



**Graduate Students' Association - University of Saskatchewan
Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday April 9, 2019 - GSA Commons
17:00 – 19:00**

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation.
We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm
our relationship with one another.

#	Item	Page	Action
1	Call to Order		
2	Guest Speakers: Associate Dean, University Library Electronic Resources Librarian		
3	Approval of the agenda	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
4	Approval of the minutes from March 19, 2019	3-11	<i>Decision</i>
5	Information to be received	12-39	<i>Decision</i>
	A. Awards Committee Minutes from March 9-16, 2019		
	B. Bursary Selection Committee Minutes from March 15 th , 2019		
	C. Elections and Referenda Committee Minutes from March 18 th , 2019		
	D. Elections and Referenda Committee Minutes from March 25 th , 2019		
	E. Governance Committee Summary		
	F. March 14, 2019 Board Minutes		
	G. March 14, 2019 Executive Minutes		
	H. March 28, 2019 Executive Minutes		
	I. Appreciative Inquiry Discussion Outcomes		

6	Executive reports	40-44	<i>Information</i>
	A. Report of the President – Verbal Report		
	B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations		
	C. Report of the VP Student Affairs		
	D. Report of the VP External		
7	Items for Information/Discussion		<i>Information</i>
	A. Student-Supervisory Relationship (Appreciative Inquiry/Faculty Manual)		
8	Other business/Announcements		<i>Information</i>
9	Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>

Next meeting: To Be Communicated.



University of Saskatchewan
 Graduate Students' Association
 GSA Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday March 19, 2019. 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

The Chair of Council called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Mr. Osai Clarke acted as the recording secretary for the meeting.

2. Approval of the agenda

The Chair informed the Council that one of the two nominees for the council chairperson position was running late so a motion to amend agenda so that the chair election would be dealt with as last item on the agenda. (MELLIDEZ/SAHTOUT)

CARRIED

VP Finance would like to amend the agenda so that the ratification of a social club can be added as item 6 on the agenda. (GOMEZ/EZEKWESILI)

CARRIED

Motion to approve agenda as amended. (PUJARI/ZAHAN)

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes from February 26, 2019

Motion to approve February 26th minutes (GOMEZ/ MELLIDEZ)

CARRIED

4. Information to receive

- A. Sustainability Committee minutes from January 10, 2019
- B. Sustainability Committee minutes from March 05, 2019
- C. Governance Committee minutes from February 27, 2019

- D. Governance Committee minutes from March 1, 2019
- E. Budget & Finance Comm. minutes from February 09, 2019
- F. Board meeting minutes from February 14, 2019
- G. Executive meeting minutes from February 14, 2019
- H. Executive meeting minutes from February 28, 2019

Motion to receive agenda item 5A-H (UFONDU/ADAMS)

CARRIED

5. Executive reports

A. Report of the President

President Sahtout focused on the following 2 items:

- 1) Graduate student tuition rate- based on the council advice we've sent a letter to the provost we've expressed our concerns through multiple different channels, including a lot of the committees the executive sit on. Think we've made clear that our expectations of any increase in tuition rates should align with funding packages, TA rates and student supports. Next week the outcomes of the tuition increases should be communicated to us.
- 2) Lease agreement- the GSA commons space has been leased for the next 5 years with the opportunity to extend by another 5 years at the of the current lease agreement.

There were no questions for the president.

B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations

VP Gomez addressed the meeting on two items, namely:

- 1) Student bursaries- all recipients were contacted last week.
- 2) Free tax clinic- if anyone would like to volunteer please contact the executives.

Working on the budget which will be discussed today

There were no questions for the president.

C. Report of the VP Student Affairs – Verbal Report

VP Martinez-Soberanes informed the gathering that the 2019 research conference went well with the 4 keynote speakers. He also reminded the gathering of the upcoming 3MT competition. The 3MT gives participants great experience in engaging on the merits of their research in very succinct talks.

There were no questions for the VP Student Affairs

D. Report of the VP External

VP Ufondu informed the council members that the guppies team is going to the playoffs for the first time in a long time.

March 4th event: Diversity + Inclusion = Unity. There were over 40 people in attendance including a city councilor, politician, LGBTQ representative and people from different minority groups.

Awards preparation is still on going for the gala and awards night, so far, the provost, a few government officials and some senior administration officials from the university have confirmed their attendance.

There were no questions for the president.

6. Social Clubs Ratification

A. Samaldhi Meditation student's club

VP Student Affairs: The Samaldhi Meditation students' club started last year as part of the health chats program with the support of the VP external. To bring mindfulness, concentration and peace of mind for graduate students. They're looking for ratification in order to use the commons. The meditation sessions would be free of charge. A Buddhist monk will lead the meditation sessions.

Motion to ratify Samaldhi Meditation student's club as a GSA social club. (UFONDU/PUJARI)

CARRIED. 1 abstention (Gomez)

7. Operational Budget 2019/20

VP Finance: Membership fee increases by 4.9% to accommodate the upgrade of the audio-visual system in the GSA commons, GSA office operations cost (office stationery, internet, maintenance etc). This increase will also provide 6 more GSA bursaries moving the total number of bursaries to 56.

The Chair open the floor for discussions/questions. No questions from the floor.

Motion to approve the GSA 2019-2020 fiscal year budget and operating budget notes. (CORONA GOMEZ / MARQUEZ-MELLIDEZ)

CARRIED. 1 abstention

8. Motions (Fees 2019/20)

Increased based on the CPI annually, which amounts to an increase of \$0.86.

Ross: Is there a reason why they don't offer the UPASS in the summertime.

President Sahtout: In 2014 there was a referendum that voted summer UPASS out. Last year the executive held a survey to ascertain the ratio of students interested in the summer passes, but this fell below the 50% graduate student population so now we're in communication with Sask Transit on some options for those still wishing to obtain one during the spring and summer terms.

David Bennett: point of clarification, there was never a summer UPASS, the referendum was to adopt a summer UPASS not to vote it out.

Motion to approve increase from \$111.01 to \$111.87 (Gomez/ Sahtout)

CARRIED.

9. Motion: CUPE 1975

The Chair invited David Bennett to introduce his request to the Council. The Chair added that that an email was sent from the Community Health academic council in support of this motion.

