



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
GSA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 5 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 officially called the council meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

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

2. Approval of the agenda

The chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the agenda as circulated.

President Rengifo put forth 3 amendments namely:

1. Removal of item **3**. Guest from the Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 40004
2. Addition of "Guest Speakers: Associate Dean, University Library and Collections Services Librarian" as item **3**.
3. Addition of "The ratification of the Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Saskatoon Inc" as item **8**.

Motion to amend the agenda (Rengifo/Fonseca)

Carried

Motion to approve the agenda as amended (Fonseca/Alam)

Carried

3. Guest Speakers: Associate Dean, University Library Electronic and Collections Services Librarian

Rachel Sargeant-Jenkins and Jaclyn McLean, Associate Dean for the University Library and the Collections Services Librarian respectively addressed Council by updating members on the collections budget for the library. This budget provides all of the resources to faculty as researchers and students as researchers and learners. The collections budget as with lots of other university libraries around the country and some globally, is being dramatically impacted by the current academic publishing models. Essentially, researchers produce the literature and then are forced to pay to access that same research.

The budget is approximately \$14 million dollars/year and the vast majority of it goes towards journal packages like Elsevier and databases like web of science which together account for 74% of the budget. The journals, which make up 14% of the budget are individual titles and mostly electronic but they are not part of any publishing package. Services like the library's catalogue that are on the budget are systems to support the library's collections and represent the smallest portion of the budget at 4%. The remaining 8% of the budget is allocated to books, both e-books and printed books. Roughly 91% of the entire budget is already committed to ongoing subscriptions and services. 87% of that already committed budget is billed or originates in USD. The 2018/2019 budget suffered a shortfall that was covered by some reserved funds. However, the 2019/2020 budget for this fiscal year which started in May has more of a shortfall, amounting to about \$1.38 million.

The data collected from the surveys and principled position of the library to maintain core strategic resources for teaching, learning and research were considered to minimise the impact, the effect of subscription cancelations, necessary to bridge the gap of the budget shortfall. The library will maintain access to the owned content for which we have perpetual access and maintain appropriate balance among disciplines.

As the student body you can join the global movement for advancing transformative scholarly publishing which amounts to a push for open access literature. 7000 surveys with a 13.65% response rate was achieved during the library's last university wide engagement.

The Chair asked if they were any questions for the Guest speakers.

Questions:

Rengifo: What strategies is the library implementing to ensure that students still have access to all the information that they require for their program and research?

Answer: Out of about 60,000 titles, the library is dropping 4,000 of those titles. We are retaining the highest used titles and journals. Like the principled move of the University of California to drop Elsevier, some of those measures are needed to facilitate the budget shortfall and perhaps even more importantly expressing our dissatisfaction with the current system. The access to the information will

still exist, it may not be direct and may need more than one click but students should be able to get all the same material that existed before the changes. More about obtaining articles will be communicated before the end of the year but a few strategies are as follows: the interlibrary loan process, open access version in repositories and directly from the authors.

Islam: Is the library planning to get more copies of books that have lots of demand?

Answer: The library typically does not buy multiple copies of books but would get the highly demanded book recalled from the borrower within 7 days so that other interested parties can benefit from that copy. If the sheer number of requests meet a certain threshold then the library would consider the purchase of a second copy. Additionally, students should be aware that different editions of the same book may contain all the content, necessary for their work but may differ in a few illustrations.

Alam: How do you encourage the USASK community to publish in open access journals when they typically cost more?

Answer: The USASK community doesn't realise that you can negotiate your authorship rights with the publisher, typically this is an aspect normally skipped. The library would stress that Author agreements are negotiable.

4. Approval of the minutes from October 15th, 2019

Motion to approve October 15th minutes. (Church/Kamal)

Carried

5. Information to be received

- a) September 23, 2019, Executive meeting minutes
- b) October 7, 2019, Executive meeting minutes

Motion to receive agenda items 5A-B. (Murray/Islam)

Carried

6. Executive reports

A. Report of the President

President Rengifo addressed the gathering focusing on the following 2 areas:

- 1) Improving student experience on Campus:

In keeping with the spirit of the GSA, the Executive will be meeting with senior administration to discuss how to improve the graduate student experience on and off-campus. The initial meeting will

focus on the myriad of complaints of the student body living in the residences.

2) Teaching certification for interested graduate students

The teaching preparation certification program is geared at giving graduate students and post-doctoral fellows a more structured and recognized teaching experience before leaving USASK. It is the desire of the program to help participants learn ways to deepen their understanding of teaching material so they can better impart that knowledge.

There were no questions for the President.

B. Report of the VP External

VP Ezekwesili couldn't be present at the meeting so President Mendoza presented her report to Council. She informed the councillors of 3 aspects of her report namely:

- 1) The GSA Guppies have begun their volleyball and basketball games so check the schedule and come out and cheer your fellow graduate students when you can.
- 2) Upcoming Health chats: "Inquiring minds"-November 5th from 1 pm-4 pm, "First Aid"-November 9th from 8:30-4:30 pm, "Bringing in the Bystander"-December 17th from 3 pm-4:30 pm.
- 3) Zumba classes will be hosted at the GSA on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month between 6-7 pm.

