

**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association**

COUNCIL AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes from Tuesday, June 28th, 2017 meeting

Present: Refer to sign in sheet.

Regrets: Anoosha, Jaylene Murray, Brenda Byers, Levi, Aurora Bowery, Logan, Wanda Seidlikoski Yurach.

Absent: Refer to sign in sheet.

Organization of Meeting: Robert Henderson, chair of Council, took the chair, and Iloradanon Efimoff, acted as minute-taker. Robert Henderson advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, **quorum was not present**, and the meeting was properly constituted.

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order
 - Session called to order at 11:40am by the chair
2. Remarks from the Chair
 - Report provided with Board and Chair activities
3. Approval of the Agenda
 - Agenda accepted for discussion

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve and/or receive for information by consent items
4 – 8 below.

4. Minutes from the 21 March and 25 April, 2017 Council Meetings
5. Minutes from the 24 – 28 May, 2017 Electronic Resolution
6. Reports from the Chair and the Executive
7. Report of the GSA delegate to the CFS SAGM
8. Report from the Executive Committee; Executive Retreat (link)
 - No questions from council on these items

Regular Agenda

9. Business Arising from the Minutes
10. Presentation: Student Health Services [Peter Hedley]
 - Peter Hedley and other members of Student Health Services presented on a new model and new services, and answered council questions
 - Presentation was confidential and can be provided to council members upon request.

11. Ratification of Social Club: American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS),
U of S Chapter

- Presentation by incoming and outgoing chair of U of S AAPS
- Focus is on graduate students, but anyone is able to join
- Organized 11 events last year, showcased on AAPS main site for efforts
- Mostly focus on professional development opportunities
- Events are already being planned for the coming year
- Funding for group is obtained through AAPS
- Executive committee comments that AAPS meets all requirements to be ratified

12. Report of the President

a) President's Update

- Bonkowski gave presentation on Health and Dental plan
- Provincial tax of 6% was added to the health care premium
- Health and Dental committee communicated with PCIP and fee review committee, and were able to increase health and dental plan cost for students by 6% - an increase from ~\$420/yr to \$459/yr
- Benefits are all the same
- GSA communicated with provincial gov't to see if the tax can be lifted for just this year, so the GSA has time to plan
- Ghaith organized a moment of silence for the recent passing of Mathew Vincent, a graduate student from the department of Biology. Ghaith has sent a letter to the parents on behalf of the GSA
- Will be formal presentation on yearly plan of each executive in September
- GSA has raised \$60,000 so far this year in fundraising efforts for GSA commons improvement, GSA conference/3-minute thesis competition, hiring coordinators, and bursaries
- Student supervisor agreement received approval from faculty council – hope is it will go through University Council to be a campus-wide mandatory document.
- Still communicating with Transit Saskatoon re Summer UPass

b) Q & A Period with the Executive

- No questions

13. Reports from Committees

a) Elections

- Only one nominations package has been received
- July 5 for all candidates forum
- New VP External to start August 1st

b) Health and Dental

- 12a.

14. Other Business / Announcements

a) Presentation from Student Care

- New mental health service – “Empower Me”
- Would add to current services, not replace them
- Goal is to address barriers to student access of services by offering care options via telephone, email, video chat, online services

- It offers psychological counseling and academic-life services on topics including relationships, family care, pressure & stress, depression & anxiety, financial, educational conflict, nutrition, and addictions; and wellness topic such as financial consultations, life coaching, and nutritional counselling
- Cost is \$4.20/year – flat fee (no increase in cost with increase in use
 - Different options to roll out the service
 - Part of Health and Dental Plan or optional stand-alone mandatory fee or cost share with U of S or lobby U of S to cover costs
- Counselors are trained at a minimum of a Social Work or Psychology Master's Degree

Adjournment 1:38 pm.