David Bennett: two-time VP Finance and an Honorary Lifetime member of the GSA. CUPE 1975 represents a lot of support staff of the University, the main points of contention is regarding the pension plans, so I brought forth this motion to see if the Council would adopt a stance of solidarity with CUPE 1975. There is history of the GSA doing similar things for example in 2014 we adopted a motion supporting PSAC.

Fansher: This motion is something the Chemistry Academic Council has discussed, and we concluded that this is out of the scope of the GSA but would be more appropriate for PSAC.

Martinez-Soberanes: I believe the nature of the GSA is to advocate on behalf of the students so while as an individual I think support for CUPE 1975 has its merits I would side with Fansher and allow PSAC to throw formal support.

Ufondu: Canadian federation of students (CFS) has campaigned that the CUPE 1975 working conditions are our learning conditions so if they're adequately supported it spells good news for our students. Ufondu went on to saying that CUPE 1975 has supported us in past and we should be there for them now and as a student body we shouldn't be afraid, but if anything, others should be, and for that reason I don't think it's a bad idea to flex our muscle as the GSA in solidarity of CUPE 1975. I'm not asking that students carry flags or join the picketing line,

I'm just asking that we show solidarity via a statement on our social networks succinctly stating that we understand your struggles and we stand with you.

Fransher: Just wanted to clarify that myself and the chemistry council didn't say that we as individuals couldn't stand in solidarity of CUPE 1975 but it's the position of the council at this time that GSA stick to the responsibilities pertinent to its existence. There are better avenues for us as students to advocate for CUPE 1975 members as alluded to in my initial statement suggesting that solidarity come from PSAC.

Bennett: The GSA is a student union, and I think we should show our support like the other unions on campus like the other CUPE union, PSAC, USFA, ASPA and other groups would perhaps lessen the risk of a labour disruptions be it a strike or a walkout.

Pujari: Just wanted to add that students also make up some of the CUPE 1975 membership as I am a casual worker who currently falls under their umbrella.

Sahtout: I would just like council to be thoughtful and think of the overall picture and how this could impact the GSA, so while I personally support the endeavors of CUPE 1975 in their negotiations, we need to think of the GSA as a whole and as an association that advocates for students.

Martinez-Soberanes: Student who work under CUPE 1975 are all casual workers and can work during strike action.

Pujari: CUPE 1975 has a bylaw that crossing the picketing line can have all your earning in that period withheld indefinitely.

Ufondu would like to amend the motion slightly so that the last part of the statement will read as follows: "We the Graduate Students' Association release a statement via its social media platforms to express its solidarity with the workers of CUPE 1975 as they attempt to reach a fair deal".

Motion to amend CUPE 1975 original motion (UFONDU/ OWUAMANAM)

CARRIED. 3 OPPOSED. 3 ABSTENTION (MARTINEZ-SOBERANES)

Voting on the CUPE 1975 motion as amended (RODRIGUEZ/ ALHASSAN).

FAILED. 9 OPPOSED. 3 ABSTENTION

10. Other business/Announcements Information

Chair informed the Council that the Election Committee decided to extend the nomination period for VP External and VP Operations and Finance until March 25th. All information regarding the election and ratification process will be included in the GSA council agenda for April.

11. Chair/CEO Election

There were two nominees for the Chair/CEO position. Both were invited to provide a brief statement to the Council before a vote could be carried out. Katie Douglas and Reggie Nyamekye spoke to their relevant experience.

Chair Ghaith thanked both of the nominees for participating while he announced that Reggie Nyamekye will take over as the GSA chair.

President Sahtout: Can we please put our hands together to thank chair Ghaith on being our chair for last few months.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (FRANSHER/ RODRIGUEZ) at 6:30.

CARRIED

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Sep.25 2018	Oct.16 2018	Nov.20 2018	Dec.11 2018	Jan.22 2019	Feb.26 2019	Mar.19 2019	Apr.9 2019
Animal & Poultry Science	Brittany Ross (Tess Mills)	P	R	P	A	A	A	A	
ARCHAIA	Alne Dolln (Adrienne Ratushniak)	P	P	P	A	A	A	A	
Biology	Dylan Baloun (Carmen Marquez Mellidez)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Chemistry	Doug Fansher (Richard Pettipas)	P	A	R	P	P	P	P	
Geography & Planning	Bethany Thiessen (Apeksha Heendeniya)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Geological Sciences	Brittany Laing (James Schulte)	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
History Graduate Students' Committee	John Bird (Mckelvey Kelly)	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	
IGSC (1)	Tara Million (Adam McInnes)	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	N/A	
IGSC (2)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	N/A	
Kinesiology	Natasha Boyes (Natalie Houser)	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	
Computer Science Grad Course Council (1)	Rifat Zahan (Tonny Kar)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Computer Science Grad Course Council (2)	Parastoo Veisi (Kawser Nafi)	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	
PEGASUS	Jason Ho (Ethan Runge)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Jennifer Bell (Aimee Schryer)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
WCVM GSA	Breanne Murray (Narsimha Pujari)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Master of Business Admin Representative Council (MBARC)	Tyler Gray (Alli Sparling)	NA	NA	P	R	A	P	A	

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Sep.25 2018	Oct.16 2018	Nov.20 2018	Dec.11 2018	Jan.22 2019	Feb.26 2019	Mar.19 2019	Apr.9 2019
Psychology Graduate Student Assoc.	Sarah Mohammed (Farron Wielinga)	P	P	A	R	P	P	A	
AREC	Yerebakia Choro (Ran Sun)	NA	P	P	P	A	A	A	
SENSSA (1)	Peter Friedrichsen (Belizario Carballo)	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	
SENSSA (2)	Laila Balkhi (Belizario Carballo)	NA	P	P	A	P	P	A	
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council P&N-GSC	Lina Kharabsheh (Yvonne Ruhumbika)	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	
School of Public Health Students' Assoc (SPHSA) (1)	Cheryl Roett (NA)	NA	P	P	P	P	P	P	
School of Public Health Students' Assoc. (SPHSA) (2)	Chiamaka Ezekwesili (NA)	NA	P	P	R	P	P	P	
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Kyla Collins (Katrín Ritchie)	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	
Engineering, Chemical	Khaled Zoroufchi Benis (NA)	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	
Engineering, Mechanical	Bicheng Xing (Stephen Owuamanam)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Engineering, Electrical	Ozan Gunes (Jose Berkenbrock)	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	
Engineering, Biomedical	Saman Naghieh (Ejalonibu Hammed)	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	
Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Kusum Sharma (Mamata Panigrahi)	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	
Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kushagra Parolia (Sarah Martin)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	
Community Health & Epidemiology	Jacob Alhassan (Liliana Rodriguez)	NA	P	P	R	P	P	R	
Health Sciences	Chelsea Cunningham (Scott Adams)	NA	P	P	P	P	P	P	

GSA Awards Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 9 – 16, 2019

Attendance: Somto Ufondu (VP External), Naheda Sahtout (President), Chiamaka Ezekwesili, Kathy Wang, Rebecca Bourgeois.

