



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 Meetings on Oct 14, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Attendance: Palash Roy, Lindsay Carlson, Mandela Alema, Biraj Saha, Laila Valila

Guests: None

All executives approved all of these actions.

President

1. Halloween Event Final Planning

Palash confirmed details for the Halloween Event at the GSA Commons, projecting approximately 40 participants. Plans include popcorn, candy, and decorations. Biraj inquired about gifts for children attending. Lindsay discussed decoration arrangements. The budget remains at \$300 for food and décor. Laila indicated she would not email for headcount confirmation.

2. Anti-Racism Symposium

The Anti-Racism Symposium was confirmed for November 19, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the GSA Commons. Palash and Lindsay noted that the Standing Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion should be involved, as their engagement will support both coordination and outreach efforts for the event.

3. GSA Gala Planning

The President requested an update from the VP External regarding any progress or ideas for the GSA Gala. Following the discussion, Biraj agreed to take the lead in organizing the event for March. Initial conversations were held around the overall scope of the gala and the key requirements needed to begin planning.

4. CFS Membership and Collaboration Discussion

Palash discussed concerns about limited services from CFS relative to the financial contribution provided by GSA. He referenced Mary's email and emphasized that the association's funds should result in tangible benefits such as student-service initiatives and advocacy tools. Palash noted that CFS provides student tax filing services, but GSA paid for the handbook independently. He explained that the VP External should work on external affairs matters related to these partnerships.

5. Event Scheduling - Final Confirmations

Prior to the meeting, it had been requested that each executive prepare ideas and select dates for events within their portfolio that they are planning, so that GSA can proceed with a complete event programming schedule. The executives finalized event dates for the upcoming academic year to minimize scheduling conflicts across portfolios. Confirmed events include:

- Financial Literacy Series: October 22
- Anti-Racism Symposium: November 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at GSA Commons
- Soccer Team coordination
- Graduate Talks/Town Hall meetings: 2x per term
- Professional Headshots: November 25
- Holiday Hangout: December 26-27
- GSA Gala: March
- Indigenous Resource and Intercultural Exchange Fair: January 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Indoor Game Night: February 27
- Health Chat events to be planned for next meeting

Vice-President Finance and Operations

1. Event Funding Applications

The executives reviewed and approved two event funding applications: one from the College of Kinesiology GSA and the other from the WildEcol social group.

2. Financial Literacy Series Update

Lindsay reported that the October Financial Literacy Series event (budgeting) has been planned. There will also be two workshops during the winter term: one on banking basics and savings strategies, and another on tax information. GSA will try to collaborate with USSU on these events to improve turnout and potentially secure financial contributions for food.

3. Meeting with City UPass - Report

Lindsay reported to the executives on the meeting with City of Saskatoon representatives regarding UPass negotiations. The city expressed openness to exploring potential enhancements to the UPass program while noting that certain changes would require coordination with other stakeholders. Discussions also touched on the structure of current

agreements and rate considerations. The city indicated they are reviewing various aspects of the program, which may present opportunities for broader discussions in the future.

Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs

1. Graduate Talks and Town Hall Meetings

Mandela confirmed plans to host two Graduate Talks or Town Hall Meetings per term, focusing on student-supervisor relations, departmental issues, and policy clarity. Planning for the first session will commence in November.

2. Holiday Hangout

Mandela confirmed the Holiday Hangout for December 26-27 to promote graduate student engagement during the winter break. Details regarding activities and logistics will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Intramural Sports and Soccer Team Coordination

Mandela said he will cater the information to Biraj. Lindsay confirmed that the registration deadline for winter term intramurals is January 13, 2026, with a \$75 team fee (within the \$210 allocated budget). Coordination with Ernest Leung from the Edwards School of Business is underway for team management.

Vice-President External Affairs

1. Social Media Engagement

Lindsay suggested biraj to make a calendar timeline to post ALUMO content. Biraj agreed with her idea.

2. Board Game and Movie Event

Biraj confirmed organizing a Board Game and Movie Night on February 27, 2026, aimed at fostering informal networking and social engagement among graduate students. He noted that this event would provide a relaxed environment for peer interaction and community building. The executives also recommended that Biraj needed to plan at least one Health Chat event per term.

3. GSA Gala

Biraj agreed to organize the GSA Gala in March. Palash asked biraj to prepare a presentation with a comprehensive event plan. Lindsay recommended that a date be chosen and a venue be booked before the holidays, as weekend dates fill far in advance.

Vice-President Indigenous Engagement

1. Indigenous Resource and Intercultural Exchange Fair - Confirmation

Laila confirmed that the Indigenous Resource and Intercultural Exchange Fair will be held on January 21, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the GSA Commons. The event aims to introduce international students to Indigenous culture and university/community resources.

2. CFS Discussion and Debrief

Laila took notes for the CFS conference and discussed future collaboration. Other executives shared their opinions on CFS membership and services. Laila also shared her preparation for the conference.

3. Executive Retreat - Final Arrangements

Laila finalized arrangements for the executive retreat at the Western Development Museum. The date was confirmed as November 8, 2025. She discussed the location and plans for the day.