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.

Executive Meeting Minutes

GSA Commons, February 12th, 5-7pm

In Attendance:

Palash Roy
Lindsay Carlson
Mandela Alema
Sunny Buoy
Laila Valila
Absent:
Lindsay Carlson

Announcements

(None recorded.)

Agenda Items

1. **VP Indigenous Portfolio**

a. **Appointment to the Faith Leadership Council**

a. The Executive discussed the VP Indigenous appointment to the Faith Leadership Council. Concerns were noted that the Council's composition reflects a single faith tradition; Laila Valila agreed with the concern raised previously by the former VP Indigenous.

b. Palash Roy noted the structure of this role can be revisited going forward, while emphasizing the benefit of maintaining a graduate student voice in these discussions. Governance changes were identified as a possible pathway.

b. **Event Obligations for the Role**

c. Laila Valila outlined responsibilities within the portfolio, including an Indigenous-specific event (Cultural Fair).
d. Palash Roy requested that the VP Indigenous draft a budget and propose bylaw/constitution changes for the next AGM.
e. The Executive confirmed support for making Indigenous programming a core and ongoing responsibility within the VP Indigenous role.

c. **Board Game Night (February)**

f. Laila Valila volunteered to organize a board game night in February.
g. Palash Roy requested a draft budget outlining anticipated costs.

d. **GSA Soup and Bannock**

h. The Executive confirmed Soup and Bannock will take place on **February 25th, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**.

2. **Ratified Group Funding Requests**

a. **CMGSS**

a. Approved, contingent on confirmation that the GSA has received required receipts from the group.

b. **WIC**

b. Approved, contingent on confirmation that the GSA has received required receipts from the group.

3. **GSA External December Compensation** *(Action Item)*

a. **Work Prior to January 1, 2026**

a. Palash Roy noted the VP Finance approved a prorated stipend for the interim VP External term (**December 15–31, 2025**) to compensate Sunny Bui for work completed prior to the official start date of the role.

4. **GSA Gala** *(Discussion: date, invitations, sponsorship)*

a. **Date and Timing**

a. The Executive confirmed the Gala date as **Saturday, April 25th**, and noted the deposit has been paid.
b. The Executive discussed timing and noted consideration of a **6:00 PM** start.

b. **Deliverables and Planning Tasks**

c. Sunny Bui noted upcoming deliverables, including finalizing the sponsorship package, confirming the menu, launching Eventbrite, and coordinating graphic design.
d. Executives were asked to notify the VP External of their plus ones.
e. Palash Roy indicated councillors will be offered free tickets.

c. **Eventbrite Registration Detail**

f. Laila Valila requested Eventbrite include an optional question regarding whether attendees self-identify as Indigenous/First Nations/Métis.

d. **Invitations and Stakeholder List**

g. The Executive discussed an invitation list, including the USSU Executive, Scott Moe, the Minister of Education, the Mayor, the Head of the Saskatchewan Police, PEC members (Deans), Library Dean, CGPS Dean, and additional departmental leadership as appropriate.

e. **Executive Support Expectations**

h. Palash Roy emphasized that all executives are expected to support Gala preparations in the weeks leading up to the event given its profile and the importance of maintaining tradition.

f. **GSA Awards (Promotion)**

i. Sunny Bui noted promotional emails are being sent and confirmed the application is live.

5. **GSA Fundraising from Alumni** *(Decision)*

a. **Year-Round Alumni Fundraising Campaign**

   a. Palash Roy proposed running a year-round alumni fundraising campaign targeting alumni graduate students, former GSA executives, and related networks.
   b. The Executive discussed draft slogans and general campaign framing.
   c. Multiple executives expressed interest in having a plan brought forward to guide the campaign and ensure appropriate process.
   d. Mandela Alema requested the Executive proceed carefully and seek guidance through mentorship discussions.
   e. Palash Roy indicated he will speak with Debbie to raise growth-related concerns and will consult the Executive following that discussion.

6. **Setting Date for Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

a. **AGM Date Relative to Gala**

   a. The Executive discussed whether the AGM could be placed closer to the Gala to support attendance.
   b. **No change** was made; the AGM remains scheduled for **Thursday, April 30th at 5:00 PM**.