The application deadline for the awards nominations closed on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 5 PM. There were 21 completed applications for 7 award categories.

The VP External thanked each of the individuals for being part of this Committee and taking time away from their busy schedules to help in the adjudication process. Each member of the committee was asked to sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure that all information present in the nominations was kept private and confidential.

The VP External explained the nature of the awards and provided a scoring rubric that could be used as a guideline for the awards. It was explained that while looking at the nomination packages, Committee members were to indicate any potential conflict of interest that would hinder fair judgement of the applications. Each application was reviewed thoroughly by each member of the Committee.

After the thorough review of the applications, which occurred over a period of one week, the Committee met to discuss and make a decision on which nominee would be the recipient of the respective awards. It was a challenging discussion and each application was discussed in detail. All members of the Committee agreed that all of the applicants were very qualified and deserving.

The Committee was impressed with the level of dedication and engagement that each nominee showed and hoped that all of the individuals would remain positively engaged with their research, scholarly and artistic pursuits as well as their community service and leadership activities on and off campus

Friday March 15, 2019

Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: J. Corona-Gomez (VP Finance and Operations), E. Martinez Soberanes (VP Student Affairs), D. Fansher (Council Member), K. Parolia (Council Member).

Regrets: J. Berkenbrock (Council Member), K. Ritchie (Council Member).

The VP Finance and Operations called the meeting to order at 10:00AM and thanked all the committee members to be present on this important selection process despite of their important daily activities. It was mentioned that a lunch will be provided for the committee members. All members present signed confidentiality documents to ensure all bursary applicants privacy rights are protected.

It was restated by all present that if anybody knows or has any type of relationship with an applicant, another committee member has to evaluate that application. The confidentiality letters were circulated and signed by the committee members. 4 piles of applications were set on the tables and each committee member decided were to sit as they arrive to the meeting room to make sure the distribution of applications were aleatory. It was mentioned the possibility to have electronic packages to review and do the evaluation of the application individually.

The VP Finance annotated the suggestion and will pass it on to the next Executives who can decide whether it is possible for the next call of Bursaries. Each member reviewed and ranked the package of applications according to the accepted criteria, then a second revision for high ranked applications was made by another member. It was decided unanimously that incomplete applications will not be revised and any applications that score well-below a minimum threshold will not have a second evaluation. Following the review and cross-checking of all applications, they were sorted according to score. The Committee managed to get through a sizeable number of the applications. Committee Members finish the remaining applications and ensure they get a second review.

It was mentioned that there were many qualified and deserving applicants, and those who didn't receive bursaries is due to the limited number of bursaries available. 20 beneficiaries were selected from a total of 88 applications. Successful bursary applicants will be notified by March 16, 2019. It is recommended for those who were unsuccessful to apply again for the GSA Bursary 2019 Spring/Summer term. The VP Finance and Operations will circulate the minutes and pending approval will contact the recipients of the bursaries.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:15PM.

**University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association
Elections and Referenda Committee Minutes
Monday 18th March 2019**

Present:

- Ziad Ghaith- Council Chair/Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Reggie Nyamekye (Regular / general member), Liliana Rodriguez (Regular / general member), Brittany Laing (Council member), Rifat Zahan (Council member), Carmen Marquez Mellidez (Council member)
- Narsimha Pujari (Council member)

Regrets: Alex Gu (Regular/general member)

1. Opening Nominations

- The Council Chair/CEO called the meeting to order at 5.30 pm. He welcomed everyone and informed the committee that we had received three nominations in sealed envelopes.
- The Council Chair/CEO passed the all 3 sealed envelopes to the Committee members to open one at a time.

2. Potential Nominees

- *Each nominee had to have the following:*
 1. A \$25.00 CAD deposit payable to the GSA (refundable at the discretion of the GSA Elections Committee).
 2. A two-page single-sided (maximum) resume/cv.
 3. A 250-word statement to appear in the ballots.
 4. A copy of the nominee's confirmation of enrolment at the University (Spring and Summer 2019 Terms).
 5. 10 signatures on the nomination form.
 6. Mandatory attendance of one of the three information sessions.
- The first nominee expressed their interest in the President position. Upon a review of their submitted documents, the nominee had fulfilled the nomination requirements, including attended 2 informational sessions. Nomination was ratified.
- The second nominee expressed their interest in the VP Student Affairs position. Upon a review of their submitted documents, the nominee had fulfilled the nomination requirements including attending 1 information session. In place of point (4) above, the nominee wrote a letter to explain that their program did not provide classes for registration in the Spring and Summer Terms, this was accepted by the Committee. Nomination was ratified.

- The third nominee expressed their interest in the VP Student Affairs position as well. Upon a review of their nomination, the committee decided that this nomination package is incomplete, therefore the Committee unanimously declined ratifying this nomination.

3. New Timeline

- The Council Chair/CEO stated that since we did not get nominations for all the four positions, the nomination deadline had to be extended for the VP Finance and Operations and VP External Positions. The Chair/CEO mentioned that he will pass the information to GSA members.
- The nomination deadline for the President and VP Student Affairs will however close and no nominations will be accepted for those two positions.
- A procedure meeting for the two nominees was set for 12:00 pm on Tuesday March 19th 2019 in line with the original Election timeline.
- A suggested date for two new information sessions was proposed for Thursday March 21st 2019 at 12:00 pm and Monday March 25th at 12:00 pm.
- A suggested date of March 25th 2019 at 12:00 pm was accepted as the new deadline for nominations of the two available positions.
- Pujari suggested March 25th 2019 at 4:00 pm for the procedure meeting and maintaining March 25th 2019 at 5:00 pm for the All Candidates Forum.
- The new timeline was accepted by the committee.

4. Other business

- The Council/Chair and CEO will communicate via email to the nominees about timelines.
- The Council/Chair and CEO encouraged committee members to attend the procedure meetings if they can, as well as the All Candidates Forum.

