



Graduate Students' Association - University of Saskatchewan

Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday November 5, 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	Guest from the Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 40004		<i>Information</i>
4	Approval of the minutes from October 15, 2019	3-11	<i>Decision</i>
5	Information to be received A. September 23, 2019, Executive meeting minutes B. October 7, 2019, Executive meeting minutes	12-24	<i>Decision</i>
6	Executive reports A. Report of the President B. Report of the VP External C. Report of the VP Finance and Operations D. Report of the VP Student Affairs	25-30	<i>Information</i>
7	Committee of Council A. Motion to approve changes in the membership of the Elections and Referenda Committee as listed below:		<i>Decision</i>

- 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)

8 Other business/Announcements

Information

9 Adjournment

Decision

Next Meeting: December 3rd, 2019



University of Saskatchewan
 Graduate Students' Association
 GSA Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday October 15 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 5:03 pm.

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

2. Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. (Fonseca/Alam)

Carried

3. Council Orientation

The Chair via a PowerPoint presentation held a brief orientation session for council members. The Chair shared that all graduate students are automatically members of the GSA. In order for the GSA to comply with the Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995, 2 members who are citizens or permanent residents of Canada were appointed to serve on the GSA Board as all current Executive members are international students.

Council members are elected according to the constitution and the bylaws of their respective academic councils. The GSA council is responsible for the policy and political advocacy of the GSA and is made up of the executive and regular students representing their academic councils.

Duties of councillors include but are not limited to the following: represent their individual academic councils at all council meetings, serve on standing committees, ensure the wellbeing of the GSA and

be familiar with all the governing documents including the Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995.

If the number of people in an academic unit is more than 100 members then that academic council is permitted 2 council members and 2 alternates. However, if there are fewer than 100 people in a given unit you are allowed 1 council member and an alternate.

The chair further went through the role of a GSA councillor noted that the Robert's Rules of Order are the prescribed rules for the monthly meetings. Essentially, those rules allow everyone's voice to be heard and it is a structured decision-making framework. The council members are allowed to make a motion which happens in one of two ways: the first upon a call for agenda items normally made via email notification or orally by addressing the chair and saying, "I move that...". Subsequently, a member should second this oral motion so that it can be opened for discussion, if this is not done then the motion has failed and is dropped. A successfully moved motion is then stated by the Chair, who then opens the floor up for discussion. The mover gets to speak first but it's important that all discussion be directed to the Chair and not council members. Once the debate is done, the Chair then calls the question up for a vote, based on the results the chair announces whether or the motion has been adopted.

The Chair also introduced how to amend motions. The amendments to a motion has a similar sequence to the moving of a motion. Firstly, the motion to amend is made, followed by a seconder of the motion to amend, a discussion is had, a vote on that amendment made, finally a vote on the main motion as amended is had, if all steps are successful then the amendment has been adopted.

4. Approval of the minutes from September 24th, 2019

Motion to approve September 24th, 2019 minutes. (Schulte/Zahan)

Carried

5. Information to be received

a) Executive meeting minutes from September 9,2019

Motion to receive agenda item 5A. (Demkiw/Islam)

Carried

6. Executive reports

A. Report of the President

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

1) Representation on the Board of Governors

Currently, there are no graduate students on the University Board of Governors, which is a concern that the past 3 Executive teams have worked on remedying. In pursuit of representation, the GSA has received the support of both the University Council and University Senate in the way of resolutions in 2018. Unfortunately, the Board was unable to support our request due to the restrictions presented in the University Act. We have therefore sent a letter to the Minister of Advanced Education in this regard.

2) Community engagement

The Gwenna Moss Centre is currently working on a teaching certification for graduate students. All other U15 institutions have this certification so we are very happy to support this endeavor.

There were no questions for the President.

B. Report of the VP External

VP Ezekwesili informed the councillors of 3 aspects of her report namely:

1) GSA Guppies

Encouraged support of the volleyball and basketball teams and stated that the schedules can be found on the GSA website.

2) Health Chats

More health chats can be expected to be added to the list over the academic year, the next one being held on Wednesday, October 16th will be the Self Defence session.

3) Zumba Classes

Classes are held on the first and the third Friday of every month. Additionally, there will be a Zumba class this Friday (October 18th).