There were no questions concerning VP Ezekwesili's report.

C. Report of the VP Finance and Operations

VP Alam shared that the GSA bursary applications have been closed as of the 1st of November and the Bursary selection committee members are currently being contacted to decide on an appropriate time(s) to comb through the applications. 23 bursaries will be granted based on the funds available. The result will be known by November 18th.

There were no questions for VP Alam.

D. Report of the VP Student Affairs

VP Fonseca informed the councillors that the Halloween movie event was very successful with about 50 people in attendance. Presently the VP Student Affairs is working on the research conference to

be held in February, 2020.

There were no questions for VP Fonseca.

7. Committee of Council

a) Elections and Referenda Committee

Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer, Asanka Godakanda (Council member), Josh Katz (Council member), Mostofa Kamal (Council member), Natalia Zakharchuk (Regular/general member), Rohini Vijayan (Regular/general member), Kaidan Xu (Regular/general member).

*Motion to approve changes in the membership of the Elections and Referenda Committee.
(Fonseca/Church)*

Carried

8. Ratification of the Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Saskatoon Inc.

VP Fonseca said a few words about the social club speaking to their constitution and events and that they had been previously ratified as a social club.

Motion to ratify the Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Saskatoon Inc. (Fonseca/Alam)

Carried

9. Other Business/Announcements

President Rengifo shared with Council that the public lectures for the CGPS Dean candidates will be held on the following days and times:

Valerie Chappe: November 14th- 2:30-3:30, Thorvaldson 159.

Trever Crowe: November 19th -3:00-4:00, Thorvaldson 110.

Deborah Burshtyn November 21st - 1:00-2:00, Thorvaldson 110.

The Chair informed Council that the next meeting will be on December 3rd.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Schulte/Murray) at 6:00pm.

Carried

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.24 2019	Oct.15 2019	Nov.5 2019	Dec.3 2019	Jan.28 2020	Feb.25 2020	Mar.17 2020	Apr.7 2020	Jun. 2020	Aug. 2020
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Ran San (Valentina Ofori)	N/A	P	P							
Animal & Poultry Science Grad Students' Assoc.	Muhammad Imran (Kiana Rieger)	P	A	P							
ARCHAIA	Adrienne Ratuszniak (Michelle Gowan)	P	P	A							
Biology Graduate Student Association	Rebecca Smith (Ruth Greuel) (Carmen Marquez) (Andrea Wishart)	N/A	P	P							
Chemistry Course Council	Naheda Sahtout (Doug Fansher)	P	P	P							
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Rifat Zahan Muhammad Aminul Islam (Md. Nadim)	N/A	P	P							
English Course Council	Lindsay Church (Michelle Kent)	P	P	P							
Geography & Planning Grad Council	Selena Schut (Renata Leonhardt)	P	A	P							
Graduate Geological Society (GGS)	James Schulte (Brayden McDonald)	P	P	P							
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Manreet Kaur Nehal (Syed Adnand Khalid)	N/A	N/A	P							

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.24 2019	Oct.15 2019	Nov.5 2019	Dec.3 2019	Jan.28 2020	Feb.25 2020	Mar.17 2020	Apr.7 2020	Jun. 2020	Aug. 2020
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Natasha Boyes (Natalie Houser)	P	P	P							
MBARC	Alexander Mueller (Megan MacDonald)	N/A	N/A	P							
PEGASUS	Kimberlee Dube (Ethan Runge)	P	P	P							
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Janine Rover (Mujtaba Badr)	P	P	P							
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Julia Koop (Brandey Blahut)	P	P	P							
Plant Sciences GSA	Asanka Godakanda (Berenice Romero)	P	P	P							
Psychology Graduate Students' Association	Farron Wielinga (Josh Katz) (Brandon Sparks)	P	P	R							
SENSA	Mostofa Kamal Purbasha Mistry (Layane Moura) (Anita Bhatt)	P	P	P							
SPHSA	Aisha Sajid Humaira Inam (Janessa Tom) (Chunbei Liu)	N/A	N/A	P							
Sociology GSA	Connor Morrison (Cerah Dube) (Alana Demkiw)	N/A	P	P							

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.24 2019	Oct.15 2019	Nov.5 2019	Dec.3 2019	Jan.28 2020	Feb.25 2020	Mar.17 2020	Apr.7 2020	Jun. 2020	Aug. 2020
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Rachel Brockamp (Aimee Schryer)	P	P	P							
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Mikayla Oldach (Alana Weber)	P	P	R							
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Breanne Murray (Zeyad El Karsh)	P	P	P							
Exec. President	Mery Mendoza Rengifo	P	P	P							
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Mohammad Wajih Alam	P	P	P							
Exec. VP Student Affairs	Alejandra Fonseca	P	P	P							
Exec. VP External	Chiamaka Ezekwesili	P	P	P							