



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 December 20, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

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

Regret: none

Guest: Lecia Ellis

Land Acknowledgment:

Kayla Benoit

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Kayla Benoit called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

Seconded: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of November 22, 2023.

The meeting minutes were approved except for Agenda Item number two, which belongs to **“GSA chair election legitimacy issue and Voting council allocations for Engineering and Medicine graduates councils.”**

Move: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

2nd: Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous)

Abstain: Sristy Sumana Nath (VP-Academic)

In favor: Ramin, Abbas and Kayla.

4. Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

- **Motion: Recommending Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous and Engagement) as the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students’ Association President.**

The GSA executives are recommending Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous and Engagement) for the GSA President position for the rest of the GSA term until April 30, 2024, to council members.

Move: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

2nd: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

Vote: all in favour

- **Motion: Recommending to the council to amend the budget to allow for an increase in budget that allows the Executive to increase the office manager's salary. Increase the salary to match the University of Saskatchewan standard salary for the manager position.**

The GSA executives are recommending that the council members amend the budget line to increase the GSA office manager's salary to the University of Saskatchewan salary standards. GSA executives received a verbal request and had a discussion with the current GSA manager to increase the GSA office manager salary to USASK standard level. The GSA executives will discover how much is the standard salary level and will inform the council members to decide on this motion.

Move: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

2nd: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

Vote: all in favour

- **Motion: Recommending the Re-election for 2023-2024 chair position to council members.**

In the 2023 October council meeting, the council chair election was announced without any public announcement, and two candidates nominated themselves in that meeting, and the election was concluded. During the election process and right after the election, several complaints were received from general and council members, and the council members discussed the results in the November council meeting again to figure out why the EGCC council had more than two counted votes. In the December council meeting, the former council chair brought another complaint to the meeting and provided the details of why the election results were invalid. Hence, due to the lack of election transparency for the GSA council chair position and based on GSA policy and bylaw, the election results must be revoked, and a new election is

required based on GSA policy and bylaw. Hence, the GSA executives are recommending to the council members to run another election for the GSA Council Chair position.

Move: *Abbas Fazel (VP-External)*

2nd: *Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous)*

Vote: all in favour

- **Update on the bursary for the Fall of 2023.**

GSA VP-Finance reported that the bursary committee concluded the list of CGPS-GSA bursary awardees and will announce the results to CGPS by December 28, 2023. More than 370 applications were received in this round of applications, and 175 applications were valid for review. After careful review by bursary committee members, 43 applications awarded for Fall bursary needs. Each candidate will receive 1,000.00 CAD by direct deposit from CGPS.

- **Processing the hiring coordinators.**

GSA is looking for several office coordinators to hire. GSA received 22 applications, and the GSA executives will review the applications and invite 5 top candidates for interview. The office coordinator hiring results will be concluded before January 15, 2024.

- **Adjusting the date and platform for the holiday hangout.**

The GSA-ISSAC-Wellness holiday hangout is supposed to be for 4 days. GSA and other partners committed to organizing the hangout only for two days on December 27 and 28, 2023, at GSA Common. GSA will also contribute 2,000.00 CAD for food, snacks and games.

- **Update on GSA Childcare establishment (Meeting with Greg Fowler)**

The GSA executives had a meeting with Greg Fowler, the Vice-President of Finance and Resources, and discussed the university's support for establishing new childcare for graduate students. In this meeting, several options were discussed, including the reconstruction of spare spaces on campus. GSA committed to preparing a feasibility study for the GSA childcare center, and the office of the president of Finance and Resources will share some documents for the establishment and running of the GSA childcare center.

- **Motion: Recommending repurposing the GSA Common building as "GSA Childcare" to the council members.**

Based on the GSA missions and visions, we are committed to establish a new childcare center for USASK students. Currently, the GSA common (Emmanuel & St. Chad Bldg) used to be a church, and this building space could be used for GSA childcare. The GSA executives are recommending the council members to start the legal and technical procedures to repurpose the GSA Common for childcare.

Move: *Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)*

2nd: *Abbas Fazel (VP-External)*

Vote: In favour (Abbas, Ramin, Kayla) Abstain (Sristy)

- **Winter Orientation update**

The Winter orientation will be on January 9, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The registration info will be shared on social media platforms and the GSA website.

- **GSA Photos and video storage.**

The GSA office manager will request IT to provide OneDrive access for GSA accounts to store the documents.

- **Issuing certificate of appreciation for Elevator Pitch and Research Conference Judges.**

For GSA events, including the Elevator Pitch and Research Conference, the GSA will issue certificates of appreciation for judges.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 19:36

a. Move: *Abbas Fazel (VP-External)*