



**3GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Council**



**Notice of Meeting
Thursday, 26 October 2017: 17:00 – 19:30
GSA Commons**

(Light dinner provided)

Agenda

		Pages	Action
	<u>Briefing Session</u>		
16:30	Registration & Refreshments		
16:45	Orientation to the GSA Council	(link)	
	<u>Meeting</u>		
	OPEN SESSION		
17:00	1. Call to Order 2. Remarks from the Chair 3. Approval of the Agenda	Oral	Decision
	<u>Consent Agenda</u>		
17:05	Motion: To approve and/or receive for information by consent items 4 – 6 below.		
	4. Minutes from the 26 September Council Meeting	3 – 5	Decision
	5. Reports from the Executive	8 – 18	Information
	6. Reports from the Executive Committee	(link)	Information
	<u>Regular Agenda</u>		
17:10	7. Business Arising from the Minutes		
17:15	8. Consultation Session: Review of University Policy on Student Appeals	Email	Input
17:30	9. Classification of Graduate Student Stipends [<i>Dr. Trevor Crowe</i>]	Oral	Discussion
17:45	10. Report of the Chair: GSA Council Committees and Appointments	19 – 20	Decision
17:55	11. Report from the Executive Committee a) Work Plans for 2017-18 b) Q & A Period with the Executive	12 – 14* Oral	Information Discussion
18:10	12. Report of the Vice President External: ThinkGRAD membership	9	Decision
	13. Discussion Sessions:		
18:20	a) GSA Bus Pass Review	21	Information/Discussion
18:30	b) Student Parking Passes	Oral	Discussion
18:40	c) GSA Health and Dental Plan	Oral	Discussion
18:50	14. Other Business / Announcements		
	CONFIDENTIAL SESSION		
18:55	15. Minutes from the 26 September 2017 Meeting and Business Arising	22 – 24	Decision
19:00	16. Report of the President	Oral	Information

19:10	17. Other Business		
	IN CAMERA SESSION		
19:15	18. Report of the President	Oral	Information
19:25	19. Other Business		
19:30	20. Adjournment		Decision

* See the [June Council agenda package](#), pp. 12-23, for a copy of the President’s annual work plan.

Note: All meetings are open to the general membership, except for confidential sessions and those *in camera*, where only councillors, directors, senior staff, or individuals invited by the chair may attend. Agendas and minutes from “open” sessions will be made available electronically to the general membership. It is understood that content and discussions from confidential or *in camera* sessions may not be distributed to or discussed with anyone but current councillors, directors and/or the office manager. No record will be kept of discussions *in camera*.

To allow Council to complete a number of matters quickly and to devote more of its attention to major items of business, the agenda has been divided between items that are to be approved and/or received for information by consent and those that are to be presented individually for discussion and decision and/or information. A consent agenda does not aim to prevent discussion of any matter, but is intended for items that are likely uncontroversial, or relatively minor in nature, and will not be discussed at the meeting unless a member so requests. Members are supplied with the appropriate documentation for each item and all items will be approved by means of one omnibus motion. Council will then move immediately to consideration of the items on the regular agenda.

19 October 2017

Robert D. E. Henderson, Chair

Please convey regrets in advance to: gsa.secretary@usask.ca

**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association**

COUNCIL

Minutes from the September 26, 2017 Meeting

Attendance

Regrets:

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, a 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

ADJOURNMENT 18:02



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association GSA President Report –
October, 2017

It is my great pleasure to provide the GSA Council members with some updates on the GSA activities and initiatives over October.

I. Graduate Student Representation

I had In-depth discussion with the Provost and Vice Provost Teaching and Learning on the importance of having graduate student voice on the University Board of Governors. The outcomes of this discussion seem to be positive, as there is a general agreement on the importance of including the graduate students on the University Board of Governors table, for the ultimate benefit of the University as a research intensive university.

II. Student Supervisor Agreement

Further to our discussion with CGPS, an email was sent to the faculty members informing them about the Student Supervisor Agreement. We have further reported to the CGPS Council on October 10th on the importance of this agreement for the graduate students and encouraged them to consider using it.

