



**Graduate Students' Association - University of Saskatchewan
Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday December 8th, 2020- WebEx
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 Public Service Alliance of Canada		<i>Information</i>
4	Guest from CGPS - Dean, Debby Burshtyn		<i>Information</i>
5	Guest from University of Saskatchewan Office of Sustainability - Sustainability Strategy		<i>Information</i>
6	Approval of the minutes from November 10th, 2020	3-12	<i>Decision</i>
7	Approval of the minutes from November 20th, 2020 from the Elections and Referenda Committee.	13	<i>Decision</i>
8	Approval of the minutes from November 2020, from the Bursary Selection Committee.	14	
9	Information to be received	15-28	<i>Decision</i>
	A. Approval of the Executive meeting minutes from November 5, 2020		
	B. Approval of the Executive meeting minutes from November 19, 2020		

9	Executive reports	29-38	<i>Information</i>
	A. Report of the President		
	B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations		
	C. Report of the VP Academic and Student Affairs		
	D. Report of the VP External Affairs		
10	Other business/Announcements		<i>Information</i>
11	Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>

Next Meeting: January 26th, 2020



University of Saskatchewan
 Graduate Students' Association
 Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, November 10, 2020. WebEx Meeting*

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

**WebEx Meeting: The November 10th, 2020 Council Meeting took place via WebEx due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan made directives to practice social distancing in order to curb the spread of the virus.*

1. Call to Order

All Council Members were emailed the Agenda package, as well as the WebEx meeting link with the meeting number and password to participate online. The Student Forum terms of reference were also attached to the same email. The Chair of Council officially welcomed the 2020/2021 Members of Councilors to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Asiyah Suchak, the Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda as circulated. No amendments were put forward.

Motion to approve the agenda. (Ramin/Gill).

Carried

3. Guest from CFS – Mental Health

Wesam presented a PowerPoint which has been circulated via email to all members.

There was a question by Elyse, the representative for health science: “does it come with funds to help promote the program, and does it offer workshops?” He answered by saying it does not

come with funds, but they are happy to help with steps needed to promote such as presenting and providing graphics and workshops.

Brady the representative for JSGS, also had a question regarding conflict with another program. Wesam responded by saying “I don’t see it as a conflict rather as a toolkit for helping graduate students, and the problems they had three years ago when they did the research still applies”. Brady responded saying thank you for the answer and he still thinks there may be some overlap but that should be good. Wesam said he would look into it and had taken note of Brady’s inquiry. There were no more questions so Wesam said goodbye and the floor was given to the Chair.

Information

4. Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2020

The Chair asked if there were any suggested changes before the minutes were approved. President Inam suggested some amendments: there was a typo with if being f and then the College of Law should have been the College of Law Students Association. The President also suggested a couple more amendments in the form of typos in other business sections and a sentence being in all caps that would need to be changed. The Chair stated that these are soft amendments and will be made. If there was nothing else, then she needed a mover and a seconder to approve the minutes.

Motion to approve the October 20, 2020 minutes. (Inam/Kumayon).

Carried

5. Approval of minutes from November 2, 2020 from the Elections and Referenda Committee

Motion to approve the November 2, 2020 minutes of the Elections and Referenda Committee. (Sajid/Lopez).

Carried

6. Information to be received

- a. Executive meeting minutes from October 8, 2020
- b. Executive meeting minutes from October 22, 2020

Motion to receive agenda item 6a and b. (Kroeker/Gill).

Carried

7. Appointment of two representatives to the University of Saskatchewan Student Forum

The Chair and Chief Electoral Officer of the GSA gave the floor to President Inam. She called for two academic councilors to come forward for the forum. They would provide input for graduate students. Further information is provided in the terms of reference and if more information was

needed, they can email President Inam. The chair asked for members to come forward for the University of Saskatchewan Student Forum. Chloe Smith-Lopez nominated herself. Brady Kroeker asked for clarification on the dates and President Inam responded saying “dates will be confirmed once the forum has been completed in members. Brady Kroeker put his name forward.