5. Adjournment

- The Council Chair/CEO thanked everyone for coming, mentioned that this was his last time chairing the meeting though he will be available to assist the committee members moving forward. Meeting was adjourned at 5.52 pm.

**University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association
Elections and Referenda Committee Minutes
Monday 25th March 2019**

Present:

- Reggie Nyamekye-Council Chair/Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)
- Brittany Laing (Council member)
- Liliana Rodriguez (Regular / general member)

Available via Email:

- Carmen Marquez Mellidez (Council member)
- Rifat Zahan (Council member)

Regrets:

- Narsimha Pujari (Council member)

Absent:

- Alex Gu (Regular/general member)

1. Opening Nominations

- The Council Chair/CEO called the meeting to order at 2:19 p.m. She shared that we had received four nominations in sealed envelopes.
- The Council Chair/CEO passed the all 4 sealed envelopes to the Committee members to open one at a time.

2. Potential Nominees

- *Each nominee had to have the following:*
 7. *A \$25.00 CAD deposit payable to the GSA (refundable at the discretion of the GSA Elections Committee).*
 8. *A two-page single-sided (maximum) resume/cv.*
 9. *A 250-word statement to appear in the ballots.*
 10. *A copy of the nominee's confirmation of enrolment at the University (Spring and Summer 2019 Terms).*
 11. *10 signatures on the nomination form.*
 12. *Mandatory attendance of one of the three information sessions.*
- The first nominee expressed their interest in the VP External position. Upon a review of their submitted documents, the nominee had fulfilled the nomination requirements.

- The second nominee expressed their interest in the VP Finance and Operations position. Upon a review of their submitted documents, the nominee had fulfilled the nomination requirements.
- The third nominee expressed their interest in the VP Finance and Operations position. Upon a review of their submitted documents, the nominee had fulfilled the nomination requirements.
- The fourth nominee expressed their interest in the VP External position. Upon a review of their submitted documents, the nominee had fulfilled the nomination requirements. In place of point (4) above, the nominee wrote a letter to explain that their program did not provide classes for registration in the Spring and Summer Terms, this was accepted by the Committee.

3. Decision for Nominees

- The Election Committee (either by email or during the meeting) agreed to ratify the 4 nominations.

4. Other business

- The Council/Chair and CEO encouraged committee members to attend the procedures meeting and all candidates forum if they can.

5. Adjournment

- The Council Chair/CEO thanked members for coming and making the ratification process possible. Meeting was adjourned at 2.47 pm.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Governance Committee

Summary

Members: Ziad Ghaith (Council Chair), Saman Naghieh (Councilor), Naheda Sahtout (Councilor), Jesus Corona Gomez (VP Finance and Operations), Somto Ufondu (VP External)

The committee convened (via electronic means and in-person) over a span of several months to discuss and recommend the final amendments to the Association governing documents. The following provides an overview to the changes that are recommended for approval by the Regular Membership, from the Governance Committee.

1. Constitution:

- There were no core changes to the Constitution.
- Changes include those that provide better clarity to the information being presented, those that aligned with best practice and good governance as well as minor changes for improved sentence structure.
- A suggested change of the VP Student Affairs title to VP Academics and Student Affairs and VP External to VP External Affairs, to better reflect the position, to take effect in the 2020 Elections.

2. Bylaws:

- There were no core changes to the Bylaws.
- Changes include those that provide better clarity to the information being presented, those that aligned with best practice and good governance as well as minor changes for improved sentence structure.

- Parts of Policies were moved to the Bylaws to maintain consistency of ideas and information.
- Bylaw 6 - Communications Policy, has been added to the Bylaws to ensure that the Executives are in adherence to the “PAWS Announcement System Access Agreement” and “PAWS Announcement System Access User Agreement” between the GSA and the University. This agreement was developed to ensure that the GSA has better access to communicating with its Regular Membership.

3. Policies:

- There were no core changes to the Policies.
- Changes include those that provide better clarity to the information being presented, those that aligned with best practice and good governance as well as minor changes for improved sentence structure.
- Parts of Policies were moved to the Bylaws to maintain consistency of ideas and information.
- New Policy on Procedures for Major Meetings and Awards added.

The following motions will be presented at the Annual General Meeting:

Whereas section 8.6 of the Constitution of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Association Inc. (GSA) allows a General Meeting of the membership to amend the GSA Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies.

- *BE IT RESOLVED that the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies be so amended as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee, as set forth in the following pages, and take force May 1, 2019.*
- *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the title of VP Student Affairs officially be adopted as Vice-President Academics and Student Affairs for the election cycle beginning in 2020.*
- *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the title of Vice-President External officially be adopted as Vice-President External Affairs for the election cycle beginning in 2020.*

- *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership consent to the correction of non-substantive corrections, such as numbering, order and typographical errors, that may arise following these amendments*



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Board Meeting
March 14, 2019

Present: Naheda Sahtout (President), Jesus Corona Gomez (VP Finance and Operations), Edgar Martinez-Soberanes (VP Student Affairs), Somtochukwu Ufondu (VP External).

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was circulated prior to the meeting. The President asked whether there were any further additions to the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried.

3. Items for Action

3.1. UPASS Fee 2019-2020 (email communication March 1, 2019)

The UPASS is currently available in the fall and winter terms for GSA Members. Our agreement with Saskatoon Transit indicates that the increase in price of the UPASS is correlated to the Saskatoon January CPI. According to the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics, the Saskatoon January 2019 CPI has been determined at 0.8 %. The increase in fee for the UPASS must account for the Saskatoon January CPI (0.8 %) and a \$ 3.00 administration fee, which will be used to cover the 1 % University administration charges as well as the USSU charges for administering the UPASS to GSA members. Our current UPASS fee is \$111.01, of which \$108.01 is remitted to Saskatoon Transit. The added 0.8 % makes the new fee remitted to

Saskatoon transit as \$108.87. The added administration fee makes the new UPASS fee as \$111.87.

Motion to recommend to Council for approval the new UPASS fee increase from \$111.01 to \$111.87 for the 2019-2020 academic year, so as to account for the Saskatoon January CPI, moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.

Motion carried.

3.2. Advocacy and Problem-Solving Skills for Student Leaders

One of the projects that we have been working on over the past year is to create a workshop where student leaders can learn about conflict resolution and advocacy. The College of Law has developed a two-day workshop (September 28 and 29, 2019) that will focus on the following topics;

- Understanding dynamics and patterns of conflict;
- Understanding interests;
- Communication skills which assist problem solving;
- Process steps / stages in a problem-solving model;
- Advocacy roles;
- Mediator and facilitator roles.

