

# Graduate Students' Association Course Council Meeting Agenda



University of Saskatchewan  
Thursday October 18, 2012  
5:00 P.M - 7:00 P.M  
GSA Commons

**1.0 Call to Order: 5:04PM**

**2.0 Approval of Agenda Moved: John and Fred Sage**

**3.0 Approval of last meeting Minutes**

**3.1 Add Engineering course council as a ratified group**

**3.2 Moved by Sarah Purdy, seconded by Cinnati Loi**

**4.0 Ratification of new Course Councils**

**4.1 No new course councils to ratify**

**5.0 Ratification of new Course Councillors**

**5.1 Samel Alara, Gale Hagblom, Adrian Hunt, Julien Kimmig, Sara Worsham, Kurt Woytiuk, Phillip Lashly, Rajat Chakravarty, Layla Gould, Aston Reimer, David Edgar Lelei, Rita Orji, Amic Abolhassomi, Jessical Prescott, Sabbir Abn Arman, Adeola Olubmiji, Omeasoo Butt, Sara Kuleza**

**5.2 Moved by Sarah, seconded by John**

**6.0 Presentation from Amanda Smytaniuk – Health and Dental**

- Electronic version attached
- All info about benefits listed on website
- All universities now have some sort of extended benefits plan
- Biggest difference between this and employer's plan – employers subsidize cost
- About 75% of grad students use this
- Coverage: Health, vision, dental, travel (travel back to home country for international student not included)
- This year, 74% grad students enrolled, this year there were an extra 200 students
- Nov. Deadline for ending of last year's claims
- Jan will be negotiation and change phase

**7.0 VP Student Affairs Report**

**8.0 VP External Report**

**9.0 Aboriginal Liaison Report**

**10.0 VP Academics Report**

**11.0 VP Operations and Administration Report**

**12.0 VP Finance Report**

**13.0 Presidents' report**

- November course council meeting will be dedicated to a strategy plan
- upass: deal that we want is similar to the USSU

**Discussion**

- **Will it [UPASS] be by terms or all year? – all year**
- **Will students that leave town be able to opt-out?**
- **November will have a report on progress of upass**

**14.0 Motion**

WHEREAS the GSA constitution requires a financial audit to be completed each fiscal year,  
and

WHEREAS the GSA constitution requires Course Council approval of a 2/3 majority to  
appoint and auditor,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Course Council approve hiring Ross Breen, CA, to conduct the  
Audit for the GSA 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Moved by John Mcleod, seconded by Sarah Purdy

Motion passed

**15.0 Questions and answers**

**16.0 Next Course Council meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 5 – 7PM**

**17.0 Adjournment**

**18.0 John moved to Adjourn**

## OCTOBER EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### 1) VP STUDENT AFFAIRS

- **Student Residences**
- I have been working on having a meeting with the residence management to talk about how best to improve the graduate student experience at the university residences. A series of meetings are scheduled next week.
- **Graduate student welfare:** I have been handling several graduate student cases involving personal issues that I am not allowed to share in this forum. I managed to handle the issues to completion and was satisfied by the results that we came up with. The names of the respective students are withheld due to privacy issues.
- **On Campus News.**
- I have attended the On Campus News Advisory board meeting last week. We came up with strategies for reaching more audience for this university newspaper and ways to expand its readership. As most of you have noticed, they have begun sending online links to the newspaper to university staff and students.
- **Recruitment of Course council:** We have continued to encourage more graduate departments and students to join course councils and be represented at our course council. This helps increase the number of course councils and also increase our student reach and representation. The campaign goes on.

### 2) VP EXTERNAL

- Need to strike 2 committees
  - sign up will be in the back of the room along with the terms of being on each committee
  - Awards Night
  - Constitution Review and Editing
- Halloween Pub Night Oct. 31st
- No update from committees as the meetings have not yet occurred for October
- CFS student saver cards status - delayed due to lack of resources to confirm contracts and distribute from Regina. We will not pay the monthly fees until the cards are delivered as they are one of the major benefits for our graduate students.

