



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

September 16, 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), Tina Alexis (Vice-President Indigenous Engagement)

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests:

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by President Zahan.

2. Approval of the Agenda

President Zahan asked whether there were any amendments to the agenda as circulated. There was no amendment.

Motion: To approve the agenda with the proposed amendments.

Moved: VP Indigenous Engagement

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of the July 15, 2021, Executive Meeting Minutes

August 15, 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 Indigenous Engagement

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

5. Items for Discussion/Information

5.1. Winter orientation

President Zahan explained that GSA held a successful fall orientation and swag bag pickup events. She continued that GSA had a plan to keep half of the items for the winter orientation. Still, many students showed up on the day of curbside pickup. The VP of Finance and Operations, Ehsan Moradi, and the President decided to give all items to the students without saving for the winter

orientation. Since the number of students who showed up was overwhelming, not all the students received the swag bags or any other items.

President Zahan stated that GSA needs VP Academic and Student Affairs to advise executives on the plan for winter orientation since organizing orientations fall under VP Academic and Student Affairs' portfolio. President Zahan also advised that the VP Academic and Student Affairs work together with the VP Finance and Operations on the budget to plan the winter orientation.

President Zahan mentioned that the executives would wait for further guidance from the VP Academic and Student Affairs to make plans together so that the executives can approve the dates and details in the upcoming meeting.

5.2 Volunteer for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

The President said that the Wanuskewin Community had approached GSA to look for volunteers and further engagement from GSA. Wanuskewin Community is very inclusive of having students from all backgrounds. The Office Manager forwarded the email from Wanuskewin Community to the VP Indigenous Engagement for further guidance. The President asked the VP Indigenous Engagement for further update on this matter. The VP Indigenous Engagement mentioned that she is not interested in working with the Wanuskewin community, as it is affiliated with the City of Saskatoon and not an Indigenous-owned organization. VP Alexis also added that she can reach out to some of her cohorts in the city to contact the Wanuskewin community. The President explained that the university is collaborating with the Wanuskewin community to celebrate The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, so it would be great to GSA do something. The President has already circulated the call among all the grad students. The President further encouraged all the executives to look for volunteers.

5.3 Fall 2021 Events

The President thanked VP Academic and Student Affairs for sending his plan for the fall events. VP Akintola talked about the conflict resolution session, which is scheduled for October 7th, 2020. The president asked if there was any other event from VP Academic and Student Affairs. VP Akintola explained that he is going to organize a seminar to help graduate students to avoid plagiarism.

The President asked VP Indigenous if she had any plan for the fall events. VP Alexis explained that she already sent her plans to the President, preparing the presenting materials. The President asked executives to send the details of the events early enough to promote the events via newsletter and social media.

The President finally asked VP Finance and Operations for events he is planning to organize. VP Moradi explained that he is preparing materials for a workshop on scholarships.

6. Closed Session

7 Adjournment of Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:50 PM

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Indigenous Engagement

Vote: All in favour,

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM