



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

Course Council Meeting

March 18, 2010 4:30 pm at the GSA Commons

AGENDA

Present: Andrew Cameron, Sara Chow, Tamira Delgerjav, Melissa Driessnack, Devin Ens, Janice Gelech, Meghan Goertzen, Amanda Hunter, Stefan Jackowski, Tyler Judd, Shazia Khan, Ian Larsen, Laura Larsen, Nikki Leavins, Maria Mampe, Eamon McDermoh, John McLead, Mohamed Mohamed, Michelle Scott, Heather Touet, Janice Victor, June Yang

1 Call to Order

4:35 pm

2 Approval of Agenda

Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Brian Laird / Ian, Carried unanimously.

3 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes dated February 24 be approved as circulated.

Brian Laird /Devin Ens, Carried unanimously.

4 Ratification of New Course Councilors

Motion: Be it resolved that we accept the ratification of new course council members.

Sarah Chow / Janice Victor, Carried unanimously.

5 Updates and Executive Reports (see the attached documents)

5.1 President

Nich wasn't present, but his report was circulated.

5.2 VP Operations and Administration

5.3 GSA Commons Operations Report

5.4 VP Finance

5.5 VP Academic

5.6 VP Aboriginal Students Representative

Omeasoo wasn't present, but her report was circulated.

5.7 VP External

5.8 VP Student Affairs

6 Announcements and Reminders

6.1 The nomination period for both the GSA executive and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Council is March 19 to 26. The nomination period will be extended by one week for positions with no nominees. See Appendices I and II for details.

6.2 The GSA is hiring another commons coordinator. See Appendix III.

6.3 The next course council meeting will be April 15 at the GSA commons. This will serve as both a course council meeting and an annual general meeting. Course council meeting dates are posted at <http://gsa.usask.ca/main/about-gsa/gsa-council/>

7 Adjourn

5:43 pm

Amanda Hunter/ Brian Laird, Carried unanimously



Graduate Students' Association

Course Council Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2010 4:30 pm, Grad Students' Commons

Present:

Kirsten Allen, Julie Anderson, Genevieve Braganza, Lorin Briend, Omeasoo Butt, Sara Chow, Leah Clark, Stephanie Danyluk, Edgar David, Andre Doucette, Dennis Duro, Devin Ens, Janelle Fohse, Nicholas Fraser, Jessica Grant, Amanda Hunter, Shazia Khan, Raymond Kwong, Ian Larsen, Laura Larsen, Maria Mampe, Arron Metcalfe, Mohamed Mohamed, Matthew Munson, Jessica Patrucco, Ross Phillips, Spike Posnikoff, Serene Smyth, Emma Turner, Janice Victor, June Yang, Dan Zhao, Zabrina Zoerb

1 Call to Order

4:40 pm

2 Approval of Agenda

Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as read.

Emma Turner / Ross Phillips, Carried unanimously

3 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes dated January 21, 2010 be approved as read.

Shazis Khan / Omeasoo Butt, Carried unanimously

4 Ratification of New Course Councilors

Motion: Be it resolved that we accept the ratification of new course council members.

Matt Munson / Nicholas Fraser, Carried unanimously

5 Student Care Renewal Analysis (Amanda Smytaniuk, Studentcare– Appendix I)

Amanda Hunter presented in Amanda Smytaniuk's absence

Motion: Be it resolved that the GSA maintain its current fees of \$186.80 for health coverage and \$153.71 for dental coverage, allowing for an increase in vision coverage and to replenish the reserve fund.

Amanda Hunter / Omeasoo Butt, Carried unanimously

6 Updates and Executive Reports (see the attached documents)

6.1 President

Tuition Discussion:

Does the CGSR still use the argument that international institutions view us as a “bargain bin university”?

The CGSR haven’t ever made a public statement to that effect, but still use that as justification in colloquial conversation.

Using the justification that the increase would be used to increase scholarships and bursaries is not fair and just.

One consideration is that international students consume more resources from the university as more one-on-one time is required. One example is that they often take longer to complete their programs.

If international students are taking longer, then they are paying more tuition in the long run. How is it that they consume more resources?

