



Graduate Students' Association - University of Saskatchewan
 Council Meeting Agenda
 Tuesday August 13, 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	Approval of the agenda	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
3	Approval of the minutes from June 18, 2019	3-10	<i>Decision</i>
4	Information to be received	11-16	<i>Decision</i>
	A. June 12, 2019 Executive Minutes		
5	Executive reports	17-22	<i>Information</i>
	A. Report of the President		
	B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations -Verbal		
	C. Report of the VP Student Affairs		
	D. Report of the VP External Affairs		
6	Items for Information/Discussion		<i>Information</i>
	A. Academic Council Registration for 2019/2020		
	B. International Students on Implied Status		
7	Other business/Announcements		<i>Information</i>
8	Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>

Next meeting: September 24, 2019.



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
GSA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 18 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 5:11pm.

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

2. Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Rengifo/Alam)

Carried

3. Approval of the minutes from April 9, 2019

Motion to approve the April 9 minutes. (Fansher/ Ross)

Carried

4. Information to be received

A. May 4, 2019 Executive Retreat Minutes

B. May 15, 2019 Executive Minutes

Motion to receive agenda items 4A-B. (Ross/ Shirley)

Carried

5. Executive reports

A. Report of the President

President Rengifo addressed the gathering for the first time as the president of the GSA. The president mentioned a few initiatives that she will continue to work on and a few that she

would like to pursue. In doing so she has met with International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC), the Dean of CGPS, the City of Saskatoon and encouraged council members to visit her office with their suggestions or concerns as she continues to carve out an immediate direction for her administration.

There were no questions for the President.

B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations

VP Alam thanked the office manager and past VP of Finance and Operations for assisting with his transition. He also brought to the attention of the gathering that the bursary applications were now opened, and they had only received 15 applicants to date. The June 24th application deadline would be extended if they didn't receive at least 40 applications, so he encouraged the councilors to spread the word to their respective departments.

There were no question for the VP Finance and Operations.

C. Report of the VP Student Affairs

VP Fonseca informed the councilors that she was working on orientation ahead of the start of the 2019/2020 school year and was in the process of contacting vendors to determine what swag they will be using. The orientation was originally scheduled for the 5th of September but had to be moved to the 4th of September because of a conflict in the scheduling. Additionally, she informed the gathering that the GSA Facebook page was being updated and members should stay tuned as she is also collaborating with the student wellness center to come up with activities to help with mental health.

There were no questions for the VP Student Affairs.

D. Report of the VP External

VP Ezekwesili shared that the GSA guppies have continued to be successful and the members can come out and show their support for the sporting arm of the GSA on Mondays at 6:00 pm, the venue changes depending on the sport being played so they should continue to consult the newsletter for specifics.

She added that the GSA was overhauling their social media, so in addition to the Facebook account, the Instagram account has been reactivated and those who use Twitter can also stay up to date on that platform. The Twitter handle is "GSA USASK" and going forward this will be the name one can look up on all 3 social media platforms listed above.

VP Ezekwesili shared that she attended the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) meeting in Ottawa last week. The VP External ended her contribution with some information that had been discussed in Ottawa, where an international student was facing deportation for working over the 20 hours a week.

Question from councilor: Did the university have the back of the student facing deportation?

Answer from VP External: CFS is in contact with the Immigration minister. As it pertains to that university, they view it as an external situation as the student's work issue happened off campus.

6. Items for Information/Discussion

A. GSA Newsletter

President Rengifo spoke to this being the first time the GSA have direct contact with the graduate students as per the MOA with the university. The first newsletter will be sent out tomorrow the 19th of June. The GSA will try to put out one issue a month, so students are aware of activities, scholarships and other university related issues the GSA feels needs to be highlighted.

7. Other business/Announcements

Concerning the UPSASS, Ezekwesili wanted to ascertain whether the council members would like to consider getting a UPASS for the Spring and Summer semesters.