III. Graduate Students Stipend

The recent change in the University policy regarding reclassifying the graduate student's stipend to be a non-earning income is concerning for many graduate students. The GSA was unable to provide its inputs for this sudden change which directly impacts a large segment of its members. We were hoping that that this change would happen via committees and to include more consultation with graduate students. A discussion on this for second time was initiated with the University President and the Dean of CGPS. We are hoping to host our dean and some representative from Finance department to answer our members question regarding this change.

IV. Graduate Tuition Policy and Consultation

As per the GSA request, The GSA is hoping to work with the Deans of each college and with the Dean of CGPS to facilitate a meaningful consultation with the graduate students in their host colleges. This approach was requested in the Deans Council meeting, and some Deans mentioned that they are willing to have consultation with their graduate students internally. We have informed the Dean of CGPS and the Deans Council that efficient tuition consultation for graduate students is more important than ever for the graduate students. The annual increase in tuition, the provincial education budget cut, changes in Post-Secondary education tax credit, the increase in living expenses, and the insufficient matching of stipends to all of these expenses make these issues for graduate students more important than ever.

V. U-PASS

A short survey to collect feedback from our members about the U-PASS service will be distributed to all graduate students (the survey is available via: <https://goo.gl/forms/vITZmfMHa22GzIQ83>). We are hoping to collect information from our members to help us in evaluating the current service and prepare for a referendum to have Summer U-PASS

Ziad Ghaith,

President, Graduate Students' Association



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
VP Finance & Operations



Monthly Council Report
September / October 2017

Important Dates

- **September 26** – Council Meeting, Boarding of Directors Meeting
 - **September 29** – Executive Meeting
 - **September 30** – Attended Global Connections Leadership Retreat at Wanuskewin Heritage Park
 - **October 10** – President's Executive Breakfast meeting, CGPS Council Meeting (Regrets sent to both)
 - **October 13** – Executive Meeting
 - **October 19** – Scholarship & Awards Committee Meeting
-

State of Initiatives

Applications for Fall bursaries will begin being accepted on Monday, October 16. The format will be similar to what was done for the Spring/Summer bursary period, with paper applications being submitted directly to the GSA Office Manager. The bursary committee seats will need to be filled as soon as possible in order to evaluate the applicants and select the recipients of the bursaries. This term 20 bursaries will be awarded.

I am presently working with the registrar's office to build a graduate student mailing list. This will involve a "sticky" announcement on PAWS asking grad students to opt in to communications sent through the GSA. I am presently working on building a mock newsletter that will be sent via MailChimp. I hope to have the banner live by the end of October, and am working on the wording of the banner with administration.

The solicitation of quotes for upgrading the Commons A/V equipment will resume as soon as possible. Presently one quote has been obtained, and I am going to approach at least one more local A/V company for competitive quotes.

I am continuing to work closely with the GSA bookkeeper to reconcile the Association's financial records.



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

1337 College Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 0W6
Phone: (306) 966-8471 Fax: (306) 966-8598
Email: gsa.admn@usask.ca

October 2017

RE: VP External Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my October report to council.

1) Increasing Awareness and Visibility of the GSA

I am involved in the Faith Leadership Council recruitment team, as the student representative. I have been working with Parents on Campus to increase awareness of their activities to the graduate student population. I have recently started working with the Gwenna Moss Center for Teaching Excellence on the new student-teacher evaluation that the University is attempting to implement. I will be the graduate student representative on the College of Arts and Science Vice-Dean Faculty Relations search committee. I am in contact with the Saskatoon Open Door for their newcomer high-school mentorship program that they are currently pursuing. I also intend to continue playing an active role on the university committees that I have been assigned to represent the GSA members.

2) Health and Wellness

On October 4, the GSA hosted the first SafeTALK workshop. There were 17 in attendance. 15 of the participants attended the full duration of the workshop and received certificates. On October 26, the GSA will host a Laughter Therapy session, facilitated by a trained instructor. Potential other workshops include hosting a Zumba session, a kick-boxing session and a self-defence session.

3) Annual Awards Gala

The Delta Bessborough will be booked before October 20th. Invitations to senior administration as well as government officials and deans will be sent thereafter. Nominations and instructions to the awards will be posted by early November.

6) Work on supporting the efforts of ThinkGrad.