The university is now in a difficult position with budgeting. Quality is/will go down. How are they integrating the idea of enhancing the student experience into the plan for a tuition increase? Sessional lecturer positions, TA positions are being cut, causing reduced quality of instruction.

No one is accepting responsibility for making decisions about tuition increases. They are only “making recommendations”.

Tuition is a small part of the operating budgets. The university needs resources to come from somewhere. Resisting tuition increases leaves the university in a position to seek more corporate sponsorship.

Canadians have been paying into Canadian/provincial taxes, which in turn are used to subsidize Canadian education. International students haven’t.

7 Changes to Academic Misconduct Policies (Dr. Lea Pennock, University Secretary –

Appendix II)

7.1 VP Operations and Administration

Would course councilors respond to and circulate a survey about potential commons programming?

Yes!

7.2 VP Finance

7.3 VP Academic

7.4 VP Student Affairs

7.5 VP External

8 Tuition Position Statement (Appendix IV)

Our primary objective is to go to 0 tuition? We need an action plan or this will seem like an elaborate dream. Is there potential for such a plan to be developed?

What is the intent / how will this be used? It will be circulated on campus and publicly available.

Our minister of education is fundamentally opposed to this model. Is there a way that this could go to minister Rob Norris?

Yes. We are a non-profit corporation and can lobby with 10% of our budget.

9 VP Aboriginal (Appendix V)

Motion: Be it resolved that council creation exec position for VP aboriginal students representative with the duties outlined in the call for nominations.

Nicholas Fraser / Laura Larson

How will aboriginal ancestry be defined or determined? Does Metis count as aboriginal?

For the purpose of this position, anyone who would come forward with this would have a vested interest in the mandate of this position. This would be covered in the AGSA constitution, and we are not going to question this at this time.

Carried unanimously.

Only a nomination for Omeasoo Butt was submitted.

Motion: BIRT that council approve the appointment of Omeasoo Butt to the position of Vice President Aboriginal Students Representative

Nicholas Fraser / Shazia Khan, Carried unanimously

10 Bus Pass referendum (note Appendix VI)

We are inquiring about the possibility of having a staff, faculty and grad student pass, allowing greater bargaining power with Saskatoon Transit.

Could we request that Saskatoon transit offer the semester pass in the summer?

11 Requests for Volunteers

11.1 Computer science (or equally internet savvy) student is required to help with the website. What we need:

- re-direct the old website to the new one. The old one still comes up in a Google search.
 - This will change only with time as the new site is used more.
- Help to set up paypal or equivalent for the conference on intellectual property in academia through the website.
 - The executive has the know how to take care of this.

12 Announcements and Reminders

12.1 Elections:

Nomination period for President, VP Operations, VP Finance, VP Student Affairs, VP Academic and VP External will be March 16-26 with election to be held on April 2 and 9.

12.2 The next course council meeting will be March 18 at the grad commons. Course council meeting dates are posted at <http://gsa.usask.ca/main/about-gsa/gsa-council/>

13 Adjourn

6:36 pm

Emma Turner / Matt Munson



President's Report – March 18, 2010

I regret to report that I will be absent from this month's course council meeting as I am away in Victoria completing fieldwork for my research. This is an important council meeting and I encourage you all very strongly to attend. This is the last council meeting before the General Meeting and it is an opportunity that should be taken by council and the exec both. For the Council it is an opportunity to encourage action in specific areas, and request information be presented on a number of issues – such as transit – as was requested at the last council meeting. This is also an opportunity for the executive to provide council with FYI and important information for the General Meeting – information that may be used to set the pace and direction for the GSA in upcoming years; particularly in areas such as budget and resource allocation.

The GSA is also entering into the nomination period for the GSA Executive. I encourage all council members to consider standing for a position. It is a very rewarding and engaging experience that is beneficial to the university and graduate students, but also provides the opportunity for personal growth and professional development. If you choose not to step forward for a position please think about the direction that you want the GSA to move in. What is a priority for you as a student and your department as member councils? What personal traits and attributes do you want in an executive? Encourage your peers to stand for positions – it is important that we have strong student leaders to work with the administration on ongoing and arising issues. And finally – vote and encourage other students to vote online on PAWS when the time comes.