Motion to approve representatives for the U of S Student Forum (Gill/Ramin)

Carried

8. Re-allocation of budget line 53309

The Chair called the executive members to explain this situation. President Inam spoke on behalf of the Executive Council. She explained that the Budget is on the GSA website in case anyone wanted to take a look at it. President Inam then explained that the GSA Executives are requesting for the approval of the reallocation of line 53309, initially intended for the Conflict Resolution Workshop, to support the “Holiday Hangout” event this year. The Conflict Resolution workshop is not being offered this academic year due to COVID-19, and the in-person “Holiday Hangout” event cannot take place due to COVID-19 restrictions on campus. The GSA Executives are proposing to hold an alternative “Holiday Hangout” where meals will be delivered to students in Saskatoon during the December break. Students will be able to register for meals in advance. She explained that the Executives believed that this would be nice for students that cannot go home for the holidays and would make them feel like they are a part of something.

Ajay had a question: “Are there any other avenues where this budget might have been reallocated instead?” The President asked for clarification and then answered the question saying that yes, the Executive council decided that this would be the best way to reallocate the money as there isn’t enough in the budget for this event without re-allocating the funds as they only have \$500 and some of that has been used for the Halloween event as well as the winter events. Ajay thanked her for her answer

Iyanu had a question: “Do you think the budget can cater to all students if almost all the graduate students indicate interest?” The President answers by explaining that no this would not cater to all 4000 graduate students it would only be for students that are in Saskatoon over the holidays as the food would be ordered and delivered in Saskatoon from a Saskatoon restaurant. The 1000 dollars would not be enough to send meals to all 4000 students but is aimed at supporting those graduate students that are in Saskatoon alone over the holidays and cannot go home to meet with their families.

The Chair asked if there were any more questions. There were none so she asked for a mover and seconder to approve the motion.

Executive members abstained due to a conflict of interest. Ajay and Oz also abstain

Motion to approve the re-allocation of budget line 53309 (Glencia/Kumayon)

Carried

9. GSA Executives Report

a. President's Report

The President presented her report to Council. There were no questions for the President.

b. Vice President Finance and Operations Report

The Vice President Finance and Operations presented his report to Council. There were no questions for VP Finance and Operations.

c. Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report

The Vice President Academic and Student Affairs was not available, so the Chair recognized the President to present her report to Council. The president encouraged members to send their questions to the VP's email if they had any. She posted this email address in the chat. gsa.sa@usask.ca

d. Vice President External Affairs Report

The Vice President External Affairs presented his report to Council. There were no questions for VP External Affairs.

10. Other Business/Announcement

There was no other business

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 5:59 pm. (Sajid/Gill).

Carried

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.20 2020	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
Biology Graduate Students Association	Mercy Harris (Dylan Baloun) (Joseph Abrams)	P	P	P							
Computer Science Graduate Council	Fidelia Orji Saikat Mondal (Sristy Sumana Nath)	A	P	P							
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Natalie Houser (KC Hall)	P	P	P							
Johnson- Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy	Brady Kroeker (Ahmed Abunada)	Not Applicable	A	P							
Sociology Graduate Student Association	Connor Morrison Maria Cruz (Alana Demkiw)	P	P	A							

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.20 2020	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo (Aimée Schryer)	P	P	A							
Toxicology Graduate Student Association	Alana weber (Jensen Cherewyk)	A	R	P							
SENSA	Mostofa Kamal Mariana Campos Jaclyn Porter Rory Wheat	P	P	A							
School of Public Health Student Association	Aisha Sajid Maha Khan Maggie Coupland Daniel Medina	Not Applicable	P	P							

Western College of Veterinary Medicine	Miranda Zwiefelholder Michelle Tucker Jennifer Abi Younes	P	P	A							
Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.20 2020	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
English Course Council	Tricia Monsour Darius Simonot Amanda Burrows	N/A	P	R							
Chemistry Student Association	Iyanu Kumayon Doug Fansher	N/A	P	P							
Engineering Graduate	Mechanical Engineering Jack, Tonye Razmavar, Alireza Electrical and Computer Engineering Shahbazi, Karim Molahasani, Mahdiyar	N/A	P	P							

<p>Community Council</p>	<p>Chemical Engineering Esmi, Fahimeh Zoroufchi Benis, Khaled Biological Engineering Kallingal Mohandas, Ninu Biomedical Engineering Haghanifar, Arman Alizadeh Sardroud Civil, geological, and Environmental Engineering Muthukumar, Ajay Shrinivas Hamed Beiranvand, Mohammad</p>										
<p>ARE Graduate Student Society Agriculture</p>	<p>Darnell Holt Chloe Smith Lopez</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>P</p>							
<p>College of Medicine</p>	<p>Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology: Kayla Jacqueline Cropper Kushagra Parolia</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>P</p>							