The costs of the workshop will be covered by the Office of the University Secretary, the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching Learning Student Experience, the GSA and the USSU. The goal is for the GSA Executives to participate in this workshop, along with other student leaders that would benefit in learning and understanding more about advocacy and conflict resolution. There will be a restriction to the number of students that can participate; however, between the GSA and the USSU, it has been agreed that each Association can register 10 - 12 students. There would be a minimum registration cost to each student, of \$25, that would cover the costs associated with meals. The Budget and Finance Committee was only able to allocate \$1,000 to support this New Initiative. The Board unanimously agrees that there is great value to having this initiative available for students and hopes to see this as a sustainable yearly endeavor.

Motion to recommend to Council for approval allocation of \$1000 to the New Initiative budget line to support the Advocacy and Problem Solving Skills for Student Leaders workshop for the 2019-2020 academic year moved by the VP Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External.

Motion carried.

3.3.2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget

The Board once again discussed the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget and supplementary notes. It was agreed that this proposed budget was balanced, focused greatly on student-supports and services and provided ample funds for initiatives, workshops and major events. As with other years, it was emphasized that fundraising was a requirement for the 3MT® competition, the Graduate Student Research Conference and the Awards Gala. With the Awards Gala requiring the most funds, it was appreciated that there was a small buffer that would aid in the start-up costs to the event. With the increase in student fees, an upgrade to the office computers and the audio system in the Commons could be afforded, over a multi-year span.

Motion to recommend to Council for approval the new 2019-2020 Fiscal Year budget and supplementary notes moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.

Motion carried.

4. Confidential Session

5. In-camera Session

6. Adjournment of Meeting

Seeing no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2019

Present: Naheda Sahtout (President), Jesus Corona Gomez (VP Finance and Operations), Edgar Martinez-Soberanes (VP Student Affairs), Somtochukwu Ufondu (VP External).

Regrets: none

7. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

8. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The VP Finance and Operations wished to add an update for the GSA Tax Clinic as item for information.

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated and amended moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.

Motion carried.

9. Approval of the February 28, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the February 28, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the February 28, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the VP External.

Motion carried.

10. Items for Action

10.1. Funding Request from College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Graduate Student Council.

The VP Finance and Operations indicated that he had received a funding request from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Graduate Student Council with a thorough description and budget of a student BBQ event. The President mentioned that they submitted a descriptive budget proposal where the Executives can see all the details of their planned expenses for the year. The President invited the Executives to look at the BBQ event where the estimated cost is \$400. The VP Finance and Operations commented that since the BBQ is planned on campus, the majority of the attendees will be graduate students mostly from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. The VP External mentioned that the cost of food items is the main expense for this event. The VP Student Affairs commented that they estimated 40 participants for this BBQ, but they might have more than 40 people. The President commented that they have submitted the same funding request to their College and they are waiting for a response from them as stated in their funding proposal. The President asked the VP Finance and Operations to contact them and ask whether the BBQ is the event to which they are requesting funding.

The VP Finance and Operations corresponded by email and received a response on March 18th confirming that the BBQ event is the only event that they are requesting funding for.

The VP External moved to approve funding in the amount of \$250 to the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Graduate Student Council for the BBQ event. This motion was seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried.

10.2. Funding Request from ASHRAE Social Club.

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that he had received a funding request from ASHRAE with a thorough description and budget of the Opening event. The President welcomed Ramin,

and Shitta-Bey to the Executive meeting and asked them to provide a brief description of the event. Ramin commented that the budget provided represents an academic year budget for the ASHRAE social club to start operations and organize social events. The first social event is intended to be an Opening Event of ASHRAE. In this event they are planning to invite people from the industry and students from different fields, but the majority will come from the College of Engineering. The Opening event will be a social gathering where students can connect with people in the industry as well as attract sponsors for the ASHRAE social club. Ramin explained that during the year they will organize more workshops, visits to industry sites, presentations, etc. The VP Student Affairs asked how many students will attend the Opening and what is their estimate on food expenses? Ramin mentioned that around 50 students are expected to attend and the cost of food might be around \$500. The VP Finance and Operations asked how they are planning to advertise this event and if they already started? Ramin explained that they already started advertising this event face to face with students. Ramin added that they have already contacted the ASHRAE branch in Saskatoon, which has agreed to sponsor this event in some capacity and the president will participate in the event as a keynote speaker. Shitta-Bey added that they have already booked the GSA Commons for the Opening, although at a later date had to re-locate due to the 3MT Competition being held on the same day. The VP Student Affairs suggested they submit a budget specifically for this event instead of for the whole year to allow the Executives to evaluate better the budget and make a decision. Ramin agreed to email the VP Finance and Operations an updated budget only for this social event for the Executives to look at.

The VP Finance confirmed that he received the updated budget on March 19th at which point he circulated it to the Executives by email.

The VP External moved to approve funding in the amount of \$300 to ASHRAE for the Opening event. This motion was seconded by the VP Student Affairs.

Motion carried.

10.3. ThinkGrad

The President informed the Executives that we had received an invitation to attend the ThinkGrad Conference from April 12th to 15th, hosted at the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec. The VP Finance and Operations expressed interest in attending ThinkGrad, from the 12th to the 14th, commenting that the graduate community should have representation at this conference. The Executives would use teleconference on the 15th to ensure representation.

Motion to approve the VP Finance and Operations attend the ThinkGrad Conference in April.

Motion moved by the VP Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External.

Motion carried.

(1 abstention; The VP Finance and Operations)

10.4. Cheque remittance

Whereas GSA bylaws 5.4.3 restricts expenditure amounts above \$500, of any budget line, with the exception of salaries and Executive honorariums, without a majority vote of the Executive.

- Cheque 3551 on March 8, 2019 to CRA RE: 2018 T4 CRA of \$640.08
- Cheque 3554 on March 11, 2019 to CFS RE: CFS Winter of \$18,732.93
- Cheque 3552 on March 11, 2019 to Saskatoon Transit RE: Saskatoon Transit Winter of \$300,267.80

Motion to approve the above expenditure moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.

Motion carried.

