



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
GSA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 16, 2018. GSA Commons

As Council gathers, we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Attendance: See appendix A

1. Call to Order

Mr. Ghaith, chair of Council called the meeting to order at 5:02pm, observing that quorum had been attained

2. Approval of the agenda

The Chair made a call for any changes to the agenda as was circulated.

VP Student Affairs proposed the addition of 2 items concerning the ratification of 2 social clubs.

The chair reminded the councilors in attendance that 2/3 majority is needed to make amendments to the agenda.

Motion to amend circulated agenda. (MARTINEZ-SOBERANES/ MELLIDEZ)

CARRIED

Motion to approve agenda as amended. (PRESBER/ LAING)

CARRIED

3. Council Orientation

Council Chair gives brief background on the GSA and how it functions. Some of the more salient points are listed below:

- University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Association (GSA) was established in 1984 and represents all ~4000 graduate students at USASK.
- CGPS members are GSA members by default, no way to opt out. There are 3 classes of membership which are: (i) Regular members- all graduate students. You have the right to vote and sit on different GSA councils. (ii) Associate members- created for

postdoctoral fellows to be a part of the GSA. They pay the same fees as regular members but have less influence in the running of the GSA than regular members. (iii) Life time members- just symbolic, those members have no rights.

- Regular members (graduate students) have rights to be apart of the council, attend and vote in annual meetings, to vote on fees, to make motions, to vote on the constitution and bylaws. Associates members can only benefit from the GSA services like the UPASS but don't have the above privileges of a regular member.
- GSA governing documents:
 1. Constitution - (fundamental values) changes can only be made at the AGM and need 2/3 majority agreement for change to get through.
 2. Bylaws -(rules that govern the GSA) responsibilities of staff members, standards for the executive members, meeting schedules/ frequency and can be changed at the AGM but instead of $\frac{2}{3}$ vote it just needs majority vote to make a change
 3. Policies- define the operation of the association, for example dictates what the GSA's communication should look like. The policies fall under the jurisdiction of the councils. Hence, the council can approve changes to policies. More flexible than the constitution and bylaws.
- GSA management:
 1. Executive committee- consists of the President, Vice Presidents (Finance and Operations, Student Affairs and External), Indigenous Liaison.
 2. GSA board- consists of the President and Vice Presidents
 3. GSA Council- elected by their departments and a responsible for the wellbeing of the association. Councilor responsibility to represent their academic council by participating in association committees, relaying the information from the GSA to their individual academic councils.
- Robert's Rules of order are used to run Council meetings
- Minutes are taken for each meeting, and those are posted on the website. We post as an unofficial document to be approved by the councilors in the following council member meeting. The 3 types of minutes are: open session, confidential session, and the in camera session where no minutes are formally taken.
- Council Chair is supposed to be neutral at all times. However, there is one time when the council Chair can vote and that's when there is a tie on a vote.

Question: VP External

Are executives also councilors and can the secretary vote:

Answer from Chair: Executives are also councilors, and the secretary cannot vote at council meetings, unless the secretary is a Council member.

4. Approval of the minutes from September 25

Motion to approve September Council minutes (MELLIDEZ/SAHTOUT)

CARRIED

5. Information to be received

A. Executive meeting minutes from September 13, 2018

B. Executive meeting minutes from September 27, 2018

Motion to receive information items 5A and 5B. (MELLIDEZ/ RODRIGUEZ)

CARRIED

6. Executive reports

A. Report of the President

Three main points were:

1. Continued efforts to secure graduate student representation on board governors
2. student supervisor agreement using graduate students to push for its use,
3. faculty support manual- its meant for faculty who are going to be supervisors.
Should help with the supervision of graduate students.
No question for president.

B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations

Gathering was reminded that the GSA bursary applications were open as of October 1st, there was a reminder for councillors in need apply for a bursary.

C. Report of the VP Student Affairs

Wine and cheese event was very successful with a turnout of about 100 members.

The first industry networking event is scheduled for tomorrow (17th October). At this event, 5 students will get the chance to present to industry investors. This gives the students the opportunity to get some feedback on their pitches from the industry members in attendance.

Next event is slated for October 26th. This event will take the form of movie night where 3 movies will be shown. The first movie is for everyone and free popcorn is included for the night, the second is classic halloween movie and the third a horror movie.

The VP student affairs told the councillors that he has attended a few meetings, one of those was geared at bettering different academic programs and then ask the councillors to email him any suggestions for improvements of individual programs so he can bring forth to those meetings.

D. Report of the VP External

1st aid course has finally been finalized and will be held at the commons. For students it is 50% discount which amounts to \$80 for recertification, \$100 for first time certification and \$120 for non-students. Registration requires a %50 deposit which can be made at the GSA commons.

The GSA sports team “Guppies” have a hangout so if anyone interested.

Question: Can you get 1st aid cheaper?