Please see the annual work plan for details about ThinkGrad. I request from council to approve the following motion;

- 1. Whereby Council endorses membership to the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association on ThinkGrad, with an annual membership fee of CAD 800.*
- 2. Whereby membership on ThinkGrad will be evaluated every year by the GSA executives so as to ensure membership fees are being used to the benefit of our GSA members.*
- 3. Whereby Council recommends that the board approves this membership and membership fees in the November meeting.*

The following is an updated list of meetings I have attended, since the September report.

Date	Meeting
September 18	Meeting - The Delta Bessborough
September 21	Meeting - Faith Leadership Council Recruitment
September 21	University Council
September 22	Meeting - Saskatchewan Student Coalition
September 25	Meeting - Handy Special Events
September 27	Meeting - Peer Health
September 27	Wellness Strategy Celebration
September 28	Interviews - Faith Leadership Council
September 29	Meeting - Health Chats
September 30	Student Leadership Gathering – Wanuskewin Heritage Park
October 2	Meeting - RSVP Special Events
October 3	Meeting – Director of Internationalization and Special Projects
October 4	Academic Programs Council
October 4	Interviews - Faith Leadership Council Recruitment
October 4	President’s Residence – Reception with The Right Honourable Kim Campbell
October 5	Equity and International Committee
October 10	President’s Executive Committee Breakfast
October 10	CGPS Council
October 11	Meeting - Parents on Campus
October 12	Meeting - Health Chats
October 13	Meeting - Provost and Vice-Provost
October 13	GSA Executive Meeting



Iloradanon Efimoff

Monthly Report
October 12th 2017

To whom it may concern:

The following is a list of the meetings I have attended since September 18th, 2017.

Date	Meetings
Sep 18	Teaching, Learning, and Resource Committee Meeting
Sep 21	Wanuskewin retreat planning meeting with the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC), the Indigenous Student Council (ISC), and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Council (IGSC)
Sep 21	Captain's meeting for GSA Guppies Volleyball Intermural team
Sep 26	GSA Council Meeting
Sep 29-Oct 1	Racialized and Indigenous Student Experience Conference
Oct 2	Collaboration meeting with researcher involved in Indigenous mentorship program
Oct 3-4	IGSC poster-making session for the Sisters in Spirit Vigil
Oct 3	Aboriginal Achievement Week Planning Meeting
Oct 4	Meeting with kinesiology researchers to discuss Indigenous engagement
Oct 4	SafeTalk suicide prevention workshop
Oct 4	Sisters in Spirit Vigil
Oct 10	Breakfast with the president
Oct 10	Collaboration meeting to discuss programming for Indigenous men's health
Oct 11	IGSC-ISC townhall planning meeting

This past month has been filled with some exciting initiatives! The IGSC and ISC are hard at work planning an Indigenous student townhall, to discuss Indigenous student organization in the frame of reconciliation and Indigenousization. Furthermore, the Wanuskewin retreat, designed to bridge Indigenous and International student leaders to build solidarity, was successfully executed in late September. I have also connected interested Indigenous graduate students with two separate researchers looking for Indigenous student perspective on prospective research projects and initiatives. On a broader community scale, the on-campus Indigenous community participated in the creation of posters to carry during the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, which is a walk in solidarity and to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-spirited folks (MMIWG2S), and many Indigenous students attended the event. Lastly, I had the privilege of attending the Racialized and Indigenous Student Experience Summit, hosted by CFS. This summit is a space for racialized and Indigenous students to build solidarity and learn from each other, and plan for the year ahead.

Other than this, much of my time in the last month or so has been used to support the Guppies Intramural team – adding students to the roster, corresponding with Campus Rec about roster changes, sending out reminder emails, and submitting defaults to Campus Rec when necessary. Go Guppies!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Háw'aa (thank you),

Iloradanon Efimoff



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

1337 College Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 0W6
Phone: (306) 966-8471 Fax: (306) 966-8598
Email: gsa.admn@usask.ca

October 2017

RE: VP External Annual Work Plan

Dear Council Members,

Please find below an outline of my work plan for the year, indicating what I intend to focus on.

