

**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association**

COUNCIL

Minutes from the September 26, 2017 Meeting

Attendance: TBD

Regrets: TBD

Organization of Meeting: Robert Henderson, Chair of Council, took the chair, and Deidra Aitken acted as secretary. The Chair advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

OPEN SESSION 17:00

1. Call to Order @ 5:00pm
2. **Motion:** Reappointment of Council Chair (Robert Henderson)
 - a. Mover – Ziad Ghaith
 - b. Seconded - Katheryn Raes
 - c. No abstentions
 - d. Carried
3. Introductory Remarks from the Chair and Overview of Council
 - a. Robert introduced Executives
 - b. Clarification on Councils' role and the Board of Directors dealings
4. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Mover – Iloradanon Efimoff
 - b. Second – Katheryn Raes
 - c. Carried

CONSENT AGENDA 17:05

Motion: To approve and/or receive for information by consent items 5 – 13 below.

- a. Mover – Katheryn Raes
- b. Second – Mary Even Presber
- c. Carried
5. Minutes from the 21 March and 25 April Council Meetings
6. Minutes from the 24 – 28 May, 2017 Electronic Resolution
7. Minutes from the 28 June and 1 August, 2017 Council Meetings
8. Reports from the Executive
9. Reports from the Executive Committee; Executive Retreat
10. Orientation 2017 Report
11. Ratification of Social Club: AAPS (June Council Agenda, pp34-35)
12. *See reports from the 28 June, 2017 Council Agenda Package*
13. *See reports from the 1 August, 2017 Council Agenda Package*

REGULAR AGENDA 17:10

14. Business Arising from the Minutes
15. Report of the President
 - a) President's Update

- a. Thank you for joining the GSA Council
 - b. Promise to strive for a seat on the board of governors (U of S is the one of 15 who does not have a seat,
 - c. Graduate student-supervisor relationship, GSA has drafted the agreement and the GSA is working to make it a mandatory policy of the University
 - d. Relationship of the GSA to other student groups, including working with the USSU in regards to the Provincial Government's budget cuts to the University
- b) Q & A Period with the Executive
- a. A member asked about what stage are they at and the aim of ThinkGRAD
 - b. At the stage of stage of incorporating other Think Grad students, looking for someone to attend all the meetings and be in charge or research to benefit the GSA, finalizing the structure of the roles of grad students and who will be on the executive, also white paper research. A motion will come sometime this term to pass.
 - c. Is there a constitution being developed? It is being worked on. One group working on the structure, second the U of S would be working on the white paper research.

16. Other Business / Announcements

a. Chemistry

- i. A member from Chemistry spoke about the email that was sent from Grad secretary to the students stating they will be entirely scholarship-related income. The University has not communicated this to all departments, which impacts employment insurance, workers compensation and immigration status.
- ii. Ziad added – GSA was unaware of the change, the “earning income” needs to be scholarship so you do not pay EI, Income Tax, etc. The University had no answer for how that decision was made. The plan was to wait until the end of September, of which the GSA will approach the University Dean. The GSA is working to be sure these decisions have the GSA students included, and the option of altering the decision.
- iii. Ziad Requested perspective of the GSA
 - 1. The University does not need to pay those on students' behalf to the government, increasing less dollars spent by the University
 - 2. Invite the committee that made the decision to come to a GSA meeting
 - 3. We should discuss with them about having made a decision that affects our students in such a way that affects not only their employment, but
 - 4. Request for more information about the decision and what the specifics are
- iv. All were asked to take the information provided to discuss with their departments and discuss the issue – will be brought to attention at October's meeting
- v. Taylor will send the email he received in Chemistry to the Chair to circulate to the council

b. Former VP of PSAC

- i. Meetings upcoming (GSA should have received emails) encourage your departments to attend
- ii. Ratification of the first agreement is going to be decided on the next meeting
- iii. A Ratification Kit has been sent out, 2% increase per year, extra vacation day per year
- iv. There are three meetings (you have to be there to vote so the Chief Negotiator can give you information about the agreement)
- v. The following meeting will be electing a new executive

vi. You can vote if you have had a contract from Sept 2015

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION 17:30

IN CAMERA SESSION 17:55

No minutes to be recorded

ADJOURNMENT.