



University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
GSA Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday January 22, 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**

Mr. Ghaith, Chair of Council called the meeting to order at 5:06PM. The chair shared with the gathering that the GSA had lost a member and colleague since the last meeting in December. Abdullah passed away on 2nd of January. One of Abdullah's friends were invited to share a few words about him, soon after the chair called for a brief moment of silence to honour our lost council member.

2. **Guest Speaker: Associate Director of Innovation Enterprise**

Alix Hayden briefly introduced some of the programs currently being rolled out of her office. Innovation Enterprise is the commercialization office at USASK, their job is to find and work with innovators on campus and help them develop those products or services for introduction to the marketplace. This may involve patenting or out licensing. The office is essentially tasked with identifying the best vehicle to bring that invention to market, sometimes that calls for finding the right partners. If there is no feasible partner to approach then that is a startup opportunity. This second case is often not the motivation of comfortable staff or faculty as the inventor is not always an entrepreneur.

Highly motivated entrepreneurial minded students have been brought on board to start the student engagement program called STING which is short for Saskatchewan Student Innovation and Growth. This program can be broken into the following:

- SIBA Student innovation and Business analysts. This leg of the program helps identify the market trying to study trends, possible barriers to entry, competition etc.
- Summer entrepreneurs- training students to craft business plans. This summer 5 student teams with 3 students/team will be the first running of this part of STING.
- IEI Interns with a focus on tech acquisition. Science expertise is definitely an asset to companies trying to figure out what's the next big "Thing". This is a 6 month placement which allows the students to interface with different aspects from intellectual property to funding of those emerging technologies.

## Q & A

Q (Ufonde) Are you concerned that with greater interest in entrepreneurship that the school will have more dropouts?

A: The goal is introduce entrepreneurship as a path and that's why the entrepreneurship leg of the program is only ran during the summer so that students don't get too preoccupied by those interests during the academic year. We don't want to encourage people to drop out of school but to provide the support for those students with a keen interest.

Q (Sahtout): If we believe that our research has commercialization potential how do we approach your office?

A: Anyone can contact us and have a chat, come share what you're working on. Then we start exploring inventorship which more of a legal aspect but the first meeting doesn't have to be that formal.

Q (Sahtout): How does the profit sharing work on an invention successfully brought to market?

A: At USASK IP is typically owned by the university. The university pays for the patenting and if it makes any money the inventors typically get 50%.

Q (Ufonde): Is it possible for international students to be hired by your office?

A: If the student is legally able to work within Canada then they can work with our office.

Q: The job application seems like you're seeking students with experience but is it possible to get hired without any experience?

A: We need people that can summarize and provide us with what is interesting about a given innovation. If those things genuinely spark your interests then you're a possible candidate for most of our positions.

Q (Sahtout): This is a substantial amount of funds that the GSA will be contributing to your program, can you speak to aspects of the program sustainability in future years.

A: It is projected that 1 in 5 will become a company, the funding with the performance metrics will be able to secure more funding after the 3 years.

Q (Sahtout): Are there shorter programs for students who can't attend during the summer.

A: Working on a campus entrepreneurs program for those who don't have the time to enroll in full summer program, it will be more like a short training program that would take the form of a bootcamp.

Q: How do you advertise the office?

A: Career link, mailing lists of the different colleges

Alix left some of her business cards at the GSA commons for interested students to contact her. President Sahtout brought to the attention of the council members that the above program would incur and increase in the GSA membership fees that were no greater than 5% which amounts to ~\$4/member/year.

### **3. Guest speaker: Program Manager Studentcare Information**

*This agenda item was presented after agenda item #9.*

Colton Yamagishi briefed the gathering on the status of the studentcare plan. He stated that currently the students are getting good value based on the prescription and dental services that they received against the premiums paid. What now had to be decided is whether the GSA wanted to stick with their current coverage going forward or alter their plan, this would be decided on by the next council meeting.

Q & A

Q (Friedrichsen): Are those values normalized for student population?

A: Yes, all the statistics account for current student population.

Q (Parolia): What is the difference between the plan fee and plan premium?

A: Plan fee is higher than plan premium. The plan fee is what the students pay and the premium is what goes to sunlife.

### **4. Approval of the agenda**

*Motion to approve agenda. (BRIAN MURRAY/ADAMS)*

**CARRIED**

### **5. Approval of the Minutes from December 11, 2018**

*Motion to approve December Council minutes (PAROLIA/ ZAHAN)*

**CARRIED**

### **6. Business arising (int. student implied status)**

The Chair noted that there is business arising from December meeting. The Chair invite the executives to provide the Council with updates.

President Sahtout: There are no updates at this time but the University is looking at comparator institutions, but encouraged individuals who are unable to work to approach the GSA.

### **7. Information to receive**

- A. Executive meeting minutes from December 6, 2018
- B. Executive meeting minutes from December 20, 2018
- C. GSA Board Memo
- D. Sustainability Committee minutes from November 28, 2018 (amended)
- E. Sustainability Committee minutes from January 10, 2019

*Motion to receive committees reports/minutes 7.A – 7.E (MURRAY/ RODRIGUEZ)*

**CARRIED**

## 8. Executive reports

### A. Report of the President

President Sahtout kept her address short and focused on the following:

- Met with the board of governors in December but the board is not in position to put a graduate student on the board.
- Currently compiling a list of what works best for a positive supervisor/student relationships.

There were no questions for the president.

### B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations

VP Operations and Finance informed the meeting that he was currently organizing another committee for the budget for next year and a selection committee for the Bursaries for the winter 2019 semester.

There were no questions for the president.

### C. Report of the VP Student Affairs

VP Student Affairs reminded the council members that the research conference (Feb) and the 3MT (3 Minute Thesis competition) were both round the corner and can expect request for abstracts soon.

There were no questions for the VP Student Affairs

### D. Report of the VP External

VP External asked that if anyone is interested in first aid training that there were 2 sessions coming up in February on the 16th and the 19th. If anyone was interested they were asked to contact him directly.

The next Health chat would take the form of a self defense session which is already full.

The VP external also told the gathering that the GSA guppy teams were already full but council members are always welcome to cheer fellow council members on.

There were no questions for the president.

## 9. Sustainability Representatives (Biology GSA)

Biology GSA representative asked the meeting, how many of the council member are part of groups that have sustainability components within their departments.

If anyone interested in contacting him by email address can be

## **10. Other business/Announcements Information**

GSA elections Committee will meet later this month.

President Sahtout informed the Council that the GSA was invited to join a Tuition Freeze campaign from U Regina. GSA council members seem to have mixed feeling about joining such an initiative.

Next council meeting Feb 26th.

## **11. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn (ZAHAN/ ADAMS) at 6:37*

**CARRIED**

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## 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			
ARCHAIA	Alne Dolln (Adrienne Ratuszniak)	P	P	P	A	A			
Biology	Dylan Baloun (Carmen Marquez Mellidez)	P	P	P	P	P			
Chemistry	Doug Fansher (Richard Pettipas)	P	A	R	P	P			
Geography & Planning	Bethany Thiessen (Apeksha Heendeniya)	P	P	P	P	P			
Geological Sciences	Brittany Laing (James Schulte)	P	P	P	A	P			
History Graduate Students' Committee	John Bird (Mckelvey Kelly)	P	P	P	A	P			
IGSC (1)	Tara Million (Adam McInnes)	P	P	NA	NA	NA			
IGSC (2)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Kinesiology	Natasha Boyes (Natalie Houser)	P	P	P	P	P			
Computer Science Grad Course Council (1)	Rifat Zahan (Tonny Kar)	P	P	P	P	P			
Computer Science Grad Course Council (2)	Parastoo Veisi (Kawser Nafi)	A	P	A	P	A			
PEGASUS	Alex Chang (Ethan Runge)	P	P	P	P	P			
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Jennifer Bell (Aimee Schryer)	P	P	P	P	P			
WCVM GSA	Breanne Murray (Narsimha Pujari)	P	P	P	P	P			
Master of Business Admin Representative Council (MBARC)	Tyler Gray (Alli Sparling)	NA	NA	P	R	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			
AREC	Yerebakia Choro (Ran Sun)	NA	P	P	P	A			
SENSSA (1)	Peter Friedrichsen (Belizario Carballo)	P	R	P	P	P			
SENSSA (2)	Laila Balkhi (Belizario Carballo)	NA	P	P	A	P			
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council P&N-GSC	Lina Kharabsheh (Riley Devine)	P	P	A	P	P			
School of Public Health Students' Assoc (SPHSA) (1)	Cheryl Roett (NA)	NA	P	P	P	P			
School of Public Health Students' Assoc. (SPHSA) (2)	Chiamaka Ezekwesili (NA)	NA	P	P	R	P			
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Kyla Collins (Katrin Ritchie)	P	P	P	R	P			
Engineering, Chemical	Khaled Zoroufchi Benis (NA)	P	P	P	A	P			
Engineering, Mechanical	Bicheng Xing (Stephen Owuamanam)	P	P	P	P	P			
Engineering, Electrical	Ozan Gunes (Jose Berkenbrock)	P	P	P	A	P			
Engineering, Biomedical	Saman Naghieh (Ejalonibu Hammed)	P	P	P	A	P			
Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Kusum Sharma (Mamata Panigrahi)	P	A	P	P	P			
Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kushagra Parolia (Sarah Martin)	P	P	P	P	P			
Community Health & Epidemiology	Jacob Alhassan (Liliana Rodriguez)	NA	P	P	R	P			
Health Sciences	Chelsea Cunningham (Scott Adams)	NA	P	P	P	P			