Graduate Student Society (CMGSS)	Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology: Gabrielle Mercier Ashley Sutherland Community Health and Epidemiology: Amanda Gannon Azadeh (Oz) Nazeran Health Sciences: Elyse Proulx-Cullen Una Goncin										
Pharmacy and Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Sukanya Pati Ayat Zagzoog	N/A	N/A	P							
Physical Therapy Student Society	Matthew Reichert	N/A	N/A	P							
Exec. President	Humaira Inam	P	P	P							

Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Hadi Ramin	P	P	P							
Exec. VP Student Affairs	Carmen Marquez Mellidez	R	P	R							
Exec. VP External	Qasim Shahzad Gill	P	P	P							



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Elections and Referenda Committee Meeting
November 20th, 2020, 6:30 pm**

Members present: Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer, Aisha Sajid, Ehsan Moradi, Rosmary Martinez, Nicole Pasloski.

Item

1 Complaints

- The meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M.
- The Chair thanked everyone for joining the online meeting. She shared that there were no complaints received.

2 Results

- The Chair invited the Committee members to view the results via a shared screen. The results showed the following Results were as followed
 - Total number of voters were 23
 - 12 votes for Tina Alexis
 - 11 votes for Nathan Oakes
 - The 8% requirement for voting members has been fulfilled
 - Tina Alexis was elected for VP Indigenous Engagement

3 Ratification of the Results

Decision

- The Election Committee ratified the result. The decision to ratify the results of the election was Moved by Aisha and seconded by Zoher

Motion Carried

4 Other business

- Aisha asked if the Bylaws would be changed considering the online format of the election and COVID-19 status. The Chair indicated that things would stay the same, at least for one more term, but it we would let the Governance Commite know about those doubts.
- Chair asked if we should expand eligibility to students who are Indigenous but are not self-declared, the Commite in let the Governance committee know if we can find a phrase for Indigenous students who are not self-declared to identify with.

5 Adjournment

- Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:52PM

November, 2020

Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes – Spring/Summer Term

Members Present: Hadi Ramin (VP Finance and Operations), Carmen Marquez (VP Student Affairs), Kamal Mostofa (Council Member), Iyanu Kumayon (Council Member), Khaled Zoroufchi (Council Member).

The VP Finance and Operations called the online meeting (WebEx) to order and thanked all the committee members for being present on this important selection process despite their busy schedule. All members present were asked to sign the confidentiality documents and sent through email to the VP finance to ensure all bursary applicants' privacy rights are protected. It was restated by all present that if anybody knows or has any type of relationship with an applicant, another committee member has to evaluate that application. It was decided that the applications will be distributed among committee members. Each member reviewed and ranked the applications according to the accepted criteria. Then the committee members share their first round of evaluation with VP finance and operations to rank all applicants. Following the review and cross-checking of all applications, they were sorted according to score. Committee Members finished going through the applications and ensured they get a second review.

It was mentioned that there were many qualified and deserving applicants and those who didn't receive bursaries is due to the limited number of bursaries available. 24 beneficiaries were selected from a total of 120 applications. Both successful and unsuccessful bursary applicants were notified of the committee's decision. It is recommended for those who were unsuccessful to apply again for the 2020 Winter Bursary.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2020

Present: Humaira Inam (President), Hadi Ramin (VP Finance and Operations), Qasim Gill (VP External), Carmen Marquez (VP Academic and Student Affairs).

Regrets/Absent: None.

Guests: None.

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked whether there was anything else to add to the agenda as circulated.

Seeing none, she asked for a:

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated. The motion was moved by the VP of Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Passed.

3. Approval of the October 8 and October 22, 2020, Executive Meetings Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to October 8 and October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the October 8 and October 22, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes was moved by VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Carried.

4. Items for action

4.1 Halloween Event Prizes

The President informed the Executives that we need to approve the gift card amount for the Halloween events. She asked for a:

Motion to approve a \$75 gift card for the "Halloween Trivia Night" winner was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Carried.

Motion to approve \$75 (first place), \$50 (second place), and \$25 (third place) gift card prizes for the "Halloween Face painting/Costume" contest winners was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Carried.

4.2 Search Committee for the Dean, College of Nursing

The President was contacted by the College of Nursing to assign one graduate student

representative to the search committee for the Dean of the College of Nursing.