7. **Childcare Business Plan Update** *(Information)*

a. **Capstone Project Model and Budget**

   a. The Executive discussed the childcare business plan as a capstone project model (three groups with one supervisor), at no cost.
   b. A **$1,000** budget was noted for the business plan and follow-on work contingent on Board of Governors approval.
   c. Palash Roy, Sunny Bui, and Brenna were identified as participants in campus planning discussions.
   d. The Executive noted a new centre may be proposed in addition to a new GSA building.
   e. A proposal is anticipated for submission by July, with further work dependent on approval.

8. **Black History Month and International Mother Language Day** *(Discussion)*

a. **Black History Month (BHM)**

a. The committee meeting date was noted as **February 16th**, and executives were invited to a BHM event.
b. Mandela Alema proposed a platform to recognize five Black scholars in the graduate community on the GSA site.
c. Palash Roy will send Mandela Alema a CGPS contact to support identifying scholars.

b. **International Mother Language Day (IMLD)**

d. Mandela Alema noted the item was not discussed with the Executive prior to the PEC meeting and requested clarification on the GSA's role.
e. The Executive discussed incorporating IMLD into a broader cultural week or series of events.
f. Laila Valila suggested a potluck and a draw as a potential approach.
g. Palash Roy provided context on IMLD and noted consultation occurred via email; he emphasized the diversity of the graduate community and the value of uplifting culture and inclusivity.
h. Laila Valila highlighted the historical and ongoing impacts of language oppression in Saskatchewan, particularly regarding Indigenous languages.

9. Upcoming GSA Council Meeting with President Bruni-Bossi

a. **Operational Notes**

a. The Executive noted all executives should be available one hour prior to the meeting.
b. Attendance was noted as mandatory for councillors; capacity was noted as 99, open to the graduate student population with priority for ratified and social groups.
c. Laila Valila and Sunny Bui will coordinate catering.
d. The Chair will be absent due to an emergency; the Vice Chair will preside.

10. PEC Agendas

a. **Agenda Management and Submission Expectations**

- The Executive discussed the need to submit agenda items earlier and in advance.
- Sunny Bui noted reminder emails were sent regarding adding items to PEC agendas.
- Remaining PEC meetings were noted:

i. **Thursday, March 6 at 8:30 AM** (with USSU)

- Palash Roy indicated he will not submit an agenda item to promote other executives; executives should raise their own items.

ii. **Thursday, April 23 at 8:30 AM** (GSA only)

- One item may be submitted per executive.

11. Holiday Hangout Spendings

a. **Outstanding Expenses and Invoicing**

- Palash Roy inquired with Mandela Alema regarding total expenses and noted coordination with Brenna is required.
- Palash Roy requested Mandela Alema follow up on outstanding departmental expenses and asked that Brenna send invoices to collect payments.

12. Game Night (Laila)

- Laila Valila noted she is reviewing possible dates.

13. Tax Filing Clinic

- Lindsay Carlson indicated the University is locating a tax specialist.

New Action Items

- **Laila Valila** to draft a budget and proposed bylaw/constitution changes for the VP Indigenous portfolio for the AGM.
- **Laila Valila** to draft a budget for the February board game night.
- **Sunny Bui** to finalize Gala deliverables (sponsorship package, menu confirmation, Eventbrite, graphics).
- **All executives** to notify Sunny Bui of plus ones for the Gala.
- **Palash Roy** to send Mandela Alema the CGPS contact to support identifying Black scholars for recognition.
- **Palash Roy** to speak with Debbie regarding alumni fundraising direction and report back to the Executive.
- **Mandela Alema** to follow up on outstanding Holiday Hangout expenses and coordinate with Brenna on invoicing/collections.
- **Laila Valila and Sunny Bui** to coordinate catering for the upcoming Council meeting.

Items for Next Meeting

- Confirmation of dates and budget for **Game Night**.
- Status update on **Holiday Hangout** expense reconciliation and invoice collection.
- Follow-up on **alumni fundraising** campaign planning (after Palash's discussion with Debbie).
- Update on feasibility/next steps for the **childcare business plan** pathway.

Adjournment / Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7PM by Sunny Bui. The next meeting will be held on **February 27, 2026 at 5PM.**

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