



Graduate Students' Association

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

GSA Executives Meeting on February 28, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Attendance: David Ohene-Amoako, Lindsay Carlson, Nickson Joseph, Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko, Reza Golpayegani.

Guests: None

All executives approved all of these actions.

President:

1. Proposed that a future Childcare project could use the GSA Commons and begin as a 3 hour period, two days per week – possibly Tuesday/Weds or Tues/Thurs. Some executives expressed concern about the complicated logistics of a childcare offering at the GSA Commons (e.g., childproofing furniture, flooring, security, staffing) and whether this short period of time offered is even useful to students, given that many students are in need of more full-time childcare. Other executives felt that this would be a good start and would be a useful service to students.
2. Sought input from executives about a report from a student previously living in a residence hall. Decisions and communications will be kept confidential to protect student privacy.

VP Finance:

1. Reported on applications received for the Operations Manager position and the process of using HR consultant's screening tool to rank applicants. Top candidates will be invited for interviews the week of March 10-14.
2. Suggested that she would lead interviews, but at least two executives should be present for each interview. VP Finance noted that all candidates will be asked the

same questions during the interview, following the HR consultant's interview script.

3. Inquired about the exact timing of GSA Elections and GSA AGM 2025, noting that the GSA bylaws require a certain amount of notice to be provided for these events. Recommend that the GSA Chair begin working on the election schedule immediately, so that nothing is rushed/falls behind. The President responded that the chair has raised that and he would be meeting in the week ahead for discussions.
4. Reported that she is collaborating on efforts to host a tax information session in March.
5. Invited executives to attend an all staff meeting at GSA Commons to review policies and procedures with coordinators.

VP Academic:

1. There have been inquiries about whether GSA will have a research conference this year. Suggested to have an Elevator Pitch competition on March 20th, rather than a research conference due to limited time/bandwidth of all executives to plan such an event.
2. Contacted ISSAC to seek potential collaboration for a session on 'life after graduate studies as an international student'.
3. Discussed suggested policy changes to the executives' board.

VP External:

1. Moved to approve January Meeting 2025 executives' meeting minutes.
(Approved)
2. **GALA 2025:**
 - a. Asked executives to finalize their guest list for GALA 2025.
 - b. The total budget for GALA 2025 was confirmed as \$38,000, comprising \$33,000 from sponsorships and \$5,000 from the GSA budget. Executives recommended that we should aim to not spend \$5,000 from the GSA budget, and that we should be able to do everything we aim to do with the funds raised.
 - c. There was discussion about the amount of the "scholarship" funds that accompanies each award. It was decided that the faculty receiving an award should not receive any funds, and that funds would be dispersed following the event by bank transfer after we collect information needed for tax purposes.

3. Program of the event:

Opening Speeches 5 - 6	Some of the names are removed for confidentiality purposes. ● Indigenous Drummer Performance ● Indigenous Elder ● Indigenous Elder ● David Ohene-Amoako (GSA President) ● Dr. Debby Burshtyn (USASK CGPS Dean) ● Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio (USASK Acting VP Academic) ● Dr. Jerome Cranstone (USASK VP Student and Learning)
Dinner 6 - 6:30	Tables should be called one by one by MC.
Awards Session 6:30 - 7:15	People on the stage for the awards session: ● David Ohene-Amoako (GSA President) ● Nickson Joseph (GSA VP Academic) ● Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko (GSA VP Indigenous Affairs) ● Reza Golpayegani (GSA VP External) ● Dr. Jerome Cranstone (USASK VP Student and Learning) ● Dr. Debby Burshtyn (USASK CGPS Dean) ● Dr. Baljit Singh (USASK VP Research) Awardees with a speech: ● Dr. Banani Roy (Advising Excellence) ● Jeremy Irvine (Excellence in Community Service) ● Nima Khalili Tanha (Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership Award) The rest of the awardees do not have a speech time slot.
Closing: 7:15 - 8	● Dr. Baljit Singh (USASK VP Research) ● Nickson Joseph (GSA VP Academic) ● Elected GSA President