There were no questions for VP Ezekwesili.

C. Report of the VP Finance and Operations

VP Alam shared that the GSA Fall bursary applications will be open from the 15th of October until the 1st of November. A Bursary selection committee will select recipients by the 18th of November, so councillors interested in participating in the selection process were asked to volunteer some of their time to that committee. Members on this committee meet 3 times a year.

There were no questions for VP Alam.

D. Report of the VP Student Affairs

VP Fonseca informed the councillors that the Fall Wine and Cheese social event was a success with over 150 people in attendance. The next social event will be the Halloween Movie Night on October 31st where 3 movies will be screened. The first will be family friendly and the other two movies will be the traditional Halloween movies. Popcorn will be provided.

There were no questions for VP Fonseca.

7. Committees of Council

a) Budget and Finance Committee

VP Finance, President, Nishit Gandhi (regular/general member), Kinsuk Sarker (regular/general member), Swapnil Srivastava (regular/general member), Rifat Zahan (councillor), Muhammad Aminul Islam (councillor).

Motion to approve nomination for Budget and Finance Committee. (Katz/Oldach)

Carried

b) Bursary Selection Committee

VP Finance and Operations, VP Student Affairs, Doug Fansher (councillor), Rebecca Smith(councillor), Alana Demkiw (councillor).

Motion to approve nomination for Bursary Selection Committee. (Church/Schulte)

Carried

c) Governance Committee

President, VP Student Affairs, Council Chair, Phillip A. Radetzki (regular/general member), Zi Ling (Scarlett) (regular/general member), Priya Goundar (regular/general member), Emediong Etukudo (regular/general member), Naheda Sahtout (councillor), Rifat Zahan (councillor).

Motion to approve nomination for Governance Committee. (Rengifo/Oldach)

Carried. 1 Abstention. Zahan

d) Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee

Council chair, Rohini Vijayan (regular/general member), Gurinder Dhanju (regular/general member), Emediong Etukudo (regular/general member), Phillip A. Radetzki (regular/general member), Mujtaba Badr (councillor), Mikayla Oldach (councillor).

Motion to approve nomination for Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee. (Demkiw/Islam)

Carried. 2 Abstentions. Oldach and Badr

e) Health and Dental Committee

VP External, VP Finance and Operations, Zeyad El Karsh (councillor), James Schulte (councillor).

Motion to approve nomination for Health and Dental Committee. (Fonseca/Badr)

Carried.1 Abstention. Schulte

f) Awards Selection Committee

VP External, President, Nataliia Zakharchuk (regular/general member), Hadi Ramin (regular/general member), Kathy Wang (regular/general member), Johnson Ngoba Josephine (regular/general member), Muhammad Aminul Islam (councillor), Rifat Zahan (councillor), Rohini Vijayan (regular/general member).

Motion to approve nomination for Awards Selection Committee. (El Karsh/Alam)

Carried

g) Diversity Committee

VP External, Indigenous Liaison, Kathy Wang (regular/general member), Zaki Hasan (regular/general member), Sukanya Pati (regular/general member), Pearl Masa (regular/general member), Zeyad El Karsh (councillor).

Motion to approve nomination for Diversity Committee. (Badr/Fonseca)

Carried

h) Sustainability Committee

Indigenous Liaison, VP External, Khaled Zoroufchi Benis (regular/general member), Irini Soubri (regular/general member), Jismol Josi (regular/general member)

Hadi Ramin (regular/general member) Anupam Das (regular/general member)

Mostafa Kamal (councillor), Kimberlee Dube (councillor).

Motion to approve nomination for Sustainability Committee. (Alam/El Karsh)

Carried.1 Abstention. Dube

i) Event Organizing Committee

VP Student Affairs, Jismol Jose(regular/general member), Britanie Thomas (regular/general member), Swapnil Srivastava (regular/general member)

Motion to approve nomination for Event Organizing Committee. (Islam/Oldach)

Carried

j) Elections and Referenda Committee

Council Chair, Asanka Godakanda (councillor), Josh Katz (councillor), Mostafa Kamal(councillor), Nataliia Zakharchuk (regular/general member), Sukanya Pati (regular/general member), Rohini Vijayan (regular/general member).

