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(s) on Sept 25, 2026
Time: 1:15 PM
Attendance: Laila Valila, Hayley Pelletier, Rozars Faisal, Rupesh Acharya, Sunny Bui
Guests: Nikoo Sarmasti & Prannav Jain

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Announcements
The President welcomed Prannav as the newly elected Council Chair and Nikoo as the newly elected Council Secretary and introduced them to the Executive.

1. Approval of Agenda

a. The Executive reviewed and approved the agenda and order of business.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

a. Executive was asked to review the outstanding executive meeting minutes for release.
   i. August 7, 2026
   ii. August 14th, 2026
   iii. August 26th, 2026
   iv. September 14, 2026

3. Updates (by Position)

a. President — Updates
   i. Governing document revisions arising from the Annual General Meeting.
   ii. Release of the GSA Executive Calendar.
   iii. Monthly PEC agenda submission process.
   iv. Childcare planning through the Strategic Initiatives Committee.
   v. Sponsorship planning for the GSA Gala and Research Conference.
   vi. Holiday Hangout sponsorship outreach.
   vii. Discussions regarding the future of a University childcare facility.

b. Vice-President Finance & Operations — Updates
   i. Presented a budget update.
   ii. Reported that Welcome Week remained internally over budget, while the overall organizational budget remained within approved financial limits.
   iii. Reviewed the event expense approval process requiring invoices or estimates in advance for expenditures over $500.
   iv. Reported that the Operations Manager had begun offering notary services.
   v. Discussed rental inventory and office supplies.

c. Vice-President Academic & Student Affairs — Updates

i. Provided an update on ratification progress before the September 26 deadline.
ii. Reported on Academic Program Committee and Graduate Program Committee activities.
iii. Provided updates regarding student questions and academic matters.
iv. Reported on standing committee planning, particularly the bursary committee.

d. Vice-President External Affairs — Updates

i. Reported that social group information and election results would be updated following completion of the ratification period.
ii. Provided an update on outreach to U15 graduate student associations.
iii. Reported on venue research for the 2027 Gala.
iv. Discussed upcoming Halloween programming and the sensory-friendly therapy dog event.

e. Vice-President Indigenous Engagement — Updates

i. Provided updates on Soup and Bannock planning.
ii. Reported on Tea and Elder Teachings planning.
iii. Provided an update on Christmas Bingo planning.
iv. Reported on Speed-Friending planning with ISSAC.
v. Discussed the Gordon Oakes meeting.
vi. Reviewed National Truth and Reconciliation Day programming and communications.

4. Action Items Follow-Up

- Ratification follow-up.
- Engineering graduate student software installation.
- Governing document revisions.
- Executive Calendar.
- PEC agenda submissions.
- Standing committee recruitment.
- Pumpkin Patch planning.
- Gordon Oakes follow-up.
- Soup and Bannock planning.
- Tea and Elder Teachings funding.
- Christmas Bingo planning.
- Speed-Friending planning.

5. Event Funding Applications

- No event funding applications requiring Executive approval were brought forward.

6. Major Discussion / Decision Items

a. Graduate Academic Awards Committee Representation

- Discussed representation on College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies committees.
- The Vice-President Indigenous Engagement confirmed willingness to serve on the Graduate Academic Awards Committee to provide an Indigenous perspective.
- Discussed committee representation requirements and future appointments.

b. Mental Health Chats Event

- The Executive reviewed the proposed Mental Health Chats event, including programming and the revised budget.
- A modified event budget, including participant gift cards, was approved.

c. National Truth and Reconciliation Day

- The Executive discussed National Truth and Reconciliation Day programming such as:
  - promoting campus events; attending the SaskTel Centre Pow Wow;
  - social media communications; wearing orange and green shirts;
  - sharing event information with graduate students.

d. Pumpkin Patch Event — October 17

- ISAC transportation sponsorship;
- event pricing; participant registration; promotional timeline; and final budget considerations.
- The event planning continued pending final confirmation of transportation support.

e. Soup and Bannock Event — November 4

- Received an update regarding event organization and payment arrangements.
- Noted that a pre-signed cheque would be prepared once an invoice had been received.

f. Tea and Elder Teachings Event — November 20

- The Executive received an update on planning.
- Robert Doucette and Julie were confirmed as presenters, subject to final sponsorship arrangements.

g. University Childcare Opportunity

- The Executive discussed information regarding the possible closure of a University daycare facility.
- Discussion included: potential opportunities should the space become available;
- concerns regarding the cooperative governance model; volunteer parent requirements;
- capacity to meet graduate student childcare needs; and whether further exploration should occur if the University Students' Union declined to assume responsibility.
- No decision was made.