10.5. GSA Executive and Staff Leadership Conference (retroactive motion; January 31, 2019 meeting minutes)

In order to better reflect the purpose and nature of the event of February 15th - 18th, 2019, a retroactive motion for transparency is as follows;

Motion to approve for four Executives, the previous Indigenous Liaison, and office staff (although only 3 attended) to attend the GSA Executive and Staff Leadership Conference. This motion was moved by the VP Finance and Operations, and seconded by the VP Student Affairs.

Motion carried.

Description and outcomes:

The Executives collectively identified the need to hold a retreat from February 15th - 18th, 2019. A total of eight (8) people attended and included;

- (1) The four current Executives
- (2) The previous Indigenous Liaison
- (3) The Office Manager
- (4) Two of the five Office Coordinators.

Even though there were opportunities for team building activities during the retreat and team excursions, the majority of the retreat was focused on the following;

- (1) How the GSA can become sustainable in future years;
- (2) Providing a safe and non-judgmental space for the Office Manager and the Office Coordinators to share their opinions and concerns;
- (3) How to engage graduate students in student politics and student leadership;
- (4) A reflection on the activities of the year and how to better prepare the future Executives and staff for sustainable practices;
- (5) How best to engage Indigenous graduate students, since the IGSC has been void of leadership for the past few months.

Historically, past practice has been to create a year to year transition for Executives, without integrating the Office Manager. The retreat discussions indicated that this was not best practice. For this reason, it was identified that a thorough manual of the workings of the Association be created by the President, with assistance from each of the Executives. This manual was not only to include the duties of each of the Executives but also an understanding to the finer details of the

day-to-day tasks. The manual would also include, if possible, suggestions for sustainable initiatives that support the well-being of our graduate students.

The retreat also identified that engagement of graduate students in student politics comes when there is a strong platform of support. With the GSA being a student-led organization, it was important to set expectations that did not prevent future student leaders from carrying-on their research activities. The hope is that the above-mentioned manual would assist in reducing any barriers. Furthermore, the importance of diversity and representation was discussed. While it will not be easy to ensure that all minorities are well represented, sharing circles and continuous hosting of events by the Diversity Committee will help address this to some extent. An understanding of respect and inclusion was discussed, especially in the context of Indigenous graduate students.

10.6. Insurance coverage issue

The President commented that she was approached by a student who had purchased a prescription drug that was not covered by insurance at the time of purchase, although later was added to the Plan 48 formulary. At the time of purchase the student was so informed, by the medical practitioners, that this would be covered by insurance. The President indicated that Saskatchewan Health has a list of prescription drugs covered, and Studentcare and Sunlife automatically cover those drugs on the list. Unfortunately, at the time of purchase, it was not part of Plan 48 so it was not actually covered by Studentcare. The student indicated that it is seeking a reimbursement.

The Executives are left to think of the following;

1. Should the GSA be covering an uncovered (at the time) expense due to the mistake of either the student, the doctor, or the pharmacist?
2. Would you be willing to reimburse all other students who purchased that same product during this time frame?
3. What kind of precedent does this set for covering prescriptions that fall outside of the covered drugs from the formulary without going through the normal drug exception process?

The Executives commented that this would be more than a single case, it would represent all the items and drugs that were not covered by Studentcare and Sunlife in that time frame. It was commented that the GSA cannot cover the cost of these items as it sets a precedent. The Executives commented that the Plan 48 formulary list is available for all the beneficiaries to consult before purchasing. The Executives were in agreement that if something was not on the list at the time of purchase, that it would be unreasonable for the GSA to cover the cost as it sets a precedent of covering all cases that followed the same scenario, whether now or in the past.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 Audit Update

The Vice-President Finance and Operations commented that the auditing process is advancing as expected and hopefully the majority of the audits will be ready by the Annual General Meeting; if not, they should be finalized during the Summer.

5.2 Budget Address

The President indicated that she received an invitation to go to the Budget Address in Regina on March 20 at 1:30 pm. In this event the provincial government provides information about the new budget, how they will allocate their resources and support institutions, such as the University of Saskatchewan. The President extended the invitation to the Executives to attend this event.

5.3 Lease Renewal

The President informed the Executives that the new lease for the GSA Commons has been signed and approved by the Board for 5 years, with potential to extend for another 5 years.

5.4 Breakfast Program

The President indicated that Culinary Services came back with prices for breakfast packages. For 30 people, the price ranged from \$2.16 per person to \$2.50 per person. The Executives commented that for the quantity of food being offered, it is a little bit expensive. The VP Student Affairs suggested to double check prices in Costco and estimate how much it would cost us to buy the items by ourselves. The President indicated that the advantage of Culinary Services is that the

storage and delivery on site, which is convenient. It might be worth seeing if we can store extra bread in case of emergency. The VP External commented that this would be a good community engagement activity that involves both colleges / schools / units on campus and community partners.

5.5 Tax Clinic Update

The VP Finance and Operations indicated that he has been recruiting volunteers for the GSA Free Tax Clinic, which will take place next month, and is hosted in association with the Canada Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) a program of the Canada Revenue Agency. The potential volunteers are receiving all the information needed to get registered with the CRA as volunteers for the GSA, and training information to provide this service. The VP Finance and Operations commented that the GSA Tax Clinic will be free for graduate students and their families provided they meet the following criteria:

- They are not self-employed and have no employment expenses.
- They have no rental income.
- They have no capital gains or losses to report.
- They have not filed for bankruptcy.
- They are not filing on behalf of a deceased person.
- They have an income LESS than \$50,000.

Graduate students attending the GSA Free Tax Clinic will be required to have valid government identification which includes a photo. They will be required to file a consent form from the GSA and a TIS60 form from the Canada Revenue Agency. They will also be required to bring all necessary documents (T4, T4As, T2202a and any other tax form for the tax year) with them. It is helpful if the student is able to bring their own laptop as well. The VP Finance and Operations indicated that the dates and times of the tax clinic are April 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, and 17th from 4 PM to 7 PM each day.

11. Other Business

The President invited the Executives to attend:

- University Council on April 18th from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM.
- Senate on April 27th from at least 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

7. Confidential Session**8. In Camera Session****9. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2019

Present: Naheda Sahtout (President), Jesus Corona Gomez (VP Finance and Operations), Somtochukwu Ufondu (VP External)

Regrets: Edgar Martinez-Soberanes (VP Student Affairs).

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated.

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of the March 14, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the March 14, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes. These have been posted to the website.

Motion to approve the March 14, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the VP External.

Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Funding Request - Women in Chemistry

The VP Finance and Operations indicated that he had received a funding request from the USask Women in Chemistry social group with a thorough description and budget of the event “International Year of the Periodic Table 2019” (IYPT2019). The President welcomed Ramos to the Executive meeting and asked her to provide a brief description of the event. Ramos explained the USask Women in Chemistry (USask WiC) group were planning to organize a celebration of the key scientific achievement that promoted the development of many areas of science, the discovery of the Periodic Table of Elements. Ramos indicated this was an iconic image and a vital tool to all who are learning and working in science as it contains a systematic arrangement of all existing elements that shape our world to date. Therefore, to promote awareness of this principal component of life and science, as well as increase the scientific literacy within the university community, the group had decided to join the worldwide celebration of the IYPT2019.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the international year of the periodic table that is being recognized worldwide as one of the biggest achievements in science, not only for the development of the chemical sciences but also for all related disciplines, e.g. Physics and Biology. The U of S graduate community will have the opportunity to pick their favourite element in the periodic table, learn its properties (a fun fact about it), and buy the “element ticket” for \$10 (a max. group of 2 could be allowed in which case each will pay \$5). Each participant will get a card of their favourite element and register his/her name under the element’s name. After all elements’ tickets have been sold, they will all be raffled, and a winner will be chosen. The winner will get \$100. The rest of the raised fund will be used for future events organized by the USask WiC group.

The VP Finance and Operations asked whether they were also planning to provide food. Ramos explained that only snacks and coffee would be provided. The President asked what impact this event would have on graduate students. Ramos mentioned there would be students and professors from other departments and that this event was meant to be both interesting and fun for students, as well as to arouse interest and curiosity in all graduate students. The VP External asked whether they had explored other sources for sponsorship. Ramos explained they had contacted other sources of funding but had not received back any responses, and that these options are unlikely to provide funding.

The President thanked Ramos for attending the meeting and mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to appear on the posters and/or an announcement should be made at the event. Ramos agreed to include the GSA logo on future posters and advertising material. The President indicated that the decision was based on the budget and not on the event. The President thanked Ramos for providing the proposal and attending the Executive meeting to provide further information.

The VP External moved to approve funding in the amount of \$350 to the Usask-Women in Chemistry for the "International Year of the Periodic Table 2019" event. This motion was seconded by the VP Finance and Operations.

Motion carried.

4.2 Office Computers

The President pointed out that since the 2019-20 budget was approved by Council, there were two options to buying the office computers. Both options are the same price. The main difference is the addition of a DVD player. The computer that does not include it is thinner but would take longer to arrive. Both have the same capacity. At the current moment, the purchase of monitors is not necessary as the ones present in the office are in good working condition.

The VP Finance and Operations moved to approve the purchase of the regular unit (specifications below, the necessary requirements for the workload) so that they would be ready for the new Executives to use. Billing will be postponed to May for the new fiscal year. This motion was seconded by the VP External.

Motion carried.

[Intel i5-8400 Kaby Lake Processor (6 Core 2.80/4.00GHz, 9MB Smart Cache, 6 Threads, NO vPRO), 1x 8GB DDR4 2666 UDIMM (4 slots, 64GB Max), 256GB SSD M.2 PCIe NVMe , 1 x 2.5" Hard Drive Bracket, Intel Integrated HD 630 Graphics (2 x DisplayPort + 1 x VGA), DVD-RW, Ports: 4 x USB 3.1 (4x Front), 1 x USB-C (Front), 4 x USB 2.0 (Rear), 1 x Mic (Front), 1 x Headphone Jack, 1 x serial (9-pin), Ethernet, Integrated Audio, USB Mouse & Keyboard, 1.5W Internal Speaker, 210W Power Supply, Windows 10 Home (For Campus Agreement)]

4.3. 2017 Audits

The President reminded the Executives that the 2017 fiscal year audit draft was circulated by email for the Executives revision. The Executives commented that they found the report appropriate and agreed to proceed with the 2018 audit.

The VP Finance and Operations moved to recommend for approval the 2017 fiscal year audit. This motion was seconded by the President.

Motion carried.

4.4. Cheque remittance

Whereas GSA bylaws 5.4.3 restricts expenditure amounts above \$500, of any budget line, with the exception of salaries and Executive honorariums, without a majority vote of the Executive.

- Cheques 3565 - 3584 issued on March 18, 2019 RE: Winter Bursary Awardees (20) in total sum of \$20,000.00. The CGPS will reimburse the GSA as per agreement.
- Cheque 3591 on March 28, 2019 to Studentcare RE: Studentcare Winter Remittance (Inv.22258-002) of \$ 431,592.89.

Motion to approve the above expenditure moved by the VP Finance and Operations and seconded by the President.

Motion carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1. AGM Reports

The President reminded the Executives that submission of their AGM reports are due on April 5.

5.2. Transition Manuals

The President informed the Executives that Transition Manuals for the next Executive team are required as per our Bylaws.

5.3. *Reimbursements*

The Vice-President Finance and Operations asked the Executives to submit any reimbursements by April 22, 2019 to ensure that the finances for the fiscal year can be closed.

5.4. *GSA Free Tax Clinic update*

The VP Finance and Operations commented that volunteers have been confirming their participation for the tax clinic in the coming weeks. Some volunteers belong to the Edwards School of Business and have taken such courses regarding taxes already.

6. **Other Business**

7. **Confidential Session**

8. **In-Camera Session**

9. **Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY: STUDENT-SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS

February 14, 2019

10 AM - 12 PM

Objective: The rationale behind this workshop was to gain an understanding as to what works best in a student-supervisor relationship. Emphasis was placed on faculty and students expressing the positive aspects of their own professional relationships. The ideas and themes posted during this session is another step to understanding what tools could be developed to enhance such characteristics within our own graduate community.

In attendance: 6 faculty members, 14 graduate students, 2 alumni graduate students

The program should be;

- Structured or defined from the beginning so that students can focus more on the actual program rather than wasting time to figure the process;

The supervisor should;

- Be facilitators and make an effort to spark creativity and imagination in the students;
- Understand the different processes or stages that students need to go through during their graduate program;
- Be the enabler of opportunity for students (networking, conference attendance... etc) in terms of the discipline;
- Be available for the students and ensure that progress is satisfactory;
- Be aware each student is a unique individual and so the relationship should be tailored to that individual;
- Be patient, provide a let-up with regards to the background of any project, and act as a mentor;
- Acknowledge the work of their students and be excited about results, regardless of the scale;
- Support students both financially and academically.