Motion to approve nomination for Elections and Referenda Committee. (Church/Smith)

Carried

11. Other Business/Announcements

Next meeting is on November 5th.

Naheda Sahtout: There is currently a search committee for the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). Sahtout sits on that committee as the graduate student representative and urged everyone, as a member of CGPS, to attend the public presentations of the candidates vying for the Dean position; and ask questions as you think necessary, since this is a hire that will affect you and future graduate students. Once the schedule for the public presentations are announced to the search committee, it will be passed along to the Chair for circulation.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Church/Katz) at 6:07pm.

Carried

Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Aimee Schryer (Jennifer Bell)	P	P								
WCVM GSA	Breanne Murray (Andrea Kinnear) (Zeyad El Karsh)	P	P								
Psychology Graduate Student Assoc.	Farron Wielinga (Josh Katz) (Brandon Sparks)	P	P								
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council P&N-GSC	Mujtaba Badr (Se'era Anstruther)	P	P								
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Julia Koop (Brandey Blahut)	P	P								
Plant Science (PSGSA)	Asanka Godakanda (Berenice Romero)	P	P								
Toxicology GSA	Mikayla Oldach (Alana Weber)	P	P								
Sociology GSA	Connor Morrison (Cerah Dube) (Alana Demkiw)	N/A	P								
ARE Graduate Student Association	Ran San (Valentina Ofori)	N/A	P								



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2019

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

Absent: None

Regrets: None

Guest: None

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm. The President thanked the GSA executives for working together towards the successful screening of a film as part of the 2019 Sexual Assault Awareness Week. She further recognized that the event held in partnership with Random Acts of Green was also successful.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The VP External asked to move the discussion of the First Aid/CPR training to the next executive meeting.

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

3. Approval of the August 21, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the August 21st Executive Meeting Minutes; there were none.

Motion: To approve the August 21st, 2019 Executive Minutes

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4. Approval of the September 09, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

There has been a delay in reviewing the September 9th, 2019 minutes.

Motion: To postpone the approval of the September 9th, 2019 minutes to next GSA executive meeting.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

5. Items for Action

5.1 GSA Funding request requirements

The President mentioned that the GSA provides financial support to GSA ratified social clubs and academic councillors through analyses and further approval of funding requests. Although the current process keeps record of the financial support, it does not provide enough accountability. As such, the GSA, at times cannot be sure whether the event took place or not, therefore the GSA will follow new steps after the approval of funding requests. From now on, subsequent to organizing the activities for which the funds were approved, ratified social clubs and academic councillors with successful applications will be required to submit expense receipts to the GSA manager for reimbursement. If said expenses are less than the approved amount, the GSA will

only fund what was actually spend as indicated in the official expense report which is submitted by the social club or academic councillor. If expenses are over the approved funding request, the GSA will only provide the approved amount.

Motion: To follow the steps mentioned previously, for funding approved by the GSA.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

5.2 Approval of an Executive to attend the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students

The president mentioned that we are members of the Canadian Federation of Students, and, as such, participate in meetings like the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students. The president mentioned that this is an excellent opportunity to interact and network with other students and it is important to engage in discussions of motions that are brought in this meeting, the VP External represents the GSA in these types of activities, therefore she should attend the meeting.

Motion: To approve that the VP External participates in the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

5.3 New social club ratification

The VP Student Affairs mentioned that she has received 14 applications for the GSA ratification of Social Clubs and that all the documents from these applications are in order. The VP Student

Affairs mentioned that there is a new group requesting ratification to the GSA. According to the constitution of this new social club, its main focus is international student activities.

Motion: To recommend the ratification of the new social group: International Student Association.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

5.4 Fall Term Bursary Dates

VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the call for applications for the fall need-based bursaries will be open from October 15th to November 1st, 2019. The applicants will be able to submit their application at GSA Commons between 10 AM to 5 PM. After the deadline for applications, the bursary selection committee will sit together and evaluate the applications. Applicants will be notified by email on or before November 18th, 2019 with the final decision of the committee.

