



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

June 17, 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), Tina Alexis (Vice-President Indigenous Engagement)

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests: Sakib Mostafa (President of Bangladesh Students' Association), Himal Thapa (Vice-President of Bangladesh Students' Association), Huzzatul Islam Khan (Vice-President of Bangladesh Students' Association)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by President Zahan. President Zahan stated that according to the agenda items we will discuss Bangladesh Students' Association University of Saskatchewan (BSAUS) funding proposal regarding "Scholarship Opportunity for Women in STEM" and we have guests present from the BSAUS today so we can ask our questions regarding their proposal.

A moment of silence was observed by everyone to respect the victims of the recent discovery of a burial site of 215 Indigenous children at a former residential school in British Columbia, and victims of the Islamophobic attack that took place in London, Ontario. President Zahan assured everyone that there is no place for racism and oppression in this country.

2. Approval of the Agenda

President Zahan asked whether there were any amendments to the agenda as circulated. There was an amendment proposed by the VP Academic that the name of the confidential session should be changed to closed session.

Motion: To approve the agenda with the proposed amendments.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of the May 20, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes

The May 20, 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. Motion to approve BSAUS's funding proposal

President Zahan asked the guests to present their funding proposal. Sakib Mostafa briefly explained the funding proposal put forward on behalf of BSAU. President Zahan opened the floor for questions regarding the funding proposal. The VP Finance asked about the scoring system for selecting the winner of the bursary. Sakib explained the initial plan and asked GSA for help to improve their selection process. The VP Finance asked the BSAUS Executive what their expectations were from the GSA. Sakib said that they prefer to involve GSA as the main judge for the winner selections since it can help them to ensure transparency. Sakib continued that due to COVID-19 they didn't have any events, so they had some funding left over, which was provided by the GSA. Sakib asked the Executive if the BSAUS can use this money for their event as well. The Executive agreed to answer this question later after investigating their payments so they can vote on it using the electronic means of voting. The VP External asked if the BSAUS was looking for funding for the fall term or the spring/summer term. Sakib answered that they are mainly looking to fund their event for the spring/summer term, but if it needs more time according to the GSA then the fall term would be acceptable as well. The VP External then asked if then GSA will receive a concrete plan from BSAUS and Sakib answered that since it is a new experience for them, they would ask that the GSA guide them through the whole plan.

President Zahan then asked about the details mentioned in their funding proposal that are ambiguous which Sakib explained. The VP Indigenous Engagement asked if they have resources for their event which Sakib explained that they have sponsors, and they are looking for more support and funds as well.

President Zahan asked if there were any more questions and all Executives stated that they had

their answers. The President then thanked the BSAUS Executives and mentioned that the GSA will communicate their decision via email. Sakib thanked the GSA and stated that they will wait for the GSA's decision.

President Zahan asked the VP Finance about the budget to support ratified social groups. The VP Finance said that GSA can support the social group given that the GSA policy is followed by BSAUS. Since BSAUS wanted to get this funding recurring every year, President Zahan added that the current Executive team can only provide funding for the current tenure, and if BSAUS wants this financial support in the future, a new application will be required for the new Executive of GSA in the coming years. Therefore, the current GSA Executives cannot approve funding for recurring years. The VP Academic stated that BSAUS can have GSA's help and guidance, but GSA cannot provide logistics or other support required by the social group to organize such an event.

Motion: To approve the fund to support the event organized by BSAUS to recognize female students in STEM research, with further amendments provided by the GSA in email.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

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

4.2 Motion to approve dates for the GSA Fall Orientation 2021

The President asked the Executives by electronic communication and in the meeting to share their plans for the GSA fall 2021 orientation. She also requested that the Executives need to approve the orientation dates. The President suggested September 1, 2021 for the virtual orientation and September 7 for the swag bag curbside pickup. The President explained that we need all the Executives to help since the VP Academic and VP Indigenous Engagement are not in Saskatchewan. Therefore, we need to have a call for volunteers to help pack the swag bags. The President said that due to the mice issue in the GSA Commons building, we will need to buy some bins to protect the swag bag items, and the VP Finance will need to find out the prices of the bins and check the budget.

Motion: To approve September 1, 2021 for the GSA virtual orientation and September 7, 2021 for the curbside pickup of swag bags.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

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

4.3 Cheque Remittance

The VP Finance explained that we have two cheques that need Executive approval. The first cheque is for USSU for the GSA UPASS and the second is for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Motion: To approve the cheques for the amount of \$767.03 to USSU and \$1883.5 for CFS.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

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

4. Items for Discussion/Information

4.1 Spring/Summer 2021 Bursary

The VP Finance updated the Executives on the Spring/Summer bursary and explained that graduate students were completing the application form and we already have many students that have already submitted. The VP Finance stated that the GSA Bursary Committee will have their first meeting one week from the deadline, and then a second meeting after the deadline during which time they will process the bursary applications.

4.2 Vaccine Update

The President explained that she and the VP External are promoting the university's vaccine contest by email and social media. The President encouraged the executives to take part in the

vaccine initiative by posting their vaccine pictures on social media.

4.3 GSA Newsletter

The President asked Executives to send their updates for the upcoming GSA newsletter.

4.4 GSA Council Meeting

The President invited all the Executives to ask questions regarding the upcoming GSA Council meeting that will be held on June 22, 2021. There were some general questions asked by the Executives and the President responded to those questions.

5. Other Business

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