1) Increasing Awareness and Visibility of the GSA within the Campus and in the Community

Although the GSA has been around for more than 30 years, I feel that there is still a large proportion of the campus and the community that does not realize the important role that we play. Graduate students make up about 17 % of the student population, and growing, yet representation in University initiatives is minimal. In the past few years, the GSA has done an extraordinary job in increasing the visibility of the GSA within the campus and the community. I intend to continue this pattern so that graduate students will continue to be the first point of contact for new University initiatives and committees.

2) Health and Wellness

The University has moved towards a Be Well strategy that encompasses Healthy Mind, Healthy Body and Healthy Life. Throughout the year, the GSA will follow suit with this strategy and host health chats once a month. With the help of graduate students in the School of Public Health, these health chats will focus on topics that are of importance to graduate students. At the end of the year, the students that are assisting in hosting these health chats will, as part of their project;

- Conduct a literature review on the unique health needs of graduate students and how campuses are addressing health and mental health concerns of graduate students,
- Present research findings with recommendations.

These workshops are of no cost to GSA members and while we hope that GSA members take advantage of attending these sessions, the greater message is our focus on moving towards a healthier graduate student population.

3) Annual Awards Gala

Each year, the GSA recognizes and awards outstanding graduate students and graduate student supervisors for their research, scholarly and artistic pursuits at the Awards Gala. This year, the Gala will be held in the Adams Ballroom at the Delta Bessborough on March 31st, 2018. Preparations to this gala are currently underway and nominations and instructions for the awards will be released in November.

- 4) **Work with the university to initiate discussions on ways to improve the graduate student experience at the University of Saskatchewan in the hopes of making us better prepared to be the future leaders of tomorrow.**
- 5) **Work closely with the Canadian Federation of Students to determine what other benefits we can access for you.**
- 6) **Work on supporting the efforts of ThinkGrad.**

ThinkGrad is a think tank for graduate student associations to discuss and address problems affecting higher education in Canada. It is an excellent initiative that allows for GSA's across Canada to discuss best practices, consult on policy's and access resources that would be beneficial to the graduate student members of all campuses. As members, a representative of our association, namely the Vice-President External, will attend two meetings per year. The VP External will also be in constant communication with the other members on initiatives that would be decided on every year. These initiatives include things such as gathering literature on graduate student tuitions, stipends, salaries, well-being across Canada so that all members can have access to this information.

The membership fees will be used to;

- Hire a coordinator that will be responsible for maintaining a website, taking minutes and applying for funding and grants, among other things
- Pay for coordinator travel to meetings
- Pay a lawyer to go over the by-laws and policies
- Prepare a basic website that other GSA's can access if they are interested in becoming members
- Pay for an accountant if need be
- Administrative purposes

Members are allowed to disaffiliate from the organization by letting the organization know 6 months before the membership fee is due (which has been set to April 1st of every year).

Of importance is that the University of Saskatchewan GSA, mainly the VP External, is in charge of leading a White Paper. The purpose of this paper, which is to be completed by early next year, is as follows;

- Present literature on the graduate student funding situation in Canada
- Suggest links and present a discussion
- Act as an official document that can bring immediate value to students
- Act as something that can be taken back to administration for negotiation purposes
- Act as literature to help make funding a necessity

Sustainability is a key message that I will strive for this year so that future GSA executives are able to follow through with certain initiatives every year for the benefit of the members. These include creating a detailed work plan for the Health Chats as well as the Awards Gala. I will

continue to work with the other GSA executives to ensure that we are addressing member issues and concerns.