Motion to approve Kimberly Burscheid as the graduate student representative to serve on the search committee for the Dean of College of Nursing. The motion was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Carried.

4.3 Friends for dinner

The VP Academic and Student Affairs informed the Executives that the GSA will be collaborating with the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC), along with other university partners, for the “Friends for Dinner” event taking place in December 2020. Due to COVID-19, this event will be held virtually, and students as well as host families are being asked to register by December 1, 2020. The GSA will be promoting this event on our social media platforms and students can register to participate in this event through the Faith Leaders website. The VP Academic shared the event poster with the Executives and asked for a:

Motion to approve the distribution of the Friends for Dinner poster on all GSA social media was moved by VP External and seconded by VP Finance. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Carried.

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 Proposal for Holiday Hangout 2020

The VP Academic and Student Affairs stated that the President and another graduate student, Naheda Sahtout, are proposing an altered “Holiday Hangout” event this year

due to the ongoing pandemic. This event will include the delivery of meals to graduate students in Saskatoon. The President will be requesting GSA Council for the re-allocation of funds in the budget that can go towards purchasing meals for at least 100 students. Additionally, the President and the VP Academic are requesting the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) for a small amount of funding, which will be used to purchase a dessert and thank you cards that can be added to the meals. The President and the VP Academic are awaiting a response from ISSAC regarding this funding proposal.

5.2 Graduate Research Conference 2021

The President asked the VP Finance to update the Executives on the Graduate Research Conference for 2021. The VP Finance informed the Executive team that he is working on the preparation of the research conference poster. He also mentioned that he is thinking of inviting speakers that are focused on COVID-19 research and recovery plans. The President stated that it would be better not to restrict ourselves to COVID-19 topics, rather we should also invite other speakers who can speak on a wide variety of other topics, not related to COVID-19. The President asked the VP Finance to update the Executive team on the progress of the Graduate Research Conference 2021 at the next Executive meeting. The President also asked the VP Academic and Student Affairs to share all communications and materials from last year's Graduate Research Conference with the VP Finance.

5.3 Halloween Events Update

The President asked the VP Academic and Student Affairs to provide an update on the Halloween events. The VP Academic stated there was only one participant for the "Halloween Trivia Night" event, and this student will receive a \$75 gift card. In regard to the "Halloween Costume/Face Painting" contest, the VP Academic informed the Executives that seven costume/face paint pictures were submitted for this contest. A total of 80 votes were recorded, and the winners were as follows; "Spooky Scary

Skeleton” (32 votes); “For the Horde” (18 votes) and “DON’T call me Nymphadora, call me Tonks” (16 votes). The VP Academic confirmed that she checked whether all voters were graduate students in order to ensure fairness, and she will be sending a thank you email to all participants along with information on their gift card prizes. The President stated that we will be announcing the “Halloween Trivia Night” and “Halloween Costume/Face Paint” contest on our social media platforms.

5.4 Winter Orientation 2021

The President informed the Executives that there is \$3,300 available in the budget for the GSA Winter 2021 Orientation, and we will be hosting it on January 4, 2021. However, we will require approval from the PRT team for this event as we would like to give out swag bags for curbside pickup. She also mentioned that we would be ordering more items to add to the swag bags, and additional food will be purchased. The President also proposed requesting more masks from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to include in swag bags as they were quite popular during the fall 2020 orientation. The VP Academic and Student Affairs raised the question of how many swag bags were going to be given out for the winter orientation. The President answered that we are planning to give out 100 swag bags for the winter orientation. The President further asked the VP Academic Affairs to prepare a budget plan for food items that will be included in the swag bags.

5.5 Fall 2020 Bursaries Update

The President asked the VP Finance to provide an update regarding the fall 2020 bursaries. The VP Finance noted that there were 115 applications for the GSA fall bursaries. He then continued that the GSA bursary committee had two meetings to evaluate the applications and discuss the criteria. The committee will meet next week to finalize the fall bursary recipients.

5.6 GSA Gala 2021

The President informed the Executives that we won't be having an in-person Gala next year, and we have postponed GSA gala deposits to 2022 due to the ongoing pandemic. The President proposed hosting a virtual gala where we can still organize awards to students. She further asked the VP External to contact graduate students, Naheda Sahtout, to share ideas about the Gala as she has a lot of experience in hosting this event. The VP External said that he would reach out to Naheda and update the Executives at the next meeting.