Meeting of the Western Graduate Students Associations – Feb 26 – 27, Regina

Meeting with University of British Columbia Graduate Students Society and the University of Regina Graduate Students Association (U of M had to cancel). This was the first meeting and the intention was to fill the void in representation of Western Graduate Students in the broader dialogue of student issues and priorities. Topics discussed were:

- Participation in representative associations
- Childcare
- Affordable Housing
- Autonomy (URGSA is still under the undergrad association)
- Immigration
- Scholarships and Funding
- Tuition

The meetings were very engaging, very successful and are a starting point for this dialogue. The next meeting will be taking place at UBC in August 2010.

Other Activities

- Graduate Residence Project
- Engaging the University on issues of natural justice and equity in the new academic and non-academic appeals process
- Daily Business of the GSA and GSA Commons
- Assisting in the constitutional review – of issues relating to my portfolio
- Working to get the GSA a non-voting seat on the Board of Governors
 - Voting seat is not allowed for based on the legislation governing the board
 - Only student representation is the USSU President
- General committee work



VP Operations and Administration Report – March 18, 2010

The majority of my time has been spent overseeing the operations and staffing of the grad commons. Programming and operations procedures are being developed. Please forward feedback and suggestions to gsa.opad@usask.ca.

Bottled Water Campaign: World Water Day

- World water day: March 22
 - Educational booths in the Arts Tunnel by Oxfam, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Turning the Tide bookstore and Better than Bottled group.
 - 4:00 pm at the GSA Commons: Presentation by Alina Siegfried on her 25L per day water conservation challenge followed by the documentary Blue Gold

Meetings

- Western Canadian Graduate Students' Associations meeting in Regina. February 26 and 27
- Presidents' executive meeting
- College of Graduate Studies and Research Meeting
- SEEQ advisory Committee meeting (on behalf of Nich). March 12
- Met with a candidate for AVP Communications for the University. This was an opportunity to provide feedback to the university about what is required of this new role and what we think of each candidate. We will be meeting with three more potential candidates in the weeks to come.
- Graduate Student Affairs: March 16

Other Activities

- Many shifts at the graduate commons.
- Working on an operations manual for the grad commons and other GSA policies.
- Coordinating meetings.
- Preparation of agenda and reports for council.



GSA Commons Operations Report – March 18, 2010

Usage:

January (18th to 29th: 10 days): 135 persons, an average of 13 persons per day.

February (2nd to 26th: 19 days): 374 persons, an average of 19 persons per day.

Usage for Departmental Events: 3 times (January to February) by English (once) and Animal Science (twice) Departments.

Events:

Past

- Feb 4th, Documentary Night
- Feb 11th, Multi Faith Ceremony
- Feb 12th, Ethnomixicology Evening
- Feb 18th, Movie Night; Farris Bueller's Day Off
- Feb 21st, Rights and Democracy Network, Conference of Indigenous People Rights Internationally
- **March 8th, Saskatoon Footlights: Comedy Workshop for Actors and Writers**
- **March 9th, Role Model Lecture, Department of History; a talk entitled "Aboriginal Culture and Tradition in a Global World."**
- **March 14th, Ides of March: A Night of Ancient and Medieval Trivia, Museum of Antiquities**
- **March 18th, Career Workshop: Developing your Networking Techniques, Career Centre**

Upcoming: See website events calendar and news postings for details.

- **March 22nd, World Water Day: Alina Siegfried discusses her water conservation challenge followed by the documentary Blue Gold. 4:00 pm**
- March 25th, Commons Coffee House
- Graduate Book Club, still in the works
- April 1st, GSA Residence Design Meeting
- April 12th, Saskatoon Footlights: Comedy Workshop for Actors and Writers
- April 16th, Spring Sizzler

Website additions:

- Commons Tab; Bookings, Displaying Art, Programming, Renovations
- Continuing updates to the Events and News tabs



VP Finance Report – March 18, 2010

- The statement of operations to date is shown at the end of the report.
- The cheque for GSA, CFS and Health and Dental fees for Term 2-2009/10 is to be received from the University on the week of 15th March 2010. No explanation was offered for the delay. I have asked studentnet.net/works to push the deadline for their payout until we receive the cheque. The amount to be paid is \$242,551.55.
- GSA has received two donations, each \$500, for the upcoming conference.
- Course councilors are urged again to pick their cheques and **deposit** them within **6 months**.
- I will be representing GSA in choosing the recipient President's Service Award.

Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Revenues

	Proposed 2009	Current
GSA Fees	\$ 110,100.00	\$ 57,956.80
CFS Fees	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,894.66
Health and Dental Fees	\$ 420,000.00	\$ 466,030.18 Interest
Income	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
GSA Orientation	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 1,608.00
CFS Handbook	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,130.00
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 553,350.00</u>	<u>\$ 537,619.64</u>

Expenses

Audit	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Bursary	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
CAGS Conference	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
CFS Conference	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,495.91
CFS Handbook	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,367.10
CFS Fees	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,894.66
Charitable Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Course Council Funding	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,805.37
Entertainment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,413.11
GSA Orientation	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 4,047.16
Health and Dental Plan Premiums	\$ 420,000.00	\$ 289,876.92
Honoraria	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 20,416.50
Property Insurance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,407.95
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 297.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,959.66
Office	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,378.00
President/Student Fund	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Reinvested interest	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Bank Charges	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Subscriptions	\$ 400.00	\$ 20.00
Wages - Office Administrator	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 13,855.67
Operating cost – Wireless Internet System	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Operating cost – Media equipment	\$ 700.00	\$ -
Equipment renewal	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Computer renewal	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 553,350.00</u>	<u>\$ 372,298.01</u>

NB:

Numbers that are not in bold in each the proposed column 2009 should add up to \$110,100



VP Academic's Report – March 18, 2010

Regular Committee Meetings:

- Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee
 - Presentation on programs review process: Dr. Martz explained protocols to be implemented for cyclical review of graduate programs to ensure quality and Tri-Council funding regulation adherence.
- Academic Programs Committee
 - Discussion of Learning Charter. Will discuss with Council.

Academic Advocacy

Three active cases.

Spring Conference Planning

We have volunteers, but they have little to do until we get SUBMISSIONS.

We can also use more volunteers. "Getting the word out" is the next stage of planning.

"Intellectual Property and the Academy"

an interdisciplinary graduate conference to be held

May 12-14, 2010 at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

Conference participants, through individual presentations, posters, and a panel discussion will discuss the nature of intellectual property as it pertains to the practices and goals of academia. Since all scholars produce intellectual work, this topic is of interdisciplinary interest and will address issues from all disciplines, such as patenting, publishing, programming, open access, open source, co-authorship, public-private partnerships, works of art, the relation of sponsorship to ownership, the autonomy of scholarship, the products of intellectual labour, and whether knowledge should be considered a public good or a commercial commodity.

Submissions are welcome from graduate students in all areas of study, and may be discipline-specific or address the topic from a broader perspective.

Presenters will be given half an hour or an hour, according to their preference, followed by 15 or 20 minutes for questions and discussion.

To submit, send a 100-150 word abstract to gsa.conference@usask.ca by March 15th. Also indicate your field of study and whether you will need half an hour or an hour if accepted.

Late submissions will be considered.

24-Hour Arts

Have pressured FMD for our keys. They promise "a couple of weeks" and cite unforeseen logistical and budgetary complications as the causes of the delay.

Graduate Student employment rate

Following discussions with the Executive of the University and that of CGSR, asked the Board of Governors at their Annual Public Reporting event about Teaching Assistant wages. Was informed that the Board had met that morning and agreed to a "significant increase" in TA wages. Awaiting details.



VP Aboriginal Students Representative Report – March 18, 2010

Indigenous Graduates Students Council Planning

Phone meeting with Tasha Hubbard, original AGSA founder

Met with Charlotte Ross, Academic Advisor and holder of AGSA documents, reviewed documents.

Sent out e-mails campus wide to any faculty, staff and student about the upcoming election and information meeting. Information can be found on the GSA website.

Designed the positions on the council and changed name from Aboriginal to Indigenous.