Answer from VP external: It's the best deal they could secure.

E. Report of Indigenous Liaison

Indigenous Liaison was appointed to a working group for catering on faculty needs. However, last meeting was canceled.

VP external and Indigenous liaison are part of the sustainability and diversity committees and urge councilors to join.

7. Ratification of social clubs

VP student affairs introduces first group trying to be ratified.

Social group “Believers Love World Constitution” inspire students to become instruments of change through weekly bible study.

Questions:

Councillor Mellidez: If they get ratified will they get any money from the GSA?

Answer from VP student affairs: It will get all the same benefits as other social groups previously ratified and funded.

VP student affairs assured the gathering that an email was sent to this social club inviting them to say a little about their club but there was no response for this meeting.

President for religious group walks in late during the middle of this discussion to share a little about the group.

She says the “Believers Love World Constitution” would like to advocate for students of the same faith to be able to participate in fellowship together.

VP student affairs shares part of the bylaws that state social groups are supposed to be welcoming to everybody as a part of the criteria to become a GSA ratified social club. Hence a religious group like the above would have to have open meeting to everyone.

Indigenous Liaison- think of Christianity on the indigenous community.

Councillor Catherine- there are other options to get ratified

Councillor Laing- This group is already a member of the USSU

Motion to ratify “Believers love world Constitution” as a GSA social club (LAINGE/ HAMMED)

Debate/discussion on the motion:

Councillor Ezekwesili- if they can amend their club’s mandate so it's inclusive to everyone even if they don’t believe in the same God or don’t believe in God.

Councillor Ho- we should just follow the policies and if they don’t abide by that then action can be taken but don’t preemptively/ forecast your concerns as being current issues with the club up for debate.

VP external - wants to call the question as the debate has been exhaustive (UFONDU/HAMMED)

CARRIED

Vote on ratification motion

Motion to ratify “Believers love world Constitution” as a GSA social club (LAINGE/ HAMMED)

FAILED

Second Social Club

VP Student Affairs

Bangladesh student association (BSA)- to facilitate new Bangladeshi students and share their culture with the GSA. This club was ratified in the GSA last year.

Motion to ratify BSA club (MARTINEZ-SOBERANES/ RODRIGUEZ)

CARRIED

8. Committees of the council

See appendix B for membership list. The Chair open nomination from the floor.

A. Motion to approve Budget and Finance Committee 2018/19 membership (LAING/ GOMEZ)

CARRIED

B. Motion to approve Bursary Selection Committee membership 2018/19 (MELLIDEZ/ GOMEZ)

CARRIED. 1 Abstention

C. *Motion to approve Governance Committee 2018/19 membership* (MELLIDEZ/ UFONDU)

CARRIED. 2 Abstention (Roett, Sahtout)

D. *Motion to approve Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee 2018/19 membership*
(RODRIGUEZ, SHIRLEY)

CARRIED. 1 Abstention (Muhammad)

E. *Motion to approve Health and Dental Committee 2018/19 membership* (MELLIDEZ/
OWUAMANAM)

CARRIED

F. *Motion to approve Awards Selection Committee 2018/19 membership*
(OWUAMANAM/BALKHI)

CARRIED. 1 Abstention (Mellidez)

G. *Motion to approve Diversity Committee 2018/19 membership* (MELLIDEZ/ LAING)

CARRIED

H. *Motion to approve Sustainability Committee 2018/19 membership* (OWUAMANAM/
GOMEZ)

CARRIED

I. *Motion to approve nomination for Elections and Referenda Committee* (OWUAMANAM/
CUNNINGHAM)

CARRIED. 3 Abstention (Mellidez, Pujari, Laing)

9. Other business/Announcements Information

VP external- send your name and you can pay a 50% deposit as a part of the registration for first aid training

VP Fin and Op- movie night will be hosted at the GSA commons. Datils will be advertised

9 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (LIANG/ EDGAR) at 6:50.

CARRIED

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Sep.25 2018	Oct.16 2018	Nov.13 2018	Dec.11 2018	Jan.15 2019	Feb.12 2019	Mar.12 2019	Apr.9 2019
Animal & Poultry Science	Brittany Ross (Tess Mills)	P	R						
ARCHAIA	Alne Dolln (Adrienne Ratuszniak)	P	P						
Biology	Dylan Baloun (Carmen Marquez Mellidez)	P	P						
Chemistry	Doug Fansher (Richard Pettipas)	P	A						
Geography & Planning	Bethany Thiessen (Apeksha Heendeniya)	P	P						
Geological Sciences	Brittany Laing (James Schulte)	P	P						
History Graduate Students' Committee	John Bird (Mckelvey Kelly)	P	P						
IGSC (1)	Tara Million (Adam McInnes)	P	P						
IGSC (2)	NA	NA	NA						
Kinesiology	Natasha Boyes (Natalie Houser)	P	P						
Computer Science Grad Course Council (1)	Rifat Zahan (Tonny Kar)	P	P						
Computer Science Grad Course Council (2)	Parastoo Veisi (Kawser Nafi)	A	P						
PEGASUS	Jason Ho (Ethan Runge)	P	P						
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Jennifer Bell (Aimee Schryer)	P	P						
WCVM GSA	Breanne Murray (Narsimha Pujari)	P	P						