### 3) ABORIGINAL LIAISON

- The Aboriginal and Indigenous Graduate Student Council (AIGSC) has been preparing for our first event. This event will be held on November 1, 2012 at the Aboriginal Student Centre from 4 PM to 6 PM. Please encourage your fellow Aboriginal / Indigenous Graduate Students to attend, this a very informal event to meet other Aboriginal students and provide a sense of community on campus.
- The AIGSC will also be attending the Remembrance Day activities to pay our respect to those who have served our country.
- Lastly, we will be hosting a pot-luck / feast in December.

- The AIGSC will be utilizing this year to regroup, strategize and renew our membership. We always welcome new members to our council and our next meeting is November 6, 2012. Find us on facebook and search “Indigenous Graduates’ Student Council”!!! Again, please share my contact information with your fellow Aboriginal/Indigenous students.

#### **4) VP ACADEMICS**

Report will be delivered at the meeting.

#### **5) VP FINANCE**

Report will be delivered at the meeting.

#### **6) VP OPERATIONS and ADMINISTRATION**

##### **Fall Bursaries**

- Call out was sent and applications are slowly coming in. Deadline is October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- We have received many applications and will be reviewing them after the deadline.
- For those interested in being on the reviewing committee, please sign-up at the October Course Council meeting (forms in the back).

#### **7) PRESIDENT**

##### **Update on Childcare Expansion Project**

On October 17, 2012, the Childcare Expansion Steering Committee forwarded a final draft proposal to the Provost Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) for approval before sending it to the Board of Governors for Board I approval at its October meeting. In the draft, approval was recommended for the preliminary project location, program, design, schedule, capital (\$4,800,000) and operating (\$122,500 per year) budgets for the Childcare Expansion Project; and that approval of the preliminary requirements for the Childcare Expansion Project to continue to the next stage of the project development be granted.

The recommendation first went to PCIP, which is responsible for approving which major projects are forwarded to the Board. PCIP considered the project at its meeting in the first week of October. Subsequently, PCIP decided that the project will not proceed to the Board at this time, primarily because it was felt that some additional information related to the project needed to be pulled together before the proposal is forwarded to the Board. In particular, PCIP has requested the following information from the Project Team:

1. Information regarding University Advancement’s fundraising strategy, initial thoughts on the rollout of the fundraising campaign, and on the likelihood of fundraising that may occur;
2. Key dates in the document;
3. Information on how the costs of the project compares to other childcare spaces (i.e. are the costs higher or lower, and why?)

In addition, PCIP needs to determine what resources it might have available to provide the University's financial support for this project, considering the University's commitments to other important capital projects.

The implication of this development is that the implementation of the project would delay. With the current underserving childcare spaces on campus, graduate students with demand for childcare spaces on campus might have to remain on the waiting line unless the GSA come up with an alternative plan.

### **UPASS Steering Committee**

The UPASS Steering Committee met sometime this month and identified areas of strengths and weaknesses should the GSA decide to join the scheme. We articulated GSA's position for a deal with Saskatoon Transit. A meeting has been scheduled with representatives of Saskatoon Transit. Many thanks to the Course Councillors that volunteered to be members of this committee.

### **Graduate Retention Program**

We are currently negotiating with the Saskatchewan Governments to include graduates with M.Sc and Ph.D in the provincial Graduate Retention Program. Currently, only graduates from the undergraduate programs are entitled to a \$20,000 tuition rebate. The university management has also promised to talk to the provincial government about it.

### **Activities/Meetings Attended in October 2012:**

- 2-3 Student Academic Hearing
- 4 Student Forum
- 9 Executive Student Forum meeting; UPASS Committee meeting
- 10 Planning and Priority Committee meeting; Graduate Council meeting
- 11 GSA Executive Meeting
- 15 Meeting with a graduate student to talk about Graduate Retention Program
- 18 College of Graduate Studies and Research Executive meeting; University Council meeting
- 19 Senate Round Table on Outreach and Engagement; Search Committee for the University Secretary
- 20 Senate Meeting
- 22 Interdisciplinary Committee
- 24 Planning and Priorities Committee; UPASS Committee meeting with Saskatoon Transit
- 25 Divisional Graduate Reception; GSA Executive meeting
- 26 Convocation Reception at the President's Place
- 27 Fall Convocation at TCU
- 30 Childcare Expansion Project Steering Committee meeting
- 31 College Quarter Graduate Student Residence Project Steering Committee meeting; Planning and Priorities Committee meeting.