



Graduate Students' Association - University of Saskatchewan
 Council Meeting Agenda
 Tuesday February 25th, 2020 - 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	Guests: Paul Rogal (Director of USask Rec) - Recreation Fee David Hardy (Chief Athletics Officer, Huskie Athletics)- Athletics Fee Michael Olain (Strategic Business Advisor, Kinesiology & Huskie Athletics) Kristin Foster (Director of Partnerships & Development)- Studentcare		
3	Approval of Agenda	1-2	Decision
4	Approval of the minutes from January 28, 2020	3-14	Decision
5	Information to be received	15-48	Decision
	A. December 2, 2019, Executive meeting minutes		
	B. January 20, 2020, Executive meeting minutes		
	C. January 28, 2020, Executive meeting minutes		
	D. November 20, 2019, Governance Committee minutes		
	E. January 30, 2020, Governance Committee minutes		
	F. January 17, 2020, Elections and Referenda Committee minutes		
	G. February 7, 2020, Elections and Referenda Committee minutes		

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| 6 Executive Reports | 49-55 | <i>Information</i> |
| 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 | | |
| 7 Other Business/Announcements | | <i>Information</i> |
| 8 Adjournment | | <i>Decision</i> |

Next Meeting: March 17, 2020



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
GSA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 28th 2020. 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 welcomed all councilors back for the new year and held a moment of silence to honor all the lives lost on Ukrainian International Airlines Flight 752 in Iran. The Chair officially called the council meeting to order at 5:07 pm after quorum had been met. Mr. Osai Clarke acted as the recording secretary for the meeting.

2. Guests:

President Peter Stoicheff

President Stoicheff was the first guest to address the councilors. He thanked the Chair for holding a moment of silence and acknowledging that we are on Treaty 6 Territory. He thanked the GSA Executives who he has met in the company of his colleagues from the President's executive committee at very important monthly breakfast meetings. In his perspective, it is very significant that they have stepped up to be leaders when there is no imperative for them to do such. He went on to thank all the councilors in attendance.

USASK is a member of U15 which means we have medical, doctoral and strong graduate programming with a large number of graduate students at the Master's and Ph.D. levels relative to the other 97 universities in Canada. U15 is akin to the Russell Group universities in the UK. The U15 designation is important for two reasons, namely: 1) it makes the university more attractive to prospective graduate students as U15 universities are the most research-intensive and potentially hold the greatest capacity for them to realize their academic dreams and ambitions. And 2) a U15 university will have a very strong research commitment and capacity and for institutions like ours to continue to be part of the U15, it means we have to continuously be upgrading that research capacity in terms of the research infrastructure that can be defined in a number of ways. Simply put, the value of a degree from a U15 university is indisputable. Canada offers very strong programming throughout its 97 universities which

are not tiered to the extent that other countries like the U.S.A are but certainly if you're getting a U15 degree it holds immense value.

For those reasons, it is very important to a university's senior leadership that graduate students feel like they can achieve their academic ambitions and that the groundwork is laid to do so, that means the associated infrastructure, funding and that the personnel and the talent are there to strengthen and complement the graduate studies. Essentially, we need the conditions to support a strong graduate cohort to continue to be a member of U15.

President Stoicheff said it has become increasingly important for him as a leader at the university that all levels of programming are preparing students with the right kind of skills for the contemporary workplace. He was very influenced by a report by the Royal Bank of Canada's (RBC) program called "Humans Wanted" and the main take-home messages from that report were: the contemporary and future workplace is not one that we can easily predict as in the past. This calls into question whether universities are adequately training its students for that new workplace reality, so President Stoicheff has been encouraging senior leaders at the university to understand the consequence of the work that we are doing in preparing students for the workplace. If it's true that it is no longer easy to define the jobs in the workplace and what specific job-related skills are necessary for all our students to thrive in a future workplace; then it stands to reason that we teach those transferable skills of creativity, communication, cultural awareness, and the list goes on. The reason why the university is well suited to do so is that polytechnics and professional colleges in other jurisdictions are training students specific skills for specific jobs and are finding that they are facing quite a few challenges in this regard as those jobs are not as definable as they once were but universities that are research-based and can offer those transferable skills are better positioned to do so.