Motion: To email the graduate student body information pertaining to the Fall 2019 bursary application process.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

5.5 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 the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to CFS in the sum of \$1677.90 for remaining Handbook balance issued on September 11, 2019.
- Payment to Remai Modern in the sum of \$2000 for booking the venue for GSA Award Gala issued on September 11, 2019.
- Payment in the sum of \$1517.81 for expenses related to the attendance of the ThinkGrad Conference and expenses of orientation food issued on September 11, 2019.

Motion: To approve the expenditures outlined in this section above.

Moved: President

Seconded: VP External

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

6. Items for Information / Discussion

6.1 Board of governors

The University of Saskatchewan is one of Canada's Top 15 Research Universities and all of them but the University of Saskatchewan have a representative on the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters respecting the management, administration and control of University properties, revenues, and financial affairs.

A. This includes:

- construction and maintenance of buildings, equipment, and capital assets;
- appointing the president and other senior officers of the university and fixing salaries;
- compensation and terms of employment for all employees, and pension plans for retirees;
- overseeing the university's finances, investments, and pension plans;

- providing for the establishment and/or disestablishment of colleges, schools, departments, endowed chairs, and institutes;
- affiliation and federation with other educational institutions;
- setting of tuition and other fees; and
- establishment and oversight of good governance practices, including regulating the conduct of its meetings, establishing its committees, and making bylaws respecting matters over which it has responsibility.

As such, it is important for the GSA to have representation and voice.

GSA at University of Saskatchewan should be a part of this. To provide continuity to the efforts made by the previous GSA executives, a letter to the Advanced Minister of Education was sent, requesting the amendment of clause 44 of the University of Saskatchewan Act 1995.

6.2 Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

The GSA president has sent a letter to the current Lieutenant Governor, Russell Mirasty, congratulating him for his new position and inviting him to attend the GSA Awards Gala, to be held at the Remai Modern Museum on April 4th, 2020.

6.3 Student manual and pamphlets for new students

The president met with the Associate Dean of CGPS, Dr. Martha Smith, to discuss the next steps for the student manual as well as the checklist that GSA is developing for graduate students. The manual and checklist will help graduate students with information of the services and activities that the University offers.

6.4 Co-curricular record

The VP External mentioned that the volunteers have been working hard during various events organized by the GSA. As such, she believes that the volunteers could earn CCR credit for volunteering their time with the GSA. She sent a document via email to all GSA executives detailing

the requirements regarding CCR and requested the executives to go through it to further discuss and approve individuals that complete the requirements for CCR. All executives will work towards this.

7. Other Business

8. Confidential Session

9. In Camera Session

10. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. There were none.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External seconded

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

October 7th, 2019

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

Regrets: None

Absent: None

Guest: None

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The President added three items for action/discussion:

4.1 BRT Nutana Committee

4.2 Review committee for Dean of Western College of Veterinary Medicine

5.5 Board of Governors

5.6 Networking Opportunities

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

3. Approval of the September 9, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the September 9th, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes. There were none.

Motion: To approve the August 21st, 2019 Executive Minutes
 Moved: VP Student Affairs
 Seconded: VP external

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Nutana Stakeholder Committee

The President mentioned that she had received an email from the City of Saskatoon public engagement consultant, Mandy Fehr, about the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. They are forming a BRT Nutana Stakeholder Committee which will be made up of representatives from various organizations as well as citizen representatives. The purpose of this committee is to foster connections between the Nutana community and the BRT project team with the ultimate goal of the successful implementation of the BRT system in Saskatoon. For this, they have requested a representative from the GSA. The VP Finance and Operations showed interest and volunteered himself to serve on this committee.

Motion: To appoint the VP Finance and Operations to serve on BRT Nutana Stakeholder committee.
 Moved: VP Student Affairs
 Seconded: VP External

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.2 Review Committee for Dean of Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM)

The President received an email from the Director of Administration, Lori Auchstaetter, from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic explaining that they are constituting the review committee for the Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine. For this committee, they are looking for a graduate representative, specifically an academic councillor from the WCVM. The president checked the list of councillors and contacted Breanne Murray, whom agreed to serve on this committee.