5.7 Canadian Federation of Students-National Graduate Caucus

The VP External updated the Executives on the recent National Graduate Caucus (NGC) standalone meeting and said that there were two days of meetings being conducted from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. On the first day, the new executive team of NGC for the next year was selected, and he submitted his vote. There were a lot of other issues and discussion that occurred on both days in which all locals from other Canadian universities discussed the challenges they are facing during the pandemic, as well as different strategies they are utilizing to overcome and navigate challenges. The VP External then continued that he is preparing his notes for the upcoming CFS meeting and will share the agenda with the Executives for input. The VP External also discussed the upcoming Graduate Students' Society of U15 meeting and asked if anyone from the Executive team would like to attend. The President stated that it would be a good idea for all the Executives to attend, so they can get a good idea of the GSS-U15's mission and goals.

5.8 Health Chats Events

The President asked the VP External to provide an update on current health chat events. The VP External informed the Executives that we are still holding the "Yoga Nidra" virtual event every Wednesday, and on average, 5-7 people have been attending this event every week. He continued that the event will end on December 2, 2020. The VP External

also informed the Executives on the upcoming “Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop” which will be taking place on November 17, 2020 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. He discussed the event’s poster details and his plan to contact the presenter about the event prior to November 17, 2020 so he can inform the presenter on the virtual meeting details. The President asked the VP External to have everything ready by November 10 to ensure that the communication could go out to graduate student regarding the “Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop” event as soon as possible. The President asked the Executives input on whether “Yoga Nidra” should continue to be offered for the winter term, and added that it is best to provide this event to students as it is held in the evening and students can attend as a way to relax and de-stress for the day. The VP External also informed the Executive team that he is working on the mental health seminar initiatives for next term.

6. Other Business

The President asked if there was other business to discuss.

The President then said that someone approached her to advertise the "PAWS you stress" event in the GSA newsletter. She explained to the Executives that “PAWS your stress” is an online event where students can sign up to watch and interact with dogs virtually as a way to relax and de-stress. The President asked for a:

Motion to include "PAWS your stress" event information in the next GSA newsletter. The motion was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Carried.

The President next brought up the importance of attending the “Mental Health First Aid” training that all Executives must take as per GSA bylaw 2.1.3.13. The President stated that has already contacted Student Outreach and Affairs and they have informed her that “Mental Health First Aid” training will be offered virtually to all students starting in December 2020.

7. Confidential Session

8. In-Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked for the adjournment of this meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 PM was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour Motion Carried.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

Present: Humaira Inam (President), Hadi Ramin (VP Finance and Operations), Qasim Gill (VP External Affairs), Carmen Marquez (VP Academic and Student Affairs).

Regrets/Absent: None.

Guests: None.

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked whether there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. Seeing none of the President asked for a:

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour

Motion Passed.

3. Approval of the November 5, 2020, Executive Meetings Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to November 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve November 5, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP external. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour
Motion Carried.

4. Items for action

4.1 Winter 2021 Orientation Items

The VP Academic and Student Affairs stated that she had shared the budget proposal for the food items that would be included in swag bags for the GSA winter 2021 orientation with the President. There rough estimate of the food items' the VP Academic proposed was \$200 and she asked for approval of this amount from the GSA Executive team. The President proposed a:

Motion to approve \$200 for food items that will be included in swag bags for the GSA winter 2021 orientation was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour
Motion Carried.

The President added that there were two other items that would be purchased for the swag bags; however, they have not been finalized yet.

4.2 Financial Expenditure

The President asked the VP Finance if there were any financial expenditures that needed approval. The VP Finance stated that there were two items from the October ledger that need approval from the Executive team.

Motion to approve the expense of \$655.62 for bookkeeping was moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour
Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the expense of \$801.06 as an outstanding balance for bookkeeping moved by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and second by the VP External. Vote: Passed.

4 in Favour
Motion Carried.

5. Items for Information/Discussion

5.1 Graduate Research Conference 2021

The President asked the VP Finance and Operations to update the Executive team on the progress of the Graduate Research Conference. The VP Finance stated that the Graduate Research Conference will be held on Feb. 12 and 13, 2021. He mentioned that he has prepared an initial draft of the conference schedule, a Survey Monkey questionnaire for abstracts gathering, and a poster to be shared with students. Then he asked the team to propose keynote speakers for the conference.

