



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