The student should;

- Appreciate a sense of autonomy and the ability to somewhat influence decisions;
- Show excitement in results, team work and take an initiative to problem solve;
- Gain independence as time progresses and take ownership of own research project;
- Feel valued, celebrated, supported and given time to explore things.

Mutually both the student and the supervisor should;

- Show reliability and flexibility;
- Respect each other;
- Be willing to accept constructive criticism and learn from each other;
- Schedule regular meetings to discuss progress and maintain motivation;
- Understand expectations;
- Be transparent;
- Have open discussions about achievements and future expectations.

A positive student-supervisor relationship;

- Ensures both parties mental health is not at risk;
- Enhances productivity;
- Supports the success of the student and enhances the outcomes for a supervisor.

What can we do?

- Re-integrate students (proactively) prior to problems happening;
- Provide an orientation to both students and supervisors that would encompass;
 - o Conflict management and resolution;
 - o Time frames;
 - o Practical workshops;
 - o Cultural awareness;
 - o Communication skills;
 - o Understanding work-life balance;
 - o Equip both parties with the necessary tools to be successful in their relationship.
- Faculty mentorship in student-supervisory relationships:
 - o Use cohorts; they would be kept together and have the opportunity to share best practices;
 - o Include a lunch session with each discussion;
 - o Bring in award winners to discuss best practices.
- Develop tools for better match-making and compatibility understanding;
- The student-supervisor agreement;
 - o Implemented with committee follow-up;
 - o Revisited from time to time to understand best practices and to add any new requirements or expectations of a graduate program;
 - o Be used as a working tool for interviews.

**Monthly Report from the VP Finance and Operations
April 2019 GSA Council Meeting**

Good Evening GSA members,

I am pleased to provide you with this report on my activities as the current Vice-President Finance and Operations.

I would like to thank the Office Manager and the GSA President who have done an extraordinary effort during the past months, for all their assistance in ensuring the GSA operates in an effective, transparent, and sustainable fashion.

1. 2019 GSA Tax Clinic

This month we are hosting the GSA Tax Clinic on April 3, 5, 10, 12, and 17 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Trained volunteers are helping to file tax returns and they will receive a certificate of recognition and a letter signed and stamped by the GSA to add to their resume and personal records.

2. Supporting ratified social clubs

a) USASK Women in Chemistry – IYPT 2019 event.

Please feel free to contact me at gsa.fin@usask.ca or speak to me anytime at the Commons should you have any questions or need any further clarification.

Other meetings:

Date	Meeting
March 21, 2019	President monthly meeting
March 27, 2019	3MT
March 28, 2019	RSAW Committee
March 28, 2019	Executive meeting
April 11, 2019	Executive meeting
April 16, 2019	Annual General Meeting
April 17, 2019	President monthly meeting
April 18, 2019	RSAW Committee

Sincerely,

Jesus Corona-Gomez

Vice-President Finance and Operations.

Graduate Students' Association



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

April 2019

RE: VP Student Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members:

Please find below my March report to council.

1) Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT)

The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition is an internationally recognized research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in 2008. The 3MT® competition challenges graduate students (Master and Ph.D.) to present their research and its significance in three minutes using a single and static slide. The goal of the competition is not an exercise in trivializing or simplifying research but challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries, so they can be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience. 3MT celebrates the discoveries made by research students and encourages their skill in communicating the importance of research to the broader community.

The 3MT® is designed to share and celebrate the outstanding research of our dedicated students and to provide students the opportunity to showcase the importance of their work. This celebration of research offers an invaluable opportunity for graduate students to compose and present their research in a way that engages the academic community and refines the quality of their work.

All 3MT® participants were competing for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and people's choice prizes at the local level valued at \$1000, \$500, \$250, \$250, respectively. The winner secured a

spot at the regional competition at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George (UNBC) on April 17.

This year we had 27 participants, which was a bit lower than previous years; however, many students cancelled for different personal reasons in the last minute. Thus, the event could not be promoted more in order to get more competitors. The judging panel was composed by: Dr. Ahmed Abdel-Salam (U of S Alumni, current employee of Nortek), Mr. Bill Lewis (Tomorrow Today Society Inc.), Mr. Eric Olauson (MLA Saskatoon University), Mr. Galen Heinrichs (City of Saskatoon Research Connections Liaison), and Mr. Khalil Sahtout (U of S Alumni, Freelance Consultant).

The winners were: 1st place, Mr. Farzad Dehghan; 2nd place and People’s Choice, Ms. Miranda Zwiefelhofer, and 3rd place, Mr. Nicholas A. Belliveau.

In general, the event was very successful, but we realize that more promotion is needed if we want to make the event bigger.

2) Meetings

The following is an updated list of meetings and workshops I have attended, since the last GSA Council meeting:

Date	Meeting
March 21, 2019	University Council
April 1, 2019	Graduate Program Committee
April 5, 2019	Student Forum Executive



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

April 2019

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my April report to council:

1) **GSA Sustainability Event**

The Sustainability committee is planning to host an event where we plan to show a documentary video on sustainability. The event will hold on April 15th, 5 PM, and there will be food and games as well.

2) **GSA Gala/Awards Night**

We are set for the Gala/Awards Night, and the tickets are sold out – we are expecting some 200 guests or more. It looks like it is going to be an exciting evening with several senior admin and government officials in attendance. Also, there will be a dance at the end of the evening.

3) **Meetings**

The following is an updated list of meetings/events I attended and am scheduled to attend in March/April.

Date	Activity
March 21	Meeting with the President's Executive Committee
March 21	Search Committee for the Vice President Research
March 22	Search Committee for the Vice President Research

March 26	USask Against Racism
March 27	Search Committee for the Vice President Research
March 28	Images of Research Judging
March 28	GSA Executives Meeting
April 2	GSA Sustainability Committee Meeting
April 3	Interdisciplinary Committee Meeting
April 6	GSA Annual Awards Gala
April 9	GSA Council Meeting
April 11	GSA Executives Meeting
April 16	GSA Monthly Meeting with Dean, CGPS Team
April 16	GSA AGM
April 17	Meeting with the President's Executive Committee
April 18	University Council
April 24	CGPS Equity and International Committee Meeting
April 25	GSA Executives Meeting