5.2 Health Chat Events Winter 2021

The President asked the VP External to provide an update on Health Chat events. The VP External informed the Executive team that an average of 4-6 students are attending the weekly yoga event. He also stated that the turnout for the “Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop” was good with positive student engagement. He suggested focusing on graduate student skill workshops for the winter 2020 term, which the other Executives agreed with. He then added that he is currently working on the mental health seminar initiative for the winter term. The President then asked if the other Executives think the GSA continue offering yoga nidra for the winter term as well. The Executives

stated that it would be a good idea to continue offering weekly yoga nidra as students are still attending, even if they are in a small number.

The President then added that she would like to organize a workshop on plagiarism for next term with the help of the VP Academic. The VP Academic stated that this was a good idea, and she can reach out to the Learning Skills Centre to invite a speaker. The VP Academic also added that these are more meaningful events to students than the coffee afternoon events that were organized this term, and perhaps we should shift our focus in this direction for the winter term.

5.3 Graduate Student Societies of U15

The President asked the VP External to provide the Executives an update on the recent meeting that took place with GSA student leaders from the U15 universities. The VP External stated that at this meeting the GSA executives from the U15 universities discussed issues that were important to them and the graduate students at their respective university, which led to compiling a letter to the federal government that brought up issues that were a priority to graduate students at this time. He is currently waiting on the recorded video to be provided, so this can be forwarded to other Executives.

5.4 Canadian Federation of Students

The President asked the VP External to provide the Executives with an update regarding the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The VP External mentioned that currently, he is attending the CFS Annual General Meeting. He also informed the Executives about the motion he jointly put forward with Local 97 (University of Toronto Students' Association). The motion focused on reinstating financial support to students with disabilities due to the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CESB) claw back by the Saskatchewan government's social assistance program and urged the CFS to write a letter to the provincial and federal government on this matter. He added that he would share the report and meeting minutes with the Executive team when he receives them. There was

also an executive election during the CFS meeting, and the new CFS executives were elected. The President added that the Executives are looking forward to hearing his report at the next meeting.

5.5 Holiday Hangout

The President informed the Executives that the Holiday Hangout this year will consist of volunteers delivering a meal to students who will be in Saskatoon for holidays. There will be a registration form and students will need to register prior to delivery so we know how many meals need to be ordered. She asked if all Executives were in agreement to deliver the meals on December 28, 2020. The Executive team were all supportive of the proposed date for this event.

5.6 Winter 2021 Events

The President asked the VP Academic and Students Affairs and the VP External if they would still be proceeding with the cultural event for next term. She raised the concern that we might be very busy with organizing our annual GSA events (3MT, GSA Research Conference, orientation, GSA gala) for next term. The VP Academic said it's likely that we will not be able hold the cultural event next term because of our busy schedule. She also added that the Multicultural Student Association may have a similar event next term, and we could provide them support for this event.

The President informed the Executives that the GSA winter orientation is planned for January 4, 2021 next term and she has submitted a request for on-campus activity, which are currently on hold right now until December due to the rise in COVID-19 cases. She also shared that the VP Academic and her were considering ordering two items to be added to the swag bag for the winter orientation, but the price had not been finalized yet. The President said that once she has a final quote from the supplier, she will then share this with the Executives for approval.

6. Other Business

The President asked if there was other business to discuss. There was none.

7. Confidential Session

8. In-Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked for the adjournment of the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.

***4 in Favour
Motion Carried.***



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

President Report - GSA Council Meeting, December 2020

Dear Councilors,

As the fall term comes to an end, I would like to outline some of the initiatives that we have worked on and are continuing to work on at the GSA:

1. Holiday Hangout

Holiday Hangout has been a successful event that began in December 2019, led by the GSA Executives and supported by other university partners across campus. It was an initiative where students who were away from home could come together, feel a sense of community, participate in fun activities, and share a meal. Unfortunately, this year things are a bit different due to COVID-19 and we are unable to offer an in-person Holiday Hangout event. However, as you will recall, at the last GSA Council meeting the Executives requested the re-allocation of the budget to fund a modified version of the Holiday Hangout, so we could continue the spirit of supporting our graduate students during the holidays. This year for Holiday Hangout the GSA will be ordering meals for graduate students and delivering them for free. So far, we have had 80 students sign up, and in anticipation of more student signing up, we have reached out to the International Student Association Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) and members of our Faith Leaders to request additional funding. We are making every effort to accommodate as many students as possible for this initiative.

