the President.

6. Other Business

None

7. Closed Session

8. In-Camera Session

9 Adjournment of Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Indigenous Engagement

Vote: All in favour.

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM