



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 5:03PM.

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 VP Finance and Operations.

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 Ufong 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 VP External.

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.
(UFONGU/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 Fransher 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 lesson 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, but 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 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 Doln (Adrienne Ratuszniak)	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	NA	
IGSC (2)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
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	Alex Chang (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 (Riley Devine)	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 (Katrin 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	