2. Student Engagement

This term the GSA organized two graduate skills workshop and promoted a variety of workshops offered by the Learning Skills Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. The “Financial Literacy” workshop, where we invited guest speaker Professor Brian Lane from the Edwards School of Business, and the “Resume & Cover Letter Writing Workshop”, where we invited Dr. Janet Hill from the Department of Veterinary Microbiology were quite successful, with increased student participation and attendance. Taking this into consideration, moving forward, for the winter term the GSA Executives will be directing our focus on providing more workshops/seminars that are deemed valuable to graduate students professionally and academically.

The GSA Executives have also been working on organizing social events this term to increase graduate student participation and provide a platform where students can network and socialize.

Some of these social events included the GSA fall orientation curbside pickup, the “Halloween Costume/Face painting contest”, and currently the Holiday Hangout.

3. Student-Supervisor Relationship

We continue to stress the importance of the student-supervisor relationship as well as the mandatory agreement that all incoming graduate students should be completing within the first year of their program. We will continue to promote this document across colleges to students and faculty members to help improve accountability and the relationship between students and supervisors.

We will continue our efforts to create a sense of community among our student population, provide services, advocacy, and support our graduate students during these unprecedented times and into the winter term.

I wish all council members a happy and safe winter break.

Thank you,

Humaira Inam

President, Graduate Students' Association

Monthly Report from the VP Finance and Operations (November 2020)

Hello GSA members,

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

1) GSA Fall Bursary Update

The GSA bursary selection committee had several meetings to select the recipient of the GSA Fall Bursaries. Out of 120 applications, the committee selected 24 applications. The Selection Committee selected those applicants who were determined to be in most financial need, demonstrating good community involvement and academic performance. The successful applicants were contacted to receive their cheques. Unsuccessful applicants were also contacted and encouraged to apply for future bursaries.

2) Closure of GSA Commons

Due to COVID-19, the GSA Commons is closed. Communication with the GSA Main Office is being conducted via the Office manager's email address (gsa.admn@usask.ca). We have also been maintaining our social media, and we encourage all the students to check our page regularly for any further updates. The Executives remain available and reachable through email at this critical time.

3) Financial update

As part of my responsibilities, I monitor the GSA financial revenues and expenditures to follow the approved budget.

I continue to sit on various committees to improve the graduate student's experience on and off-campus. Some of the meetings are listed below:

Meetings

PRT/PEC/USSU/GSA Meeting
GSA Executive Meeting
University council meeting
Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee
CGPS council meeting
Awards Committee
Fee review committee

Please feel free to contact me at gsa.fin@usask.ca should you have any questions or need any further clarification.

Sincerely,

Hadi Ramin

Vice-President Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association

Email: gsa.fin@usask.ca | Web: <https://gsa.usask.ca/>

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Address: 1337 College Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6

December 2020

RE: VP Academic and Student Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members:

Please find below my November-December report to council.

1) Holiday Events

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing circumstances we face in these COVID-19 times, the Holiday season is looking much different from previous years. However, we know the importance of these special dates in the year and we have collaborated in two initiatives involving students, senior leadership and faith leaders in order to bring a little joy to our students' houses. The first initiative is called Friends for Dinner, and the second one is Holiday Hangout Reinvented.

Friends for Dinner is a fun and unique opportunity for students who cannot be with their families during the December holidays. It gives them an opportunity to enjoy a digital meal with members of the USask and Saskatoon communities. Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, Friends for Dinner will look different for 2020 as gatherings must be conducted online. [Register as digital guest here](#). You can learn more on the [Faith Leaders website](#).

Holiday Hangout Reinvented. Holiday Hangout was a success last year. However, due to COVID-19, and measures assigned by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, we will not be able to host the Holiday Hangout in person this year. To keep in theme with supporting our graduate students, we will be delivering meals right to your doorstep on December 28 or December 29, 2020. Please note the following:

- To be able to cater to as many students as possible, we will only be able to deliver 1 meal per student.
- We will only be able to cater to vegetarian and halal chicken meals.
- Meals will be prepackaged by the restaurant following COVID-19 measures.
- We will only be able to deliver within Saskatoon city limits.

- Meals will be delivered on either December 28 or December 29, 2020. We will email you instructions ahead of delivery to let you know which day your meal will be delivered, and the approximate time it will be delivered at.