Iloradanon Efimoff
Progress on Annual Plan

October 12th 2017

Indigenization Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped to plan the Wanuskewin retreat (see monthly report); Attended the RISE conference (see monthly report) to learn more about Indigenization efforts across the nation; • Connected again with Graeme Joseph (Team Leader, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success) to discuss graduate student mentorship program; • Connected with Rachel Fiddler (Community Resource Coordinator at the Aboriginal Student Centre) to discuss Indigenous Men's Health programming on campus; • Attended Aboriginal Achievement Week meeting to discuss the format of the event this year and suggest changes; • Organized poster-making session for Sisters in Spirit Vigil; Met with two researchers to discuss Indigenous community engagement in their research projects; and Hosted planning meeting with Indigenous Student Council.
GSA Guppies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered one co-rec recreational league volleyball team; • Attended captain's meeting and completed captain's quiz; • Assigned captain for volleyball team; • Sent out weekly reminders with game dates; and Submit defaults/forfeits when necessary.
Sustainability Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will discuss with other standing council committees at the GSA council meeting.
GSA Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received response from ethics; • VP Indigenous Liaison and VP Student Affairs both progressing on changes requested by ethics.
GSA Twitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising GSA events; and • Tweeting at the GSA handle during appropriate events (RISE conference, and Sisters in Spirit Vigil and Poster Making Session)
Health Chats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action yet (first session in Fall).
GSA Graduate Student Achievement Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action yet (events not until April/March 2018).
Social Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine and Cheese event occurred while I was at the RISE conference, so I was unable to be involved.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Háw'aa (thank you),

Iloradanon Efimoff



Graduate Students' Association
Ali Kiani
VP Student Affairs's Report
October 26th, 2017

Fellow GSA Council Members,

The Graduate Students Association (GSA) had another successful Cheese and Wine event on September 29th at the GSA common. As we know, first Social event is the most popular social event of the GSA, which attracts over hundred graduate students on campus. Social event serves as an opportunity for incoming graduate students to meaningfully interact with their peers in an informal environment, at which they can chat and relax.

This document intent to report some of the main activities carried out in order to achieve such a successful event. It includes planning, execution, arose issues, and recommendations. It also provides some of the documents generated throughout the planning and execution, as well as, contacts that may be helpful for future events, and an expenses report.

Objectives

The objectives for the GSA September Social event were as follows:

1. To create a welcoming and inclusive environment among students to make incoming students feel more comfortable at the University of Saskatchewan.
2. To provide incoming students with a meaningful opportunity to meet their peers.

Planning

Such a large event requires a lot of pieces and people to come together; therefore, the planning started one months in advance. The first week of September, the VP Student Affairs Ali Kiani and the Event Coordinator Edgar Martinez had a meeting to discuss the objectives and requirements for the Social event. The main concerns that arose from the meeting were, the amount of food and beverage required.

The event was schedule for September 29th, 2017 at the GSA Commons from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The event was set in the evening to allow graduate students to finish with their research and classes of the day and join the event after.

Venue

The GSA Commons was selected as the venue to host the event since it has been the place for GSA social events in the last couple years. Additionally, it is a large indoors venue that can hold large amounts of people; it is very accessible to most graduate students; and it has a kitchen that is very convenient to prepare snacks and serve beverages.

Event Promotion

The event was promoted throughout the campus by posting posters on informative boards of several departments. The poster has been attached in the documents appendix. It was also advertised on the GSA Facebook page and a general invitation email was sent out to all the graduate students. The event advertisement started couple weeks before the event.

Volunteers

Volunteers are vital to the success of the event. While the overall planning can be done by the event coordinator, volunteers can be assigned smaller tasks prior to the event. Their contribution to the execution of the event on the day cannot be understated.

A call out for volunteers was sent out one week before the event. The day of the event the roles and tasks were divided among all the volunteers that arrived. The workflow for volunteers was divided into several categories and the volunteers were asked to identify their areas of interest and/or expertise. The categories and task were: logistics (set up and cleaning), and serving.

Execution

Scheduling

In order to run the event as smooth as possible the following schedule was proposed:

Start Time	End Time	Activity
4:00	4:30	Arrival of staff (Volunteers and executives)
4:30	6:00	Set up and snacks preparation
6:00	10:00	Networking
10:30	11:00	Cleaning

Recommendations

Food management: For events such as the GSA Orientation and the Wine and Cheese Social where the number of attendees is only estimated it is hard to calculate the amount of food required. Although it is always better to have more food than run out of it, this year we had a considerable amount of white wine left, and guests were asking for more beer. Therefore, we recommend buying more beer for the next time, particularly Original 16, which was the most popular. The amounts recommended for next time are as follows, 6 boxes of 4L of red wine (Merlot), 4 boxes of 4L of white wine, and 6 to 8 boxes of 15 cans of beer.

Workshops and social event

I have plan to have immigration workshop on Oct 24th at 3 PM on GSA Commons. This workshop is focus on general information about immigration such as work permit, study permit and common immigration-related questions that many students often ponder about. Another social event will be on Oct 27th at 6 PM. We are happy to serve more grad students in event.

