

## Graduate Students' Association

Meeting – Mar. 21, 2017

### OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order @ 4:30pm
2. Remarks from the Chair
  - a. Elections
3. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Motion – Ziad
  - b. Seconded by Beeta
  - c. Carried

### CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: To approve and/or receive for information by consent items 4 and 5 below

4. Minutes from the 28 February, 2017 Council Meeting
5. Reports from the Executive, *ad hoc* Sustainability, and Executive Committee
  - a. Seconded by Iloradanon
  - b. Comments: Beeta was not present at meeting, but it was noted that she was
    - i. Iloradanon was noted as absent, but she was present
  - c. Carried

### REGULAR AGENDA

6. Presentation on University Planning: Provost's Advisory Committee on Integrated Planning
  - a. Want to hear what goals the GSA has for the committee
  - b. Seeking feedback from various groups and planning to start a survey
  - c. Theme descriptions – handout provided
  - d. What goals do you think will drive us to achieve our Mission and Vision?
  - e. Where/what/who does the U of S want to be in the next decade in our main areas of activity – T&L, R&D, O&E, and Operational Excellence?
    - i. U of S's position on re-investing responsibly – not investing in fossil fuel industries
    - ii. U of S's strategy for Indigenizing ties into Sustainability
    - iii. More research funding, more support for faculty to get research funding
    - iv. More support and funding for international students who come with family

- v. Increase TA pay rates as a tangible goal
  - vi. Internationalization – McGill doesn't have fees for international students
  - vii. Media Recognition – better promotion of our successes and achievements
  - viii. Encouraging collaboration, interdisciplinarity, connectivity.
  - ix. Reach out to the global and local community – outreach and engagement
  - f. The Committee agreed to send Council a semi-final draft of the plan
  - g. Contact: Konrad.andre@usask.ca
7. Report of the President
- a. President's Update
    - i. Student-supervisor agreement
      - 1. Had great feedback
      - 2. In 2 weeks, a final guideline will be submitted to CGPS
    - ii. Summer UPASS
      - 1. Asked for a meeting with Transit, request has not been answered yet
    - iii. Events
      - 1. 3-minute thesis next week, 60 participants! Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am is opening
      - 2. Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> GSA Gala
    - iv. ThinkGrad GSA Summit – Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>
  - b. U of S Response to Council's Letter on Athletic Fees
    - i. Why are there so many faculty members on this committee discussing student fees?
      - 1. One undergrad student was taken off the committee to accommodate a grad student
  - c. Q & A Period with the Executive
    - i. Isaac Pratt – the GSA is hosting the ThinkGrad conference – is the GSA going to be spending money on the conference?
    - ii. GSA is not spending any money, funding will be coming from registration fees and sponsorship
8. Reports from the Committees
- a. Elections
    - i. Motion – to approve the terms of reference as distributed
      - 1. Secunder – Aurora
      - 2. Carried
  - b. Question from Beeta: why are GSA elections overlap with USSU elections?  
These overlaps make it difficult to campaign.
9. Other Business / Announcements
- a. Seth Sazant from PSAC gave update on Bargaining

- i. Last offer: 4-year deal with 0% increase in first year, 0% increase in second year, 2% in third year, 1% in fourth year.
  - ii. No clarity or negotiating on appointments process – University is saying that what we have now is good enough
  - iii. Collective action might be needed to show support to the Bargaining team.
- b. Alumni seats on Board