Please register, by filling out this survey: <https://forms.gle/eWUPaTFZyJETfZFQA> no later than December 17, 2020 at 4:30 PM. The survey will close at 4:31 PM and no further registrations will be accepted. In collaboration with International Students University of Saskatchewan.

Everybody is invited to register.

2) GSA Winter Orientation

I am working along with my fellow Executives on the upcoming GSA Winter Orientation on January 4th, 2020. The objective of this Orientation is to introduce incoming grad students to the different services and faculty that they might use during or have contact with them during, their journey at the University. The orientation also serves as a key event for new students to interact with peers and get to know the University better. However, due to COVID-19, the format will be different from previous years. We are still waiting on a response from the Pandemic Response Team regarding the possibility of repeating a curbside pick-up event when we would hand out swag bags to new students. I will update Council as soon as I know more about it.

3) Meetings

The following is an updated list of meetings and workshops I have attended, since the last report to Council:

Date	Meeting
November 2, 2020	GSA and ISSAC: arrival supports and Holiday planning
November 3, 2020	Friends for Dinner Event Coordination
November 3, 2020	Bursaries Committee Meeting
November 4, 2020	Executives meet with Debbie Burshtyn

November 4, 2020	Academic Programs Committee
November 5, 2020	GSA Executives Meeting
November 6, 2020	PSAC and GSA SA discussion new Collective Agreement
November 9, 2020	President's Executive Committee
November 12, 2020	GSA and ISSAC: arrival supports and Holiday planning
November 16, 2020	Friends for dinner Event Coordination
November 17, 2020	Student Sustainability Coalition
November 18, 2020	Executives meet with Martha Smith
November 19, 2020	University Council
November 19, 2020	GSA Executives Meeting
November 20, 2020	Winter Orientation Discussion with USask and Student Leadership
November 24, 2020	Executives meeting with Pandemic Response Team
November 27, 2020	Executives meet with Patti McDougall
November 30, 2020	Executives meet with Martha Smith



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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December 2020

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,
Please find below my report to Council:

1) **GSA Executive meetings**

I am attending the executive meetings regularly where we are discussing topics and events for the upcoming winter term.

2) **Health Chat Events**

The following health chat events have been continued to be offered for the fall 2020 term:

2.1 Yoga Nidra

Yoga Nidra is being offered online via WebEx in collaboration with the Recreation Centre every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This event will end on December 2, 2020. An average of 4-6 students are attending this weekly event. We encourage graduate students to participate in this guided meditation session in order to relax and de-stress.

2.2 Resume & Cover Letter Workshop

The resume and cover letter workshop was held on November 17, 2020 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Dr. Janet Hill from the Department of Veterinary Microbiology was the guest speaker. This event was well-received by graduate students, and the GSA Executives expressed interest in inviting Dr. Hill back for the winter term.

3) Canadian Federation of Students

I attended the two-day National Graduate Caucus (NGC) standalone meeting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. On the first day, the new executive team of NGC for the next year was selected. There were a lot of other issues and discussions that occurred on both days in which all locals from other Canadian universities discussed the challenges they are facing during the pandemic, as well as different strategies they are utilizing to overcome and navigate these challenges. Additionally, I also attended the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Annual General Meeting. There was also an executive election during the meeting, and the new CFS executives were elected.

4) Graduate Student Societies of U15

I attended this meeting along with the President. At this meeting, GSA executives from all U15 universities participated and discussed issues that were important to them and their students in order to compile a letter to the federal government that brings up issues that are a priority to graduate students at this time. Some topics that were discussed include, mental health, financial support for international students, and government policies.

4) Meetings/Events

The following are a list of meetings I have attended since I submitted the last report to Council:

Date	Meetings/Events
November 2 nd – 3 rd , 2020	CFS-NGC
November 4 th , 2020	Yoga Nidra
November 5 th , 2020	GSA Executive Meeting
November 9 th , 2020	PEC/Student Council Executive meeting
November 10 th , 2020	Graduate Student Societies of U15 Meeting
November 17 th , 2020	Governance Committee Meeting
November 17 th , 2020	Resume & Cover Letter Writing Workshop
November 18 th , 2020	Yoga Nidra
November 19 th , 2020	GSA Executive Meeting
November 24 th , 2020	PRT/PEC/USSU/GSA Meeting
November 25 th , 2020	Yoga Nidra
November 17 th – 20 th , 2020	CFS AGM