



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2021 – Microsoft Teams
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

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 (VP Finance and Operations)
- Olusola Akintola (VP Academic and Student Affairs)
- Leslie Tetteh (VP External Affairs)
- Tina Alexis (VP Indigenous Engagement)

Regrets: None

Absent: None

1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The President thanked all Executives for attending the meeting and their commitments towards the GSA. She also mentioned how important it is to keep the spirit and continue advocating for graduate students.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. Seeing none, the President asked for a motion.

Motion: To approve the agenda as circulated

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External Affairs.

***Vote: 5 in favour,
Motion Carried.***

3. Items for Action

3.1 Cheque Remittance

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that due to the delay in registering the new signing officers for the GSA bank account, there would be a delay in cheque remittance .

Motion: To approve the delay in cheque remittance due to signatory authorization changes.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: President.

***Vote: 5 in favour,
Motion Carried.***

4. Items for Information / Discussion

4.1 GSA Council Meeting

President Zahan explained about the upcoming GSA Council Meeting. The Executives discussed about the council meeting and what are the priorities for the upcoming month.

4.2 GSA Newsletter

President Zahan explained about the GSA newsletter that would be published each month. She asked the Executive team to send their inputs since a newsletter is a way for communicating with graduate students. The President explained that we should add resources and important updates that could help graduate students. President Zahan asked if anyone had a question about the newsletter publication. The VP External and the President discussed the newsletter publishing process.

4.3 Future Initiatives

The President asked the Executive to provide their plans and activities that they will be working on during their tenure.

The VP Finance mentioned that he would try to set a high-standard for the GSA Research Conference for next year.

The VP Academic plans to communicate with students to give them clear access to the resources, and will be working on the 3-minute thesis presentation, as well as the fall and winter orientations.

The VP External mentioned that he would work on the GSA Awards Gala, cover letter, LinkedIn and networking workshops for graduate students. The VP External explained that he would try to have more social media interaction to increase communication with graduate students. The VP External also mentioned that he is trying to create a better platform to advocate for graduate students.

The VP Indigenous Engagement provided her plans throughout the year. She mentioned that she would organize seminars similar to last year's, for e.g., the land acknowledgment seminar, which was a very well-attended event. The VP Indigenous Engagement plans to work on Indigenous methodologies, Indigenous people in Canada, the model of colonization, racism, residential schools, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG), and the celebration of Indigenous academics and scholarly contributions per month.

The President requested that the VP Indigenous Engagement prepare an activity in the fall orientation and send the VP Finance her proposed dates, as well as the list of people she wants to invite for the planned events.

The following are the tentative events proposed by the VP Indigenous Engagement:

- September 2021 – Dr. Vine Deloria Jr. (Colonization)
- October 2021 – Harold Cardinal & George Manuel (Red Paper)
- November 2021 – Dr. Marie Battiste (Decolonizing Education) & James (Sakej) Henderson (Law & Justice)
- December 2021 – Leroy Little Bear (Native Science)
- January 2021 – Dr. Maggie Kovach (Indigenous Methodologies) & Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (TBD)
- February 2022 – Dr. Winona Wheeler & Dr. Simon Lambert (TBD)
- March 2022 – Dr. Michelle & Dr. Derek Johnson - Jennings (TBD)
- April 2022 – TBD

4.4 Fall Orientation

The President asked the Executive to be ready for the fall orientation and suggested some plans for the event.

5 Other Business

The President asked if there was any other business arising. The Executive approved to change the meeting hours from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

6 Confidential Session**7 Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked the meeting to be adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Vice-President Indigenous Engagement

Seconded: Vice-President Finance and Operations

Vote: 5 in favour,

Motion Carried.