President Rengifo followed up her VP External UPass question with a few points. She felt that it seems like about half of the students surveyed are against it, but she wasn't certain if we had higher participation, if there would be overwhelming interest in obtaining one. Further, she felt that the UPass over the spring/summer term is not just a matter of convenience but also one of safety, as students still continue to work late during this period and not all our graduate students live along well-lit heavily trafficked routes.

Friedrichsen:

We need to understand where students are living during the summer months to see if it's worth it. Secondly, is it all or none? Can we offer the bus pass to the students who feel they need it?

VP Ezekwesili:

The agreement as it stands, is only for the Fall and Winter semesters so the City of Saskatoon offers graduate students a substantial discount on the UPass. However, in order to get this for the Spring/Summer semester there would have to be a referendum. Students would still be able to opt out based on the current eligibility criteria.

It seems that a big concern for some of our students, is the fact that they would be paying for something that they would never use, as a large number of them are committed to field work outside of the city for those months. Something that could be looked at more closely going forward is the opt out language so that those students wouldn't be burdened by a fee that they get no direct benefit from.

Friedrichsen:

Can we start a bursary for a bus pass and if there is a very large number of students and becomes unaffordable then we can push for a bus pass agreement? More truly interested persons would come forward than in the previous poles that have all reached a stalemate.

Fansher:

Since the majority of students who don't want the bus pass are out doing field work we should delay any further discussions on it until they're back to participate.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Alam/Fansher) at 6:03pm.

Carried

Academic Council	Name of Councillors 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	Jun.18 2019	Aug.13 2019
Computer Science Grad Course Council (2)	Parastoo Veisi (Kawser Nafi)	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	
PEGASUS	Alex Chang (Ethan Runge)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Jennifer Bell (Aimee Schryer)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
WCVM GSA	Breanne Murray (Narsimha Pujari)	P	P	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	A	A	
Psychology Graduate Student Assoc.	Sarah Mohammed (Farron Wielinga)	P	P	A	R	P	P	A	P	R	
AREC	Yerebakia Choro (Ran Sun)	NA	P	P	P	A	A	A	P	P	
SENSSA (1)	Peter Friedrichsen (Belizario Carballo)	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
SENSSA (2)	Laila Balkhi (Belizario Carballo)	NA	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council P&N-GSC	Lina Kharabsheh (Riley Devine)	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	
School of Public Health Students' Assoc (SPHSA) (1)	Britanie Thomas (NA)	NA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
School of Public Health Students' Assoc. (SPHSA) (2)	Chiamaka Ezekwesili (Alejandra Fonseca)	NA	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	NA	

Academic Council	Name of Councillors 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	Jun.18 2019	Aug.13 2019
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Kyla Collins (Katrin Ritchie)	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	R	P	
Engineering, Chemical	Khaled Zoroufchi Benis (NA)	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	
Engineering, Mechanical	Bicheng Xing (Stephen Owuamanam)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Engineering, Electrical	Ozan Gunes (Jose Berkenbrock)	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	
Engineering, Biomedical	Saman Naghieh (Ejalonibu Hammed)	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	
Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Kusum Sharma (Mamata Panigrahi)	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	
Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kushagra Parolia (Sarah Martin)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	A	
Community Health & Epidemiology	Jacob Alhassan (Liliana Rodriguez)	NA	P	P	R	P	P	R	R	A	
Health Sciences	Chelsea Cunningham (Scott Adams)	NA	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	
Art and Art History Graduate Students Council	Rachel Broussard (Gale Hagblom)	NA	NA	P	R	P	A	A	P	A	
Plant Science (PSGSA)	Hu Wang	NA	NA	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	
JSGS	Susmitha Rallabandi (Gebeyehu Abate)	NA	NA	NA	NA	P	A	A	A	A	



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2019

Present: Mery Mendoza (President), Mohammad Wajih Alam (VP Finance and Operations), Alejandra Fonseca (VP Student Affairs), Chiamaka Ezekwesili (VP External).

Regrets/Absent: None

Guest: Amara Zuhaib

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

The president thanked all executives for being active and committed to their roles. She also indicated that it is important for all the executives to continue with the same enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year as it was seen in the first one and half months.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The president asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The VP Student Affairs asked to discuss orientation. Following this request, Section 5.3 is renamed as Orientation details to reflect the same.

Motion to approve the Agenda as amended moved by the VP Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed

Motion carried.

3. Approval of the May 15, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the May 15 Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the May 15, 2019 Executive Minutes moved by the President and seconded by the VP Finance and Operations. Vote: Passed

Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Funding Request Pakistani Student Association (attached)

The President mentioned that we had a funding request from the Pakistani Student Association (PKSA). This type of funding request is usually added on the agenda and discussed in the Executive meetings. Since the event was scheduled on June 9th and the next executive meeting was scheduled on June 12th, the executives decided to have a meeting on May 28th, 2019 to accommodate the request. The VP Finance and Operations received a clear description and budget from PKSA about the event. The President welcomed Amara to the Executive meeting and asked her to briefly describe the event. Amara mentioned that about 2000 people are expected to attend this event and they plan to setup a booth, sell food and give goodies. She added that the profit will be donated to the food bank and some of the money raised will be used later for the upcoming Eid Festival.

The President asked if other executives had any questions. The VP External asked what the festival was about and how the graduate students were going to get benefitted. Amara added that it is a traditional festival of welcoming spring mainly celebrated in Pakistan and India. There is no space to fly kites in Saskatoon and this event will welcome people from both on and off campus and introduce them to the culture while having fun. The VP Student Affairs asked how the PKSA planned on using funds if the GSA decides to provide funding for this event. Amara replied that the PKSA will use it to sell food and the profit will be donated to the food bank. The VP Finance and Operations asked if their event is on campus or off campus. Amara replied that the event is off-campus. The VP Finance and Operations asked how the graduate students would benefit from the event as it was not clear. Amara added that the PKSA will be promoting on behalf of students and let general people know that graduate students are at the University.

The President mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. Amara agrees to add the GSA logo (found on the website) on posters and advertising material. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event. The President thanked Amara for providing the proposal and further information. She communicated that the decision will be made and will be communicated via email.

The president mentioned that the executives were very happy that the PKSA is participating in such a big event that welcomes such a diverse group off-campus. According to the GSA policies, events off campus should be specifically for graduate students, such as conferences, etc. Since this event is being held off campus, there is not direct benefit to our graduate students, therefore, the GSA would not be able to provide funds to support the event. On behalf of the GSA executives, the PKSA is encouraged to apply for funding for any future events that the PKSA may be organizing that benefits our graduate students.

The President moved not to proceed with the funding of this event based on the above criteria. This motion was seconded by the VP finance and operations. Vote: Passed.

4 in favour

Motion carried

4.2 GSA newsletter

The President mentioned that it is the first time that the GSA has been given an opportunity to communicate with graduate students directly via email. She mentioned that being specific in email communication is important. It was mentioned that the VP Student Affairs is working on the template which will be used for email communication. In general, it was agreed that the emails will be sent twice per month in Fall and Winter terms and once per month in Spring/ and Summer terms and in December or as need arises.

The VP Finance and Operations moved to approve GSA newsletter. Seconded by the President. Vote: Passed

Motion carried.

4.3 Barbeque tool kit

President mentioned that Office Manager (Candace) informed that the BBQ tool kit (Wire Bristles) needs to be replaced as it has worn out.

Motion to approve the purchase of Wire Bristles. Moved by VP Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed

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. BIRT that the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to StudentCare in the Sum of \$81,318.14 issued on May 29, 2019 for health and dental services to graduate students.
- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping Services Inc. in the sum of \$897.64 issued on May 15, 2019 for bookkeeping services.
- Payment to Nepalese Student Association in the Sum of \$500.00 in support of Nepalese Nite 2019 event.