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Sep.25 2018	Oct.16 2018	Nov.13 2018	Dec.11 2018	Jan.15 2019	Feb.12 2019	Mar.12 2019	Apr.9 2019
Psychology Graduate Student Assoc.	Sarah Mohammed (Farron Wielinga)	P	P						
AREC	Yerebakia Choro (Ran Sun)	NA	P						
SENSSA (1)	Peter Friedrichsen (Ashleigh Duffy)	P	R						
SENSSA (2)	Laila Balkhi (NA)	NA	P						
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council P&N-GSC	Lina Kharabsheh (Riley Devine)	P	P						
School of Public Health Students' Assoc (SPHSA) (1)	Cheryl Roett (NA)	NA	P						
School of Public Health Students' Assoc. (SPHSA) (2)	Chiamaka Ezekwesili (NA)	NA	P						
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Kyla Collins (Katrin Ritchie)	P	P						
Engineering, Chemical	Khaled Zoroufchi Benis (NA)	P	P						
Engineering, Mechanical	Bicheng Xing (Stephen Owuamanam)	P	P						
Engineering, Electrical	Ozan Gunes (Jose Berkenbrock)	P	P						
Engineering, Biomedical	Saman Naghieh (Ejalonibu Hammed)	P	P						
Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Kusum Sharma (Mamata Panigrahi)	P	A						
Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kushagra Parolia (Sarah Martin)	P	P						
Community Health & Epidemiology	Jacob Alhassan (Liliana Rodriguez)	NA	P						
Health Sciences	Chelsea Cunningham (Scott Adams)	NA	P						

<i>Appendix B: Committees of Council membership</i>	
Committee	Membership
Budget and Finance Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VP Finance and Operation 2. President 3. Saman Naghieh (Council member) 4. Carmen Marquez Mellidez (Council member) 5. Cloud Heng (Regular / General Member)
Bursary Selection Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VP Finance and Operation 2. VP Student Affairs 3. Doug Fansher (Council member) 4. Jose Alvin Berkenbrock (Council member) 5. Katrin Ritchie (Council member) 6. Kushagra Parolia (Council member)
Governance Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VP External 2. VP Finance and Operations 3. Council Chair 4. Saman Naghieh (Council member) 5. Cheryl Roett (Council member) 6. Naheda Sahtout (Council member)
Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council Chair 2. Shanay Williams (Regular/general member) 3. Shahin Layeghpour (Regular/general member) 4. Reggie Nyamekye (Regular / general) 5. Sarah Mohammed (Council member) 6. Rifat Zahan (Council member)
Health and Dental Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VP External 2. VP Finance and Operations 3. Saman Naghieh (Council member) 4. Ejalonibu Hammed (Council member)
Awards Selection Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VP External 2. President 3. Rebecca Bourgeois (Regular/general member) 4. Shahin Layeghpour (Regular/general member) 5. Kathy Wang (Regular / general member) 6. Dylan Baloun (Council member) 7. Chiamaka Ezekwesili (Council member) 8. Carmen Marquez Mellidez (Council member)

Diversity Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VP External 2. Indigenous Liaison 3. Cloud Heng (Regular/general member) 4. Amara Zuhaib (Regular/general member) 5. Shahin Layeghpour (Regular/general member) 6. Arka Guo (Regular/general member) 7. Stephen Owuamanam (Council member) 8. Jessa Hughes (Regular / general member) 9. Ejalonibu Hammed (Council member)
Sustainability Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indigenous Liaison 2. VP External 3. Saman Naghieh (Council member) 4. Jo Ann Chew (Regular/general member) 5. Alina Ostrowska (Regular/general member) 6. Dylan Baloun (Council member) 7. Laila Balkhi (Council member) 8. Khaled Zoroufchi Benis (Council member)
Elections and Referenda Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council Chair 2. Reggie Nyamkeye (Regular / general member) 3. Jessa Hughes (Regular / general member) 4. Nicole Matsalla (Regular / general member) 5. Brittany Laing (Council member) 6. Rifat Zahan (Council member) 7. Carmen Marquez Mellidez (Council member) 8. Narsimha Pujari (Council member)
Diversity Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. VP External 11. Indigenous Liaison 12. Cloud Heng (Regular/general member) 13. Amara Zuhaib (Regular/general member) 14. Shahin Layeghpour (Regular/general member) 15. Arka Guo (Regular/general member) 16. Stephen Owuamanam (Council member) 17. Jessa Hughes (Regular / general member) 18. Ejalonibu Hammed (Council member)