Meetings

Since February 25 I have attended and participated in:

Western Canadian Universities Graduate Students Associations' first Annual meeting

USSU, GSA and Presidents' Breakfast Meeting

Events for Aboriginal Awareness week at the University: ISC Meet and Greet, Wanda McAslin talk, Aboriginal Business Students' Steak Night

Cyndy Bermingham, Program Manager for the LYNX Aboriginal Student Career & Employment Program

Hiring Meet and Greet for the Associate VP Communications candidates



VP External's Report – March 18, 2010

Constitutional Review Committee

My work has been focused on the Constitutional Review Committee work. I have recommendations in from the executive and met with the committee yesterday. After further review of the constitution the document needs significantly more work than I had previously anticipated. To bring this document up to the standards outlined within the Non-Profit Corporations Act it may need a complete rewrite. I will work diligently to update the constitution so it is a functional document for this organization. When I draft comes out I would ask people read through it and bring concerns to me before the general meeting approval so they can be addressed before the meeting. I gladly welcome everyone's opinion but at the same time I don't want the general meeting to run longer than needed so I strongly encourage you raise concerns beforehand.

Also, if you have any recommendations for the constitution please let me know.

Conference

A western school conference was held in Regina in late February. The other executive will have to speak to this because I was sick and was unable to attend, although the meeting did fall within my responsibilities.

CFS News

The University of Regina undergraduate students association is holding an election this month to defederate from CFS. This will have huge implications in terms of the representation this university receives. With the issues happening at the First Nations University there is the possibility the U of S may soon be the only member of the CFS in Saskatchewan. I will keep a close eye on this situation and let you know as soon as anything develops.



VP Student Affairs' Report – March 18, 2010

To Be Distributed at the Meeting



Appendix I.

GSA Executive Call for Nominations

The Graduate Students' Association will be seeking nominations from 9:00 a.m. March 19 to 4:30 p.m. March 26, 2010 for the positions of President, Vice President Finance, Vice President Student Affairs, Vice President Academic, Vice President Operations and Administration and Vice President External. The term in office will be from May 1 2010 to April 30 2011.

Nomination forms are to be submitted in person to the GSA commons (the Emmanuel and St. Chad Building) in a sealed and signed envelope. Nomination forms are available at the GSA commons or on the GSA website. See the GSA constitution for detailed descriptions of the positions and election procedures. All are encouraged to inquire with current executives about their roles.

Please contact Amanda Hunter, Vice President Operations and Administration for more information about the election at gsa.opad@usask.ca or 966-8471.



Appendix II.

Indigenous Graduate Students' Council Executive Call for Nominations

The Indigenous Graduate Students' Council will be seeking nominations from 9:00 a.m. March 19 to 4:30 p.m. March 26, 2010 for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Space Organizer, 4 Events Planners, and 7 Managers. The term in office will be from May 1 2010 to April 30 2011.

Nomination forms are to be submitted in person to the GSA commons (the Emmanuel and St. Chad Building) in a sealed and signed envelope. Nomination forms are available at the GSA commons or on the GSA website.

Please contact Omeasoo Butt, Vice President Aboriginal Students' Representative for more information about the election at gsa.aboriginal@usask.ca or 966-8471.



Appendix III.

Job Posting: Commons Coordinator

The GSA will be accepting applications for a Commons Coordinator until March 24, 2010.

The position will require 10-12 hours per week on a casual basis. Hours are flexible and some evening and weekend work will be required. The GSA Commons Coordinators are responsible for coordinating academic, social and professional development activities for the GSA commons, oversee daily operations and administrative tasks as assigned. The successful candidate will be organized, self directed, creative, have clear communication skills and knowledge of student issues. The new commons coordinator will work alongside two existing casual commons coordinators and in collaboration with the GSA office administrator under the direction of the VP Operations and Administration.

Applications will include a cover letter and resume and can be submitted:

- in person to the GSA Commons (Emmanuel St. Chad Building, 1337 College Dr.)
- by email to gsa.opad@usask.ca
- by mail
 - o attn: VP Operations and Administration
 - o Graduate Students' Association
 - o Room 65 Place Riel
 - o 1 Campus Drive Saskatoon SK
 - o S7N 5A3.

Direct Inquiries to VP Operations and Administration, Amanda Hunter at gsa.opad@usask.ca.