The VP Finance and Operations moved to approve the above expenditures. Seconded by the President. Vote: Passed

Motion carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 Committees, meetings, events and attendance

The President mentioned that it is important to represent the GSA in all committees, meetings and events. She further emphasized that it is important to be present if the executives have committed to attend any event/meetings. In a scenario where an executive is approached by two meetings, it is important to honor the commitment given to the first meeting so that transparency and trust is maintained. In unforeseen circumstances, it is important to send regrets and communicate with other executives so that an alternative solution can be sought, if needed.

5.2 Social media

The President mentioned that the GSA uses Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and website to communicate with the graduate students. The GSA promotes our events, shares content, and has a big network at both the national and international level which highly benefits graduate students. The office manager handles Twitter, VP Student Affairs handles Facebook, and VP External handles Instagram. It is important to remain on top of them. The next step would be to work on automating tasks so that the posts can be disseminated across all platforms simultaneously. The President mentioned that this will be mentioned again in future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday June 17th, 2019 at GSA commons at 12:00 PM.

5.3 Orientation Details

The VP Student Affairs mentioned that the Bowl is booked on September 5th which was the originally scheduled date for Fall Orientation of Graduate Students. To handle this inconvenience, she is communicating with USSU in order to book the bowl and come up with a new date. The VP Students Affairs presented a quote on the different possibilities of swags and the President mentioned that this would be discussed further on the next meeting on Monday June 17th, 2019.

5.4 2019 Spring/Summer Bursary Update

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the Call for Applications is now open for Spring/Summer term bursary and that the GSA Bursary Selection Committee is being contacted but he has not heard back from them yet. The GSA Bursary Selection Committee will select 10 beneficiaries for the need-based bursary. Once the committee meets and assesses the applications, the recipients will be contacted.

5.5 GSA presence in Nepalese Nite 2019

The executives were invited to join the Nepalese Nite 2019. The VP Finance and Operations went to the event on behalf of GSA. He mentioned that it was a fun event which involved people from both on and off campus. Although the program was focused on introducing Nepal and Nepali culture, he mentioned that the audience was thoroughly involved and enjoyed the event. He was happy to see the engagement of graduate students in the program. He also mentioned that some participants from other organizations were present

as well. The President thanked the VP Finance and Operations for attending the event on behalf of the GSA and she further emphasized that it is important to show the presence of GSA in such events to show support.

6. Other Business

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked whether there was any other business arising.

Since there were none, the VP finance and operations moved to adjourn the meeting and the president seconded. Vote: Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

President report - GSA Council Meeting, August 2019

Dear Councilors,

On behalf of the GSA executives, I would like to thank each of the councilors for taking the time and dedication on serving the GSA throughout the 2018-2019 academic year. Certainly, your participation and commitment in each task has helped the GSA to continue in providing the services and advocacy for graduate students at the University. The GSA also gives special thanks to individuals who volunteer at the GSA events, who sit on Standing Committees, to the Council Chair for her outstanding work preparing for and executing Council meetings, as well as to the previous and current GSA board members for their service to the GSA this 2018-2019 academic year.

In this first report, I provide a brief explanation of the evolution of the things I am focusing on during my tenure, which are as follows:

1. Improving our resources for mental health

As discussed in the June Council meeting, we will continue to build on the work of the previous Executive Board with regards to improving resources for mental health. We are working close with Peer Health to start new initiatives and work on projects that will be of benefit to all graduate students.

2. Student-Supervisor relationship

We want to further promote a healthy relationship between students and supervisors through the mandatory use of the Student-Supervisor agreement across Colleges and Schools at the University of Saskatchewan. We have planned to meet with the Acting Associate Dean of CGPS to move forward with the student supervisor agreement and discuss the promotion and enhancement of this agreement across campus.

3. Previous and new Initiatives

We are engaged with the previous initiatives and participate in the organization of many activities around campus, including the Sexual Assault Awareness Week, the Global Connections Student Gathering events, and others. We also want to initiate the Student Engagement with Community Initiative which aims both to bring together students from our community and to appreciate the effort of those individuals that volunteer their time with the activities held by the GSA.

4. Executive Meeting

The GSA executives held their meetings on June 12, 2019 and July 17, 2019.

