



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.*

Executive Meeting on March 12th, 2026

Time: 5pm-7pm, **Location:** Hybrid

<https://www.when2meet.com/?34460284-OLcEI>

Attendance:

Palash Roy
Lindsay Carlson
Laila Valila
Mandela Alema
Sunny Bui

Absent

Context: 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 the GSA can proceed with a complete event programming schedule.

Agenda Items

1. Event Funding Applications (both approved); Lindsay presented both funding applications to the exec.
 - a. [Plant Science GSA](#)
 - b. [WildEcol](#)
- 2) Brenna's request to buy a new vacuum for the Commons - \$600 with tax and ship (APPROVED)
 - a. The GSA Commons is in need of a new vacuum. Laila and Brenna (Operations Manager) have done their due diligence in selecting the best value based on longevity and pricing.
- 3) Investing Update (All executives accept VP Finances & Operations update); Lindsay outlined the investments progress thus far made.

- a. From our investment team at RBC. We picked up the following for GSA (all out of Health and Dental Savings Funds).
 - b. \$85,000 Home Trust Company GIC, maturing July 13, 2026 – yield of 2.793%
 - c. \$56,000 General Bank GIC, maturing February 16, 2027 – yield of 2.929%
 - d. \$94,000 HomeEquity Bank GIC, maturing February 22, 2027 – yield of 2.942%
 - e. \$100,000 Equity Bank GIC, maturing February 22, 2028 – yield of 3.03%
 - f. The remaining balance is currently in daily savings. We will continue to look for suitable options to round out the short-term allocation (out to August 2026 at the latest).
- 4) Red Swan Pizza Sponsor (APPROVED); Sunny presented on the Red Swan Package. Palash moved forward the motion to distribute the discount to other ratified groups. Laila questioned if this would be made available to all graduate students. Sunny explained currently there is no vehicle to get to all the graduate students unless promoted via university channel so it gets tricky, would like to avoid that.
 - a. Discussion about the sponsorship package (provided as supplemental document)
 - b. Discounts will be circulated to Graduate Students at uSask for additional value.
- 5) GSA Awards (Execs accepted this update)
 - a. Sunny briefed on first meeting with Committee and GSA VP Indigenous
 - b. Sunny Requested to reallocate funds for committee engagement on such a short timeline
 - i. President indicated that funds from other committees are unused. Indicates that this is feasible. VP Finance approves budget reorganization
 - c. Sunny gave an updates on awards application numbers
- 6) GSA Gala Updates (Execs accepted this update)
 - a. Sponsorship package is prepared and sent out
 - b. Entertainment (Laila)
 - i. Chesterfield or Ellen Froese bands (both include students on campus)
 - 1. No costs yet, externalities considered; Laila will come back with costs.
 - ii. Playlist has been started by Brenna and Laila
 - c. Approved sponsorships;
 - i. CGPS, CFS, Residence uSask (awaiting for sponsorship package)
 - d. Eventbrite used for attendance, zeffy link is active. Invites have also been distributed to guests. (\$30/ticket) sunny presented on this
 - e. Confirm politicians that should be invited; committee agreed all of these people should be invited.
 - i. Cynthia Block (Mayor of Saskatoon)
 - ii. Scott Moe (Premier of Saskatchewan)
 - iii. Ken Cheveldayoff (Minister of Advanced Education)
 - iv. Carla Beck (Leader of Prov. Opposition, NDP)

- v. Tajinder Grewal (MLA for Saskatoon-Sutherland)
 - vi. Brad Redekopp (MP for Saskatoon West)
 - f. Confirm w/ @Carlson, Lindsay on Car Rental Insurance via GSA CC
 - i. Resolved internally with VP Finance, President and VP External
 - g. Indigenous-related Gala costs (Laila – added to the budget; Sunny)
 - i. Estimations provided, confirmed costs below (do not list \$\$ in final minutes just that the estimates were discussed)
 - 1. Tobacco: \$184.35 for 8 pouches
 - 2. Drumming Group: 1-3 tickets, \$150-\$450 total cost, dependent on Johnny Cross' selection of drummers
 - 3. Elder invitations: 2 tickets
 - 4. Brandi (Anthem): 1 ticket
 - h. MC Recommendations (We discussed and the executive would like to discuss this in more detail)
 - i. Dr. Louise Humbert (suggested by a member of the Awards Committee)
 - ii. Chinelo Uju (4th Year PhD, Veterinary Biomedical Sciences)(suggested by a member of the Awards Committee)
 - iii. Laila will send Sunny a list of MCs
 - i. Budget Approval
 - i. Sunny presented the estimated budget. Palash has expressed he would like to understand the numbers, requested to meet with Sunny separately. Indicated that approval of budget will be handled via email. Sunny will submit a revised budget.
- 7) GSA Student Experience Survey (Sunny) (Approved, need to develop)
- a. Sunny offered the idea of a survey distributed to current and graduating grad students to align objectives for the 2026-2027 academic year
 - b. The Transit questionnaire will be included in this
 - c. Laila recommends a question geared towards Indigenous students to determine what type of events would be the most rewarding and if (verified and non-verified) Indigenous students would like to be more engaged within the GSA
 - i. To avoid concerns from administration, do *not* require students to be verified with the University
- 8) Concerns surrounding Exec approach to PEC/GSA (Laila)
- a. Laila expressed concerns regarding the March 5th event was poorly attended, and limited practical ideas were brought to the discussion. We should coordinate our discussion for April 23rd to ensure all Exec have ideas
 - b. For Indigenous students, I facilitated one on one chats with student leaders to go through their concerns and what we could do; I recommend this format for other Exec – even if through emails
- 9) Senate Report

- a. Executives submit this to Palash by March 25th
- 10) Partnership Request: Campus Community EID Event: The Islamic Dawah Society (USSU Ratified Group) is hosting an Eid Gala on March 22 to celebrate end of Ramadan & support Muslim students away from family during the academic term. Event details: Formal dinner for (80–100 guests), featuring brief speeches, community recognition, networking & photo booth. They are requesting sponsorship partnership with GSA particularly venue support or financial sponsorship. Sponsorship Tiers: Platinum – \$600 or venue equivalent, Gold – \$450 and Silver – \$300.
 - a. Yes - 0
 - b. Yes w/ conditions - 2
 - i. Booking the GSA Commons for free, group will pay the Coordinator salaries
 - c. No – 2
 - d. Vote will depend on VP Finance
- 11) Recognition of Black Graduate Parents: Highlight of challenges, successes and aspirations: Two of the three persons have sent their response with pictures. Plans are underway to publish on the website by next.
 - a. Gifts are to be bought by Mandela and refunded direct deposit when the refund form is submitted
 - b. To come from the discretionary fund of the VP Student and Academic Affairs
- 12) Black Graduate Student Association
 - a. Mandela has engaged a graduate student group to become ratified and will perform his due diligence aligning their paperwork to help with ratification.

Action Items

Upcoming Events/Meetings

March 25th - Council Meeting

March 26th - Executive Meeting

March 29th - GSA Awards Committee Meeting #2

April 2nd - USask General Academic Assembly

April 23rd - PEC/GSA Year-end meeting

April 30th - GSA Annual General Meeting

- i. Sunny will be absent.

Executive Updates

1. President

2. Vice-President Finance and Operations

- a. Event Funding Applications

b. Investment Updates

3. Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs

4. Vice-President External Affairs

5. Vice-President Indigenous Engagement

a. Attending the CFS Indigenous Stand Alone from March 13-15th (Absence)

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