Provost Tony Vannelli

Provost Vannelli was the second to address the councilors. Provost Vannelli followed up on the general message of the President by saying that the care and focus that his administration has for the programming offered, distinguishes us from other universities. He informed the councilors the general goal is to turn out lifelong learners which is the fundamental academic mission at the university. The world that our students are preparing to enter in the next 2-5 years will change very quickly based on some key demographic information. Professional programs in particular, like engineering, law, and medicine will suffer from major human resource droughts as the baby boomer generation retires. There will be a shortage of about a hundred thousand engineers in Canada alone, computer science will be even higher with about a hundred and fifty thousand. We're looking at arrangements with international partners and students that we'd like to retain here in Canada which means immigration laws will change to address that need. This is not limited to science and medicine but social sciences, the humanities, the fine arts will be in heavy demand.

He assured councilors that they were in the right place to be finishing up their degrees giving immense need. Two areas of focus: thesis-based masters and doctoral programs which we have about half of 4000 graduate students enrolled in. The masters are becoming the new norm as many industries seek

out masters students and previously it was thought that doctoral candidates only come back to teach within the university but what we're seeing is that doctoral candidates are held in high regard and are in high demand in all sectors. It's important as a university that we maintain the quality of programming at that level so with the other deans and senior leadership during consultations, that our students are funded properly to ensure your success.

The coursework-based masters are completely being flipped upside down because of the innovations that have been taking place in the programming. Provost Vannelli shared with the councilors that he was in a meeting with other provosts in Ottawa to discuss graduate student training across Canada. The focus even for the other institutions has become that of the lifelong learner, even if you have your degree, industries are very much looking at credentials for the training of their employees. The master's degrees are becoming more tiered, you start hearing terms like nano masters and micro masters which are layered with packages and courses rather than a fixed number of courses.

Provost Vannelli closed by saying his team was committed to providing graduate students with the tools for success, which include a number of supports from financial to health and wellness.

Dean Trever Crowe

Dean Crowe was the third of the guests to address the councilors. He mostly echoed the sentiments of the first two guests. He started by telling the gathering that a degree is a Badge of completion and that USASK is committed to ensuring that we turn out graduates that are ready for life after graduation. The question asked of him and the other guests were what are those professional development skills that the university is making available to graduate students to help them stand out amongst other competing graduates from around the country and across the globe.

We have very strong partnerships with the Gwenna Moss center for teaching and learning, the University Library and the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) to help with your professional development but even with those partnerships and resources, it is important that our students commit to continuous learning. Things like writing skills, something that is so crucial in preparing a thesis manuscript or a paper for publication, math and numeracy skills, statistics are things that can sometimes be overlooked but are the kind of transferable skills that add value to our graduate students.

A few courses that will help broaden your skill sets are GPS 981 academic preparation for international graduate students, GPS 982 mentored teaching, introduction to university teaching and the TA success series. Don't overlook the value of those programs to help bolster your transferable skills. The graduate professional skills certificate is a program that is offered through the Gwenna Moss Center and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) has funded it so that students don't incur any cost to take that program. Critical and creative thinking, professionalism, ethics, communication, intercultural competence etc are topics that students learn within the program. There are a variety of other seminars that are offered through student learning services from the library that have titles like "Preparing for Comprehensive and Qualifying exams", "Mastering Presentations in Graduate School"

and “Understanding Graduate level Procrastination”. Backpack to Briefcase program is run by the Alumni association, students get to hear firsthand from graduates who have successfully integrated into the workplace.

Dean Crowe closed by saying he’d like the university to at some point in the future to be in a place where students can register part time so they can be working and getting a head start on their careers. They can be earning a salary to help offset the cost associated with graduate school.

Professor Loleen Berdahl

Professor Berdahl was the last of the guests to address the councilors and she opened by asking those in attendance how many of them were feeling a little bit anxious with all the talk about jobs and skills, to which most of the councilors expressed feeling anxious. Professor Berdahl told the councilors that she has a job and those topics still make her anxious. She also shared with the councilors that she finished her graduate studies at the end of the 90s and went into a non-academic position for 10 years. From that experience she assured students that the things that they’re learning in graduate school are incredibly valued and truly transformative but it’s hard to recognize while you’re in graduate studies since everyone around you are also graduate students who are just like you and they seem to do all the stuff you can do, with some of them seeming to do it more easily. It’s hard to recognize what you have and how valuable it is especially since this is not a polytechnic and you’re not focusing on a narrower set of skills for a specific position.

The greatest thing about graduate school is that the skills that you’re gaining, don’t date. Professor Berdahl used the example of learning all the computer programming there was in the 90s and how today this would be pretty useless. What research universities teach is creative thinking, part of your graduate degree is picking a problem to solve that no one has solved yet, that can be frustrating but very rewarding. This is something that struck her when she worked outside academia so when Professor Berdahl started her career in academia she would ask her students and she would get a sense that they didn’t understand what they really had or how to articulate that to others since it’s so familiar to you.