In conclusion, we will continue to advocate for the best interests of our members and I look forward to working together with each of you in the upcoming year to continue serving our graduate students. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Thank you,

Mery Mendoza

President, Graduate Students' Association



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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August 2019

RE: VP Student Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members:

Please find below my June-July report to council.

1) Fall Orientation

In our May Executive Meeting Minutes, the date for Orientation was set to be September 5TH, 2019. However, due to scheduling conflict at the Bowl; we had to reschedule Orientation for grad students, to September 4th, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM. This year, we'll host the speeches indoors at BIOL 106, followed by the BBQ at The Bowl. At this point, the promotional items have been delivered but we are still waiting for the CFS agendas. The invitations for the GSA social groups and the U of S faculty have been sent, we had had a positive response but we still have space for more groups. For those groups wanting to be at Orientation, please drop a ratification package at the office before August 30th at 5:00PM. More information about the documents necessary for the ratifications can be found at the GSA website. Volunteers request was also sent out though the newsletter. During these weeks, I will keep on working on purchasing the food for Orientation and sorting out the details for the event

2) Peer Health Grad Students Group

Given that one of the main focuses of GSA this year is Mental Health. In collaboration with Peer Health and the Student Wellness Center, we are planning and organizing a new Peer Health Group that is designed by Grad Students for Grad Students. We are hoping that we can run a pilot this year.

The following is an updated list of meetings and workshops I have attended, since June 11th:

Date	Meeting
July 11, 2019	Saskatchewan's Sexual Assault Prevention Policy Consultation
July 22, 2019	Global Connections Retreat



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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August 2019

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

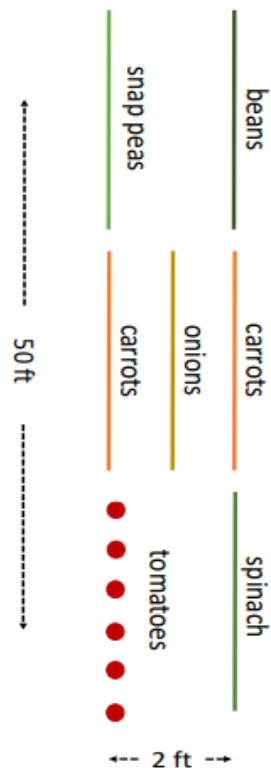
Please find below my August report to council:

1) **GSA Guppies Soccer tournament**

The GSA Guppies held their final match on Monday 29th July, 2019. Our game is the game of our team, the game of our supporting. A perfect team is a team that works together. It is the journey we started and we have gone a long way to win many hurdles. Many achievements and success await us. Everyone did their best and worked hard. Most importantly we had fun. We look forward to the next guppies' tournament for fall. I will inform everyone when the time is right.

2) **Adopt-a-plot program**

Our spinach was harvested and we have peas that are ready to be harvested. It has been interesting so far. We usually tend to our plot twice a week; Wednesdays at 5pm and Saturdays at 11am. We encourage every person to join us whenever, you would see our GSA logo on the rows we adopted. The location of the garden patch is 900 Block of, 3rd Ave N, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2K3. I have also attached a picture of the seeding diagram for the GSA planters.

Seeding Diagram:

ADOPT-A-PLOT 2019



Last year, Adopt-A-Plot teams donated **579 hours** of time and grew **6,771 pounds** of food for Emergency Food Baskets!

3) **Health chats**

There are plans to increase the number of health chats for the GSA in collaboration with services available on campus and Student wellness centre. There are ongoing discussions on the dates for the health chats, these would be made available by September

4) **Meetings**

The following is a list of updated meetings/events I attended since May, 2019.

Date	Activity
May 4	GSA executive retreat
May 8	Academic Programs Committee Meeting
May 13	Grad Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
May 14	Equity and International Committee
May 23	University Council Meeting
May 30	Faith Leaders Council
June 3	U of S convocation

June 7	72nd Semi-Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students at Ottawa
July 26	Parents on Campus Meeting