



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 Sunday January 4th, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM CST

Attendance: Lindsay Carlson, Laila Valila, Mandela Alema, Palash Roy, Sunny Bui

Guests: None

All executives approved all of these actions.

President

1. Holiday Hangout Sponsorship Payments

The Executive reviewed sponsor contributions for the Holiday Hangout, including ISAAC (\$500), Student Health and Wellbeing (\$1,000), USSU (\$500), Sustainability Committee (\$1,000), GSA (\$1,000), and Marjorie (Vice-Provost) (\$1,000). The Executive confirmed the GSA will pay event costs upfront and will collect partner sponsorship contributions afterward.

2. Welcome Week Presence

The Executive confirmed the GSA table is scheduled for the Welcome Week information session on Monday, January 5, 2026 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

3. Opus and GSA Introduction Session

The Executive discussed holding a joint information session from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM in collaboration with the Startup Mentors Organization.

4. Intramural Sports Teams

The Executive discussed registering intramural teams for volleyball (co-ed), futsal (co-ed), basketball (men's), and basketball (women's), with approximately 20 participants.

The registration cost was noted as \$75 per team (approximately \$300 total). The Executive discussed keeping costs within budget.

- a. **Action:** Mandela Alema to contact Ernest regarding sponsorship.
- b. **Decision/Outcome:** The GSA will sponsor three teams.

5. Resource Fair Planning and Funding

The Executive confirmed the Resource Fair date and time as January 21, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Executive discussed a SIGA funding application, noting a 4–5 week decision timeline, and ongoing exploration of a CGPS grant, with communications involving Alina. The Executive confirmed an Elder is secured for the event and noted two additional campus participants remain to be confirmed.

6. CFS Conference Participation

The Executive discussed the Circles of First Nations, Métis & Inuit Students' Annual Standalone in Ottawa (March 13–15, 2026). It was noted CFS will cover costs, with an outstanding fee of \$750.

7. CFS Events and Membership Value

The Executive discussed participation in CFS events and the status of CFS membership. Laila Valila inquired about attending upcoming CFS events. Palash Roy noted he is awaiting an update from Mary regarding membership. The Executive discussed the value of participation relative to membership fees and the option of prioritizing spending locally.

8. Information Session / BRT Meeting

These items were listed on the agenda; no additional details were recorded.

Vice-President Finance and Operations

1. Finance Update

This item was listed on the agenda; no additional details were recorded.

Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs

1. Winter Hangout Debrief

The Executive noted the Winter Hangout was successful and expressed appreciation to participants and volunteers, including positive outcomes for attendees and their families.

2. Sports Teams

This topic was discussed and recorded under the President's portfolio.

Vice-President External Affairs

1. Role Transition and Venue Planning

The Vice-President External Affairs provided an update on becoming familiar with the portfolio and beginning work to book a venue for GSA Awards Gala 2026.

Vice-President Indigenous Engagement

1. Resource Fair Budget and Funding Eligibility

The Executive discussed estimated Resource Fair costs of approximately \$1,400 and reviewed how costs align with existing allocations for Indigenous-focused initiatives. The Executive discussed drawing from the social budget while longer-term planning continues for Indigenous-specific funding. It was noted some funding applications may be limited where eligibility requires an Indigenous-led organization; the Executive confirmed the GSA is positioned to financially support the event.

Approved by: VP Finance & Operations, President, VP External Affairs & VP Indigenous Engagement, VP Student & Academic Affairs