In collaboration with the Gwenna Moss Center for teaching and learning, with the support of CGPS and the GSA, Professor Berdahl is working on a project called the “Transformative Skills Project” geared at not only developing but helping you recognize and articulate those skills to the rest of the world. For the next couple of months, they’re going to be doing some consultations which will start with some surveys to faculty who supervise graduate students, followed by surveys to graduate students and graduate chairs within the different departments to get their perspectives. Professor Berdahl will also be interviewing graduate deans and other graduate professional skills personnel from several universities across Canada, all of which will come together for part of this pilot program. The graduate student surveys will be emailed out by CGPS sometime next week. Professor Berdahl asked that councilors get other students in their circles to do the surveys that way it can be communicated to your graduate chairs that the students care about those skills and their development.

Questions & Answers:

Councilor: In my tenure on the GSA executive, my team noticed a lack of relationship between the university and the external community and partners. A lack of relationship with innovation and communities within innovation enterprise and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, so what I'd like to know is what type of partnerships does the university currently have and what are we doing to build more partnerships so our students can benefit from in the way of internships or co-op positions?

Provost Vannelli: Current Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Saskatoon is geared at expanding the areas of innovation that will affect the city and the university, which will include but not limited to things like power generation and storage. We've opened a new campus in Prince Albert, which we call it the gateway to the north, which is aimed at a lot of programs in nursing, education, arts, and science. Different colleges have different agreements with industry partners. We have partnerships with Cameco and Nutrien which has funded the Global Institute for Food Security which comprises quite a number of high-end researchers. We have a similar arrangement with the Global Institute for Water Security. I guess to answer your question we have to do a better job at making sure those partnerships don't remain the best-kept secrets.

Councilor: When it comes to sustainability on campus, there seems to be a lack of emphasis on this topic unless it comes to how we do recycling. I would like to get an idea of the university's sustainability initiatives if there are any?

Provost Vannelli: The President has started a sustainability committee. The environment (water and food) and energy concerns are things we are taking a serious look at. Initiatives like reducing our carbon footprint become very relevant as we try to do our part as an institution as well as hopefully reducing the associated power bills to a point where we no longer incur a cost to run our facilities. That money then can go towards the further upgrades of our infrastructure and assist us in financially supporting our students.

Councilor: That's what the university is doing but what are the students doing, are we building awareness?

Dean Crowe: I think what you're asking is not what the University is doing as an institution but how do we make sure that the students understand the importance of sustainability and that's where inclusion comes in. I think if we get the student body to participate in those initiatives it really helps to ensure that the students, we turn out can further such initiatives once they leave. We are actively talking about the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) offering programs along the lines of energy, food, and water nexus that help build awareness.

Provost Vannelli: I think the programing that we need to deliver in the area of sustainability shouldn't matter to your college or department. It may be that, the college is invisible but it's the program that

is shared by the colleges so, in the end, it doesn't matter the college in which you've earned your degree, but the pillars of sustainability are grasped before graduating.

Councilor: How does the university strike a balance between those benefits you've mentioned and the associated cost (tuition)?

Dean Crowe: When we talk about cost-benefit analysis, if a student is going to gain those skills and credentials, we need to compare to other universities that are going to offer the same services/credentials. All our programs are of high quality, what you're talking about is the return on investment. We are very active in my office comparing the cost of those credentials and those courses to our students to comparable credentials earned at other U15 institutions. There is no doubt in my mind that tuition and the fees we charge here are in fact lower than you would find at any of the other U15 universities.

Councilor: One of my colleagues started in 2017 and has seen his tuition go up by 25% since then but his funding has not increased once, mental health issues are a big factor for graduate students and lack of finances can trigger a lot of those issues. What steps are the university taking to address those issues?

Dean Crowe: I think it is important to see the financial aid increase as tuition increases. That's why in the proposal for tuition fees next year and the next 4 years after that, we have incorporated a certain portion of those tuition fees to be reinvested in the form of financial aid. By the year 2025 we would have used \$10 million of tuition reassessed in financial aid. Anyone returning in September of 2020 will receive a bursary because we are committed to those 5 principles the Board of Governors has set and one of those is predictability and because we acknowledge the proposed increase in tuition could not have been anticipated prior to entering one's program those bursaries in September will offset the amount being proposed and what is typically expected for a domestic or international students. We want students to be able to focus on the graduate studies and not worry about finances, so they don't have to take a second job off-campus.