7. Other Business

a. Ratification

- Reviewed progress toward completion of academic and social group ratification and discussed creation of a master spreadsheet of academic councils.

b. Standing Committees

- Discussed establishing standing committees earlier in the Fall term and beginning recruitment through current Council members.
- Priority was placed on forming the Bursary Committee.

c. Executive Communications

- The President clarified that Executive members are not responsible for taking meeting minutes and reviewed communication pathways between Council and the Executive.

8. New Action Items

a. Chair

- Work with the President and Secretary to update the GSA Constitution.
- Review and approve Executive Meeting minutes within five days in accordance with the Constitution.

- Begin formation of all standing committees during October, beginning with outreach to current councillors.

b. President

- Complete and circulate the updated Constitution.
- Finalize and release the Executive Calendar.
- Submit the PEC agenda by September 30.
- Continue discussions regarding the childcare initiative.
- Complete the Gala and Research Conference sponsorship package.
- Confirm Chair and Secretary attendance at the Soup and Bannock event.
- Complete the Gordon Oakes availability poll.
- Coordinate National Truth and Reconciliation Day communications with the Vice-President External Affairs.
- Send the next request for PEC agenda items.
- Continue monitoring the University daycare opportunity.

c. Vice-President Finance & Operations

- Send the Chair's committee budget.
- Prepare a pre-signed cheque for the Soup and Bannock event.
- Finalize the revised Mental Health Chats budget.
- Finalize Pumpkin Patch pricing.
- Follow up with ISSAC regarding transportation sponsorship.
- Add Holiday Hangout to the next Executive agenda.
- Reply to the PEC agenda request.
- Add portfolio capacity discussion to the next agenda.
- Vice-President Academic & Student Affairs
- Contact current Bursary Committee members regarding continued participation.
- Report committee vacancies to the Chair.
- Delegate meetings occurring after 2:00 p.m. during periods of absence.

d. Vice-President External Affairs

- Update social group information following ratification.
- Continue Gala venue research.
- Release Halloween social media communications on October 1.
- Continue ratification follow-up and update the academic council master spreadsheet.

e. Vice-President Indigenous Engagement

- Submit the Soup and Bannock invoice.
- Promote the National Truth and Reconciliation Day Powwow.
- Join the Graduate Academic Awards Committee.
- Begin Christmas Bingo planning in mid-October.
- Continue Speed-Friending planning with ISSAC.
- Finalize the Gordon Oakes meeting.
- Coordinate National Truth and Reconciliation Day communications.

9. Items for Next Meeting

- Holiday Hangout planning.
- Standing committee formation.
- University childcare opportunity.
- Gala sponsorship.
- Ratification summary.
- Christmas Bingo planning.

- Speed-Friending planning.
- Mental Health Chats event.
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day follow-up.
- Constitution revisions.

8. Upcoming Meetings / Dates
- September 26 — Ratification deadline.
- September 30 — National Truth and Reconciliation Day.
- October 1 — CGPS Faculty Council.
- October 9 — Mental Health Chats.
- October 16 — Executive Meeting.
- October 17 — Pumpkin Patch Event.
- October 17 — University of Saskatchewan Senate.
- October 21 — President ACL Surgery.
- October 23 — Sensory-Friendly Therapy Dog Event.
- October 23 — Soup and Bannock volunteer confirmation deadline.
- October 26 — Executive Meeting.
- October 29 — Halloween Event.
- November 4 — Soup and Bannock.
- November 20 — Tea and Elder Teachings.
- December 14 — Christmas Bingo.
- December 27–28 — Holiday Hangout.
- February 10/12 — Tentative Speed-Friending Event.

9. Adjournment / Next Meeting
Adjournment: 2:23 by VP External Affairs. Second by: VP Student & Academic Affairs
Next Executive Meeting: October 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

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