Motion: To approve graduate student Breanne Murray to sit on this committee.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

4.3 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 the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping Services Inc. in the sum of \$728.91 issued on September 27, 2019 for bookkeeping services.
- Payment to Buckberger Baerg in the sum of \$5,550.50 issued on September 27, 2019 for Financial Auditing services.
- Payment in the form of reimbursement in the sum of \$510.14 issued on September 27, 2019 for Fall Wine & Cheese event.
- Payment to a Coordinator of GSA, in the sum of \$621.24 issued on October 1, 2019 for Coordinating services provided to GSA.

Motion: To approve the expenditures outlined in this section above.

Moved: VP External

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 *Co-curricular record*

The VP External mentioned that it is important for the GSA Governance Committee to sit every year and go through the requirement and eligibility for awarding CCRs as the work performed by various committees every year is different. The primary activity of the GSA Governance Committee includes: (i) revising existing documents; (ii) creating required policies and/or bylaws absent in the existing documents; (iii) authoring recommendations and bringing forth motions to Council for policy documents; and (iv) authoring recommendations and bringing forth motions to General Meetings for bylaw documents and constitutional matters. As such, she mentioned that every year there will be some committee which might not fulfill the criteria to receive CCR and there will be others (new and old) which might fulfill these criteria. Therefore, it is necessary to revise these documents carefully each year. All executives agreed to the VP External's proposal and it was decided that the committee will carefully revisit these criteria each year.

5.2 Transit

The VP external mentioned that she, along with the President and the VP Student Affairs, had a meeting with Caroline Cottrell, from the USSU, to gather more information about the agreement between the USSU and transit. The VP Finance and Operations was updated about the details of the meeting. Among these details, more clarity for the opt-out criteria was identified and the GSA website has been updated accordingly to reflect this information. The executives read these criteria again and hope that this will remove the existing confusion regarding the opt-out criteria for the UPASS. The president mentioned that she is going to send an email to the representative of Transit to schedule a meeting to further discuss our options to better serve the graduate students. All executives showed interest in attending the meeting.

5.3 Annual Gala

The VP External mentioned that she received a quote from the GSA Annual Gala planner, and she explained more details about the event. The event will start from 5:00 PM and end at 9:00 PM. She discussed the food menu, the performance, speakers, MC, honorable guest, schedules, etc.

She also requested the VP Student Affairs assist her with designing posters and tickets. The VP Student Affairs agreed.

5.4 GSA Fall Bursary

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that GSA has already sent information to graduate students about the fall bursary applications, through the GSA newsletter and an email. He will be updating PAWS as well this week to reach more students. He also mentioned that he talked about this in the September Council Meeting and requested the council members to circulate the news among the graduate students so that the students in financial need can be supported through this bursary. The VP finance and Operations has been receiving numerous emails daily in regard to the eligibility, application process, and details related to the documents required which he has been responding to in a timely manner. The GSA Bursary Selection Committee will need to sit together, evaluate and select successful recipients by November 18th, 2019. The invitation is now open to council members to serve in the GSA Bursary Selection Committee.

5.5 Events this year

The President mentioned that the GSA wants to have several events this year that will benefit graduate students. She asked the executives to come up with ideas regarding events which would better serve graduate students. The VP Finance and Operations put forth an idea of having a career fair specifically targeting graduate students. He mentioned that there are already events of this type that target undergraduate students. Having such events for graduate students would greatly benefit the student community. The President mentioned having an event which could benefit students academically such as a networking event. The VP Finance and Operations mentioned having events related to mental health (suicide prevention, etc.). The VP External mentioned that she is organizing such events related to mental health under health chats and she would be happy to contact more organizations to provide better service and opportunity to graduate students.

6. Other Business

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. There were none.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved: President

Seconded: VP External

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association
President report - GSA Council Meeting, November 2019

Dear GSA Councilors,

Please, find below a briefly update on some of the initiatives the GSA is committed to:

1. Improving student experience on Campus

In this month, we will be meeting with senior administration to discuss how we can improve the experience of graduate students on campus as well as off campus, specifically those who live in residence. With many complaints of international students living in residence, we are looking for support from the university, to engage them on discussions and work on a plan to find solutions to this issue. We want to promote a healthy environment for all our graduate students and want to ensure that their needs are taken into consideration.