I have a plan to have a panel discussion about Study Abroad Graduate students; Envision the experience.

Academic Advocacy

I had few meetings with grad student about their academic and non-academic problem they have. Correspondingly, I had a meeting with administration of university and different offices about student's issues.

Regular Committee Meetings

I have been participating in different meetings with the following committees:

- GSA exec meeting
 - Campus Master Plan Workshop for whole day
 - CGPS council meeting
 - Meeting with CGPS Dean's office
 - President breakfast
 - University council meeting
 - Parking and Transportation Committee Meeting
 - 2016/20176 Student Forum
-
- Meeting with different students about their issues
 - Student advocating
 - Working on Graduate student survey

University of Saskatchewan
GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
Report of the Chair
Council Committees

I am writing to advise of openings in council committees for the coming year, and to seek your nomination(s) to fill these seats. This is a great opportunity to get some hands-on experience with the workings of the GSA, and committee service is essential to your role. The openings are as follows, with a description of each committee's duties.

Immediately required – to be appointed at the October meeting:

1. Bursary Selection Committee (Council Committee)

Required: 3 Councillors or Alternate Councillors

Description: Review applications, confidentially, for needs-based GSA-provided bursary funds and select recipients.

Email the GSA Chair and Secretary to express interest in the following, for appointment in November's meeting (see instructions at the end of this report):

2. Finance and Budget Committee* (Board Committee)

Required: 1 Councillor or Alternate Councillor

Description: Review and monitor the interim and audited financial statements of the organization; recommend fee changes to the board of directors; consult with Council as appropriate.

3. Elections and Referenda Committee (Council Committee)

Required: 3 Councillors or Alternate Councillors, 3 GSA (non-council) members

Description: Duties are as follows: i) conduct elections and referenda in accordance with the bylaws and appropriate schedule; ii) be knowledgeable about other procedures and policies necessary for a proper election; iii) interpret and enforce the election bylaws; iv) preside over the votecounting mechanism and election data; v) remain explicitly and implicitly impartial by not supporting any candidate or registered campaign committee during an election or referendum; vi) develop policies as required; and vii) perform other tasks as delegated by Council.

4. Health and Dental Committee*

Required: 2 Councillors or Alternate Councillors

Description: Reviews the health and dental plan and sets recommendations for the plan for the upcoming school year. Recommendations then go to the Finance and Budget Committee.

5. Gala Committee (Council Committee)

Required: 2 Councillors or Alternate Councillors

Description: Assists in the planning of the upcoming Gala and evaluates the nominations for the gala awards.

** Note: these committees are pending board approval in November. Interest is sought in anticipation of requiring councillors to sit on these groups.*

Membership and/or nominations to the committees will be ratified at the November meeting of Council. To keep this a simple process, please send (no later than end of day **Sunday, 5 November**) gsa.secretary@usask.ca your top choice of committee, as well as two alternate choices (or indicate if you're willing to sit on more than one). We will make a first round of allocations to spread the work around

and return this list of memberships for feedback. The aim is to sort out all of the committee memberships without an election, such that everyone is approved with one motion. However, if there are still contested seats after this process, an election will take place at Council during the November meeting.

GSA U-PASS Feedback Survey

Your Graduate Students' Association is currently reviewing the bus pass service (UPASS). Please answer the following questions to help us with this review.

How often do you use the bus pass, on average, throughout the Fall and Winter terms?

Very often (more than 8 times a week)

Often (4-7 times a week)

1 - 3 times a week

Few times a month

Never

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the Fall and Winter student U-PASS

Excellent

Good

Neutral

Fair

Poor

I can not rate the service

Would you like to continue to have a bus pass in the Fall and Winter terms?

Yes

No

I am not sure

Currently, graduate students do not have a summer bus pass. Would you like to have a mandatory bus pass in the Spring and Summer term (May - August) as well?

Yes

No

I am not sure

What changes or improvements would you like to see with the bus pass service? Select all that apply.

Greater frequency

More routes

Lower cost

Service is good, no improvement is needed

Please provide any general comments here to help the GSA in its review of the bus pass service

Your answer

SUBMIT