



## University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

### Executive Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2022, via Zoom

5:00 PM – 7:25 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:** Mostofa Kamal (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Sristy Sumana Nath (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Ozra Mohammadi (Vice-President External Affairs).

**Regrets:** None

**Absent:** N/a

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

The meeting was called to order at 5 PM by GSA President Mostofa. Mostofa mentioned that VP External Affairs will serve as the recording secretary of meeting.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

#### 3. Approval of the June 2, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes

President Kamal asked whether the meeting minutes of June 2 is approved as circulated.

Motion: To approve the June 2 Executives meeting minutes

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP of Academic and Students Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

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

##### **4.1 Data collection about doctor's appointments cancelation or appointment timeline:**

Mostofa mentioned: Unfortunately, at the University of Saskatchewan, there are no walking clinic opportunities compared to other Canadian universities. Thus, graduate students can not visit doctors at the university wellness center without prior appointments. No Walking clinic is available within walking distance from the University. More frustratingly, the waiting time for a doctor appointment is, on average, 4 to 6 weeks; thus, most of the time, students need to visit a doctor outside of the University, which is time-consuming and uncomfortable during the harsh winter conditions. The GSA president discussed this issue at the University Council meeting on June 16, 2022. Professor Jay Wilson, Interim Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, agreed to work with GSA about this issue in the coming days. The GSA President will raise this issue again at the university council in Fall if no measure is taken to improve the conditions. VP Academic and Student Affairs, Sristy stated that in winter, many students face serious challenges who don't have a car to visit the walking clinic. Even during school days, a student cannot go to the wellness center for medical urgency. Sristy proposed a student survey to know the graduate students' difficulties with student wellness center facilities. VP external affairs Ozra Mohammadi also emphasized the need for a student survey to identify students' issues at the university wellness center. She also cautioned that a lack of health care professionals is known provincially. Thus, she emphasized the need for solid advocacy work so that the GSA voice can reach the university administration. VP Finance, Ehsan Moradi, said that irrespective of the fear of failure, the GSA team needs to advocate, and GSA shouldn't care about the results at the beginning. The GSA must try and work hard to do their best.

##### **4.2 Meeting update with the dean of CGPS**

The GSA president mentioned that the GSA has been receiving too many academic misconduct issues recently. The GSA is working CGPS in finding ways to minimize academic misconduct issues faced by graduate students. Currently, the ethics course is not mandatory to the graduate

program; thus, many international students are falling to academic misconduct issues during course work. Mostafa suggested that plagiarism training should be mandatory for all regular students, and they should complete it within two weeks after starting their program and stepping on within their start the Program. President Mostofa and VP Academic and Student Affairs Sristy will work toward drafting a motion and present that motion at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting in September 2022. VP Academic and Student Affairs, Sristy, will give a brief presentation about the importance of the ethics course in the fall orientation event to remind students to complete the course as soon as possible. During President Mostofa's meeting with the dean of CGPS also discussed mandatory parental leave (who decided to become a parent during their history, they will get parental benefits, right now, they got nothing) and minimum guaranteed funding (at least the minimum wage salary of Saskatchewan which is approximately \$22,500) for thesis-based graduate programs.

#### **4.3 Potential meeting with VP of University Relation**

GSA Executive will meet and greet with VP of University Relation on August **26, 2022**. All GSA executives will attend the meeting.

#### **4.4 Executive meeting minute submission timeline**

As per the GSA By-laws, the VP of external affairs will serve as record secretary in executives' meetings. The record secretary will send meeting minutes within 4 days after the executive meeting date to all GSA executives. The VP Finance and Operations and VP Academic and student affairs will receive one day each for reviewing the meeting minutes. The GSA president will review meeting minutes after all executives complete their review. The GSA president will ensure that a draft copy of the executive meeting minutes is uploaded following GSA By-laws.

#### **4.5 GSA executive monthly report submitted to the president**

Monthly report that summarizes the overall work of the GSA and all the attended meetings should be submitted to the GSA chair 7 days before the GSA council meeting. And the president should be CCed to the email.

#### **4.6 Meeting with new CGPS Indigenous Graduate Student Coordinator**

President Mostofa informed the executives that the CGPS has recently appointed a new Indigenous Graduate Student Coordinator who expressed her interest to meet and greet GSA executives. Thus, Mostofa requested all executives to mention a suitable time for a meeting. Then GSA President will fix a date for meeting with CGPS Indigenous Graduate Student Coordinator and notify all executives in the coming weeks.

#### **4.7 A New Rotary Club on Campus**

Prior to the closing of the campus following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a club started by a group of graduate students – the Satellite Club of Rotary Club of Saskatoon-Nutana. This was registered as an organization with GSA and met at the GSA Commons. However, the pandemic forced it to cease all of its activities. If there is sufficient interest now, it can be revived.

#### **4.8 Attending GSA commons events**

The GSA common events should be covered by all executives. The list of booking events would be available for executives to attend their available date.

#### **4.9 GSA Bursary Spring/Summer**

Ehsan Moradi: this year GSA received more than 150 need-based bursary applications. The bursary committee hope to publish the results by Monday, July 11, 2022 after the final bursary committee meeting. Mostofa Kamal mentioned that sometime bursary committee fail to follow bursary schedule due to many reasons. Thus, upon discussion the GSA executives agreed that VP of finance and operations, as the bursary chair, can extend the bursary schedule one more week if needed provided that Ehsan will immediately notify his extension decision to the GSA President and GSA office manager so that this information can be updated on the GSA website.

#### **4.10 Swag bag items finalize for Fall orientation 2022**

VP Academic and Student Affairs, Sristy had provided a document to executives with some sorted items and their total price. Then, all executives finalized few items for swag bag including water bottle, stress reliever, bag. To ensure better quality swag bag items with limited orientation budge, a limited number if items will be included in the fall 2022 orientation. and

finally, we decided to provide less items with high quality. Sristy will contact our brand partner to order those items for orientation.

Sristy will finalized the color and size of t-shirts for volunteers and executives following the meeting week.

#### **4.11 Handbook template and contents**

1. Footer:

“UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN GRADUATE STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION”-  
“www.gsa.usask.ca” instead of date and time- every other page.

2. On page 2: GSA EXECUTIVES COMMITTEE,

The executives agreed to include pictures of the GSA executives in the first two rows and GSA office manager in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row.

3. Page 10-12: GSA SERVICES, it’s suggested to have all the services as bullets on page 10 and their description on the following pages.

#### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Meeting was adjourned by GSA president, Mostofa Kamal, at 7:23 pm and moved by VP Finance and Operation.