2. Support of the Teaching Preparation Certification

The Graduate Students' Association, supports the Teaching Preparation Certificate program. This new program is being designed to provide support to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows with teaching experience that may be challenging to achieve otherwise. Teaching builds confidence and ensures our graduate students are able to reflect, analyze and deepen their understanding of their field of study. We are happy to be part of this process and make sure that our graduate students acquire the skills necessary to become competitive graduates and future leaders as we understand that teaching is fundamental and helps our graduate students develop skills such as communication and leadership.

We will continue working on these and other initiatives that support the academic success of our graduate students and campus community as a whole.

Thank you,

Mery Mendoza

President, Graduate Students' Association



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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October 2019

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my November report to council:

1) **GSA Guppies**

We are excited to report that **the GSA Guppies have begun, and we are playing volleyball and basketball. Come and cheer them!!!!** Please find the sports schedule from:

Volleyball: <https://intramurals.usask.ca/standings/league.php?league=628>

Basketball: <https://intramurals.usask.ca/standings/league.php?league=598>

2) **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. The following listed are the health chats available for the Fall Term to be held in the GSA commons.

	Date	Time
Inquiring minds	November 5 th	1pm – 4pm
First Aid/CPR (1 day training)	November 9 th	8:30am – 4:30pm
Bringing in the bystander	December 17 th	3pm – 4:30pm
Zumba Classes	1 st and 3 rd Friday of the month	6pm – 7pm

3) **Zumba Classes**

The GSA executives have decided to add a little bit of fun while exercising. We are planning a Zumba class to be held every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month (unless stated in the GSA Events Calendar). This starts from 6pm to 7pm. Please watch out on the newsletter to start registering.

4) **Meetings**

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

S/N	Meetings
1	GSA Executive Retreat
2	Academic Programs Committee Meeting
3	CGPS COUNCIL
4	Provost advisory Committee
5	Student forum
6	DSC Committee Meeting
7	Grad Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
8	Equity and International Committee
9	University Council Meeting
10	Faith Leaders Council
11	U of S convocation
12	72nd Semi-Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students at Ottawa
13	Parents on Campus Meeting
14	GSA Academic Council Meeting
15	GSA Executive Meeting
16	Senate meeting



Graduate Students' Association
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Monthly Report from the VP Finance and Operations (November 2019)

Good Evening GSA members,

I am pleased to report you an update on my activities as the current Vice-President Finance and Operations.

As mentioned in the last GSA council meeting, we have already opened applications for the GSA Fall Bursary on October 15th. The last date to submit the applications is on November 1st, 2019. I have been receiving numerous emails related to the eligibility, application process, and details related to the documents required which I have been responding to in a timely manner. The GSA Bursary Selection Committee members are being contacted to find a suitable time to sit and go through the applications in the following week. The committee will sit together, evaluate and select successful recipients by November 18th. I would like to thank the council members who came forward to serve in the GSA Bursary Selection Committee.

Based on the funds that we have available, we will be able to allocate 23 bursaries for this fall term. The GSA President and Executive Team continue to lobby the University Administration for more matching funding for our bursaries. With the help of GSA President, we were able to carefully go through the insurance documents and renew the insurance for GSA for this year.

Additionally, I continue to sit on various committees to improve the graduate student's experience on and off campus.

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.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Wajih Alam

Vice-President Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association

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October 2019

RE: VP Student Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members:

Please find below my November report to council.

1) Halloween Movie Night

The Halloween Movie Night will be hosted on October 31st, 2019 from 5pm-9pm. Two movies will be played; at 5pm “Coco” will be played and at 7pm “Hereditary”. Popcorn and pop will be provided for free throughout the night.

2) Graduate Student Research Conference

On February 13th and 14th, 2020, the GSA will be hosting the Graduate Student Research Conference. I will be planning this event with the Event Organizing Committee. The theme has not been defined, but it should welcome different fields of research. A call for abstracts and registration will be sent out next month and prospective judges will be contacted.

The following is an updated list of meetings and workshops I have attended, since my last report.

Date	Meeting
October 8, 2019	Student Forum Executive Meeting
October 17, 2019	University Council
October 21, 2019	GSA executive Meeting
October 23, 2019	Meeting with President's Executive Committee
October 23, 2019	Student Forum
October 29, 2019	GSA/PEC Residence Meeting
October 29, 2019	Academic and Student Life Technology Committee