Provost Vannelli: It's important that when we set the tuition, a cost-benefit analysis of your education is done. We want to guarantee funding for PhDs for 4 years and 2 years of guaranteed funding for masters. We want to make sure the funding covers all the students living expenses, so they never feel like they have to drop out of school or complete the degree part time.

Councilor: It's becoming increasingly difficult for international students to sustain themselves at USASK. I have friends who have Google in attendance at the career fairs and have guarantee Teaching Assistant (TA) positions, what are we doing to make sure we are competing with schools like the University of Toronto?

Dean Crowe: We do have career days on campus it may not be on the same scale as those you get at the University of Toronto but we're growing. USASK has the lowest graduate tuition and fees combined than any of the U15 universities. One of the mechanisms that we intend to spend some of that \$10

million per year is to provide international differential fee waivers/ scholarships. Basically, incoming scholarship caliber international students entering from 2020 will pay domestic fees.

Provost Vannelli: There will be more students in the future so there will be more opportunities for TA positions. We have to start looking at the experiential learning offered through internships for our graduate students across the board.

The Chair thanked all the guest speakers for being at the Council meeting and engaging councilors.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the agenda as circulated.

President Rengifo requested that Item 6 be changed to a tuition discussion.

Motion to amend the agenda (Rengifo/Fonseca)

Carried

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

Carried

4. Approval of the minutes from December 3rd, 2019

Motion to approve December 3rd, 2019 minutes. (Mustafa/Rengifo)

Carried

5. Information to be received

- November 18, 2019, Executive meeting minutes

Motion to receive agenda item 5A. (Alam/Ezekwesili)

Carried

6. Tuition Discussion:

President Rengifo, mentioned that there is a proposal for USASK to move tuition fees to the median value of the U15 universities over the next 5 years. This means starting from September 2020, there will be a 10% tuition increase for domestic students. Currently, international students pay 1.58x that of the domestic counterparts, the 0.58 is the differential fee. This multiplier will increase by 7% every year for the next 5 years for our international students. There is a caveat to the bursary to all graduate students that was mentioned by the Dean. As it stands, that bursary will only apply to students enrolled in their first 2 years of masters and the first 4 years of a Ph.D. which means to all the students who don't finish within those time frames you are expected to foot the entire cost of the tuition increase. Upon discussion, with some of the graduate community, we are requesting that tuition increases don't apply to current students so that they are not negatively impacted by the lack of a bursary. You should

also be aware that master's students typically finish their program in 3 years and Ph.D. students in about 6 years.

Q: Tuition consultations never seem to be a true consideration; the administration already has a proposed increase and have the discussion to give the appearance that our concerns are valid.

President Rengifo: The tuition consultation shall be held on the 6th of February 3-5 pm, so I ask that you continue to make your voices heard.

7. Executive reports

- **Report of the President**

President Rengifo shared that her report was before council. The Chair asked if there were any questions for the President. There were no questions for President Rengifo.

- **Report of the VP External**

VP Ezekwesili shared, as well that her report was before council. The Chair asked if there were any questions for the VP External. There were no questions for VP Ezekwesili.

- **Report of the VP Finance and Operations**

VP Alam shared that the Bursary applications will open from February 3rd, 2020. The Chair asked if there were any questions for the VP Finance and Operations. There were no questions for VP Alam.

- **Report of the VP Student Affairs**

VP Fonseca share that her report was before council. The Chair asked if there were any questions for the VP Student Affairs. There were no questions for VP Fonseca.

8. Other Business/Announcements

The Chair thanked councilors for their engagement and participation at the meeting and mentioned that the next meeting will be on February 25th, 2020.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Alam/Mustafa) at 6:50 pm.

Carried

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.24 2019	Oct.15 2019	Nov.5 2019	Dec.3 2019	Jan.28 2020	Feb.25 2020	Mar.17 2020	Apr.7 2020	Jun. 2020	Aug. 2020
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Ran San (Valentina Ofori)	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Animal & Poultry Science Grad Students' Assoc.	Muhammad Imran (Kiana Rieger)	P	A	P	A	A					
ARCHAIA	Adrienne Ratuszniak (Michelle Gowan)	P	P	A	A	P					
Biology Graduate Student Association	Rebecca Smith (Ruth Greuel) (Carmen Marquez) (Andrea Wishart)	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Chemistry Course Council	Naheda Sahtout (Doug Fansher)	P	P	P	P	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kushagra Parolia (Andrew Roebuc)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Sampurna Ghosh (Megha Rohamar)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Harini Aiyer (N/A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Michael Zaki (N/A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A					
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Rifat Zahan Muhammad Aminul Islam (Md. Nadim)	N/A	p	p	P	P					

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.24 2019	Oct.15 2019	Nov.5 2019	Dec.3 2019	Jan.28 2020	Feb.25 2020	Mar.17 2020	Apr.7 2020	Jun. 2020	Aug. 2020
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Tumpa Sarker (Peyman Alizadeh)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Subashree Srinivasan (N/A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Shahab Minaei (Khaled, Zoroufchi Benis)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Ajay Shrinivas Muthukumar (Mohanad Zaghloul)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Karim Shahbazi (Jose Alvim Berkenbrock)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Alireza Razmavar (Hadi Ramin)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P					
English Course Council	Lindsay Church (Michelle Kent)	P	P	P	R	R					
Geography & Planning Grad Council	Selena Schut (Renata Leonhardt)	P	A	P	P	P					
Graduate Geological Society (GGS)	James Schulte (Brayden McDonald)	P	P	P	R	P					
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Manreet Kaur Nehal (Syed Adnand Khalid)	N/A	N/A	P	R	P					
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Natasha Boyes (Natalie Houser)	P	P	P	P	P					

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

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



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting Minutes
December 02, 2019**

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

Regrets/absent: none

Guests: Aimee Schryer, Arash Mollahosseini, Shahab, Brittanie, Joshua, Nathan

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

The President thanked the executives for their dedication and continued hard work throughout the year and hopes to continue working together in the coming 2020.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The VP Finance and Operations added Funding request from SPHSA as an item for action.

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 October 21, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the October 21st Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: to approve the October 21st, 2019 Executive Minutes

Moved: VP External

Seconded: VP Student Affairs.

Vote all in Favour, Motion carried.

4. Approval of the November 04, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the November 4th Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: to approve the November 04th, 2019 executive minutes

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External.

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

5. Approval of the November 18th, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the November 18th Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: to approve the November 18th, 2019 executive minutes

Moved: VP External

Seconded: VP Student Affairs.

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

6. Items for Action

6.1 Funding request from Iranian Student Council (ISC)

The VP Finance and Operations received a funding request from ISC and invited one of the ISC executives to join the GSA Executive Meeting. Arash and Shahab attended on behalf of ISC. The President welcomed them to the meeting and asked for a brief description of the event. They explained that Yalda is a traditional Eve in Iranian culture. It is the longest night during the year and Iranians get together to celebrate and make it memorable. Within this tradition, people usually read poems, play Persian classic music, eat fruits and nuts, and dance. They are organizing this event that will serve around 50 graduate and 20 undergraduate students and some other people from the Iranian community outside of the university. The president thanked them for giving details of the event and opened the floor for questions.

The VP Finance and Operations asked how would graduate students benefit from this event, how do they plan to reach graduate students, and if they have plans to invite students who are not from Iran and/or faculty members. Arash replied that graduate students will have the opportunity to network with other students and new students will have a chance to meet current students that can help somehow in their transition period. Posters will be created and distributed via various media but they do not have a clear idea if faculty members will be invited. The VP Finance and Operations further asked what kind of food will be provided and if the event will be free. Arash explained that they have not decided about the type of food which will be served and depending on the number of participants, pizza or other food will be served and the cost would be between 5 to 10 dollars per person. The VP Student Affairs asked how much they are requesting from GSA to which Arash replied they are requesting 800 CAD. The President asked if they have looked at other sources of funding. Shahab mentioned that since ISC is a new organization, they have not contacted other possible sources of funding yet.

The President mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event and thanked both Arash and Shahab for

providing the proposal and further information. She informed that a decision will be made and communicated through email within a week.

Motion: To ask for more details of the event and re-evaluate this request after they become ratified with the GSA.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

6.2 Funding request from Soil Science Graduate Student Association (SSGSA)

The VP Finance and Operations received a funding request from the SSGSA and invited one of the SSGSA executives to join the GSA Executive Meeting. Aimee Schryer attended on behalf of SSGSA. The President welcomed Aimee to the GSA Executive meeting and asked her for a brief description of the event. She explained that the SSGSA aims to bring together graduate students from both, Soil Science department and College of Agriculture and Bioresources to foster a friendly working