



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Jan 25, 2022**

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), Devin Cherneski (Vice-President External Affairs), Mostofa Kamal (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs)

**Regrets/Absent:** None

**Guests:** Abbas Fazel and Das Divyapratim from the Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC).

**Chair:** Rifat Zahan (President)

**Note Taker:** Devin Cherneski (Vice-President External Affairs)

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 PM by GSA *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 current agenda*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

## **3. Approval of the last Executive Meeting Minutes**

President Zahan asked whether there were any amendments to the last executive meeting minutes as circulated. VP External Affairs indicated draft minutes were circulated to executive for proof reading. Minutes from the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

*Motion: To approve executive meeting minutes from December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

## **4. Items for discussion**

### ***4.1 Black History Month***

VP External Affairs attended a Black History Month (BHM) on Jan 20, 2022, with representation from the USSU and other stakeholders. Lots of excitement and energy for the upcoming month which opens up February 2, 2022. Some activities include discussion panel, coffee house, guest

speakers, BHM website, and ongoing social media communication to help with the promotions. The VP External Affairs is representing the GSA and asked for any suggestions and ideas from the executive team. More details to follow in the next couple weeks.

#### ***4.2 U-Pass***

The GSA executives have had numerous discussions with many university stakeholders including the city of Saskatoon bus transit group discussing the current and upcoming summer contract negotiations. Discussions have also surrounded defining terms ‘remote’ and ‘distance-based’ student and online education. Executive’s next steps include sending a survey to all graduate students for important U-Pass feedback and continuing to advocate for the next incoming GSA executive team so that they hit the ground running with Saskatoon Transit for the improvement of the service.

#### ***4.3 International tuition fee’s (including calculation methodology)***

The VP of Academic and Student Affairs discussed the concerns with the recent Zoom tuition town hall meeting as only four questions were answered during the question period. The executive team found this unacceptable as there were numerous questions and concerns that were unanswered including how the tuition fees are calculated. VP Kamal presented an oral proposal that he would like to lead the executive committee to advocate and meet with the Provincial government Advanced Education Minister this Spring to discuss some of the concerns with the tuition fees and how they are calculated. The next step(s) will be for the VP of Academic and Student Affairs to draft a letter for the executive team to review to send to the Advanced Education Minister.

#### ***4.4 Health & Dental Plan – Student Care***

The President and the VP of Academic and Student Affairs discussed some of the current issues with the GSA Health and Dental plan and next step(s) which will include consultations with Studentcare to come up with a fair proposal to help enhance the coverage for students.

### **5. Items for Decision**

#### ***5.1 Guests from the Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) proposal***

Abbas Fazel and Divyapratim Das met with GSA executives to discuss their upcoming 3MT Engineering event with prizes, awards, and entertainment on their agenda. Last year's event had approximately 30 students as they are hoping to get approximately 50 or more for this year's event (in person/zoom). Registration has started with deadline dates of February 11 and 22<sup>nd</sup> respectively. They were looking for \$2,500.00 from the GSA as the executives' asked questions about the event and previous years' sponsorship from GSA. In 2021, the GSA gave the maximum amount of \$500, and explained to the group that the GSA could not sponsor more than that for their event. They needed the funding for refreshments, prizes, swag bags, and gifts. After the discussion Abbas and Divyapratim indicated although they would like more money, they understood our policy and are happy to accept whatever amount we approve.

*Motion: Executive to approve \$500.00 for the EGCC event.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

***Vote: All in Favour,***

***Motion Carried.***

#### ***5.2 GSA Annual Gala***

VP External Affairs discussed the implications of having the event with the high amount of omicron cases and a recommendation was made at the executive meeting to cancel the in-person

GALA event for 2022. The President and executive team agreed with the recommendation, stating that the new executives can decide in 2023 if it is safe enough to have the in-person GALA event.

*Motion: To cancel 2022 GALA ball due to the high cases of the omicron variant.*

*Moved: VP Finance and Operations*

*Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

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

## **6. Closed Session**

## **7 Adjournment of Meeting**

*Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM