



I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Meeting August 23, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi, Ramin Mohammadi, Kayla Benoit, Sristy Sumana Nath

Regret: none

Guest: Rachamalla, Mahesh

Land Acknowledgment:

GSA President Mostofa Kamal.

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 PM by GSA President Kamal.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP-Finance

Seconded: VP-Academic

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

President:

1. Approval of executive meeting minute (July 12)

- a. Move: VP-Finance and operations (Ramin)
- b. 2nd: President (Mostofa Kamal)

2. CGPS financial sponsorship 2023-2024 update

GSA president Mostofa Kamal reported the approved budget plan for GSA 2023-2024 by CGPS. GSA proposed a 92,000.00 CAD funding request. CGPS approved to contribute to fund GSA for 52,000.00 CAD. In this budget, CGPS increased the GSA bursary needs by 25% (40,000.00 CAD).

3. Meeting update: GSA president with USSU president

GSA and USSU presidents discussed the issue raised for the food bank budget. Based on USSU president's report, more than 75% of the graduate students used food bank credit. To resolve this issue, GSA will raise 6000.00 CAD to USSU for this fiscal year to support graduate students.

4. Meeting update: GSA president with Dean of CGPS and University of Saskatchewan Vice President of Research

Effective September 2023, CGPS will directly report to the office of research. Based on GSA's negotiation with the CGPS dean and Vice-President research, the minimum funding will be 20K.

5. VP Indigenous & Engagement Candidate Meet and Greet Schedule

All GSA executives will meet the VP-Indigenous candidates and meet them to evaluate the best person to serve in this position for USASK. GSA will send the feedback to the hiring committee for capable persons. GSA VP-Indigenous and engagement, Kayla Benoit, will be the only representative for the hiring committee.

6. VP External Affairs' Extended Leave of Absence Decision & Duty Allocation

- a. Decision: all executives approved for VP-External leave of absence, and he will support and work remotely with the GSA executives during his leave to manage the executives' meetings. In his absence, based on the executive's availability, they attend the scheduled meeting arranged by university governors.
- b. Move: VP-Finance and operations (Ramin)
- c. 2nd: President (Mostofa Kamal)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

7. GSA Office Manager Interview Date Selection

- a. September 6 at 12 p.m. (5 hours interview). The executives must attend in person, and the candidates will attend through online interviews or in person, depending on the applicant's situation. President Mostofa Kamal will distribute 7 standard hiring questions to all hiring committee members to ask from shortlisted candidates.
- b. Short-listed candidates for GSA office manager hiring interview: Rayhan-Al Islam - Fatemeh Sedighipour - Paul Trujillo - Sinduja Fringler - Deshan Raidoo

8. Funding request review/decision from Let's Talk Science

The Let's Talk representative, Mahesh Rachamalla, presented the event to all GSA executives. The Let's Talk group should report the event expenditure and budget list with GSA for 500.00 CAD funding to support the event.

9. CGPS representative to the bursary evaluation committee:

In 2023/2024, CGPS will have a representative in the bursary needs committee. For transparency, CGPS will send a representative to the bursary committee.

- a. Move: VP-Finance (Ramin)
- b. 2nd: President (Mostofa)

10. GSA Executive Greeting Message for incoming graduate students across GSA social media.

All executives will prepare a 30-second video to welcome new graduate students to USASAK.

11. GSA's financial contribution to USSU Foodbank (GSA will contribute to USSU - \$6,000):

- a. Move: VP-External (Abbas)
- b. 2nd: VP-Finance (Ramin)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

12. Approval of \$5/per Notary public service fees to USSU:

GSA and USSU agreed to provide notary service to graduate students for 5.00 CAD.

- a. Move: VP-Finance (Ramin)
- b. 2nd: VP-Academic (Sristy)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

13. CFS Orientation table (Aug 30 to Sept 2 and from Sept 25 to 29)

The GSA president will talk to CFS to find the best date for orientation.

VP-Finance:

1. Update on GSA need-based bursaries:
GSA VP-Finance reported the awarded candidates for Spring/Summer bursary needs. The awarded candidates will receive the cheques by the end of September
2. Approval for the college of Chemistry BBQ at GSA Common (August 31, 2023): For this BBQ, they are allowed to cook outside, but the delegates should eat inside of the GSA Common building.
 - a. Move: VP-Finance (Ramin)
 - b. 2nd: VP-External (Abbas)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

VP-Academic and student:

1. Fall orientation schedule, food and volunteer:
GSA VP-Academic explained the details for the GSA Fall orientation. The volunteer needs announcement will be posted on social media. GSA executives also decided to provide Pizza and soft drinks for this orientation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56

- a. Move: VP-Finance (Ramin)
- b. 2nd: VP-External (Abbas)