



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 January 17, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

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

Regret: None

Guest: None

Land Acknowledgment:

Kayla Benoit (Interim President)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Kayla Benoit called the meeting to order at 5:10 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: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

Seconded: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of January 3, 2024.

Move: Sristy Sumana Nath (VP-Academic)

2nd: Kayla Benoit (Interim President)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

4. Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

• Proposing to the council an increase in the formula rate for academic council funding.

In relation to the GSA's support for graduate students' activities, the GSA executives have proposed a funding increase for ratified councils, effective September 2024. This motion necessitates revisions to both policies and bylaws and is scheduled for discussion at the upcoming GSA Annual Meeting.

The proposed rate adjustment involves an increase from \$3.00 to \$6.00, with a maximum limit set at \$1000.00. The calculation is based on the equation outlined in GSA policy section 9.4.3.

Moved: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

Seconded: Sristy Sumana Nath (VP-Academic)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

• Negotiating a new contract with Saskatoon Transit specifically for our graduate students.

GSA has received numerous complaints regarding the opt-out option, and we are committed to respecting the individual needs of all graduate students. In light of the new UPASS contract, GSA will initiate communication with City of Saskatoon UPASS Transit to propose a new contract specifically tailored for graduate students. Concurrently, GSA will conduct a survey to gather feedback from graduate students about their opinions on the matter.

• Issuing a reimbursement check for the Huskies Cricket Club for their event (Total reimbursement = \$237.80).

Moved: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

Seconded: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

- **Providing a reimbursement check for the Chemistry Academic Council for their event (Total reimbursement = \$500.00).**
 - *Moved: Sristy Sumana Nath (VP-Academic)*
 - *Seconded: Kayla Benoit (Interim President)*
- Vote: All in Favour,**

Motion Carried.

- **Parking reimbursement for the College of Medicine representative (Elyse Proulx-Cullen).**

GSA is committed to reimbursing any parking expenses to our GSA representatives. GSA will ask Elyse to submit any receipts and VP-External will add it to his discretionary expenses for reimbursement.

- **Discussion on the GSA Gala venue (Delta Hotels Bessborough).**

The GSA Annual Award Gala is scheduled to take place at the Elegant Delta Bessborough Hotel on April 27, 2024. The venue can accommodate a maximum of 150 guests. Please note that new meal prices will be provided by Delta Hotel in February.

- **Need GSA representative for Dean, University Library; Vice Provost, Strategy Realization; Principal, PA Campus.**

GSA needs to appoint graduate students to represent the organization in various committees. The Interim President of GSA will circulate an email request to all council members, seeking volunteers. Following this, the Interim President will inform the designated committee chairperson about the selected representatives.

- **Studentcare email on behalf of GSA.**

Meghan Sired from the University Service team asked for GSA approval to send a reminder on behalf of GSA to graduate students regarding Studentcare enrolment.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 18:41

- Move: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)*