



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

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Jan 7, 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:** N/A

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by GSA President Zahan. The President appointed the VP External Affairs to be recording secretary for this meeting – accepted.

## **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 meeting minutes as circulated. VP Finance and Operations indicated draft minutes were circulated to executive for proof reading. Will defer until minutes reviewed and submitted to President for motion to be approved by email.

*Motion: To approve December 9, 2021, Executive meeting minutes as circulated by email.*

*Moved: VP External Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

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

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

##### ***4.1 Cheque Remittance***

The President indicated that our executive committee would need to approve any food invoices greater than \$500.00. We have two food invoices in this category Biryani Box Restaurant for two days of meals (\$3,030.90) and gluten free cupcakes (\$812).

*Motion: Executive to approve food invoices greater than \$500.00 for Holiday Hangout.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

***Motion Carried.***

##### ***4.2 Winter Orientation***

The President discussed the upcoming 2022 Winter Orientation activities as the GSA each term hands out swag items to registered graduate students. With the current outbreak of the omicron variant in Saskatchewan, the executive team unanimously approved deferring the swag pick up until further notice. Also, the cold weather and semester delay of two weeks factored into the overall decision of the executive committee.

*Motion: Swag bag pick up of Winter orientation to be postponed until further notice.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

***Motion Carried.***

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

##### ***5.1 GSA Annual Awards Gala Update***

The President asked VP External Affairs and the executive committee their opinion regarding the GSA Annual Awards Gala. At this moment all Executive members are in agreement to hold off any ballroom Gala planning until January 31 due to the omicron virus.

## ***5.2 Graduate Student Research Conference (GSRC)***

President Zahan requested an update from VP Finance and Operations about the GSRC, which falls under VP Finance and Operations' portfolio. At this time, there are no applications received. The VP Finance and Operations requested an extension of deadline by one month into the second week of February. Overall, the executive committee felt the conference needs some additional promotions through GSA newsletter, and social media.

## ***5.3 U-Pass***

The President discussed an upcoming U-Pass zoom call scheduled with Saskatoon Transit and asked the executive committee for feedback. The President indicated that students have been forwarding frequent questions to the GSA Office Manager and GSA President about the U-Pass and overall bus services. The President in the meantime is thinking about best solutions/practices available for all students. One of the scenarios was students who live in Saskatoon and do not need to be on campus because of remote learning. More will be discussed during January with involved stakeholders, and an update at our next executive meeting before bringing this to the GSA Council meeting.

## **6. Closed Session**

## **7 Adjournment of Meeting**

*Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

***Vote: All in favour,***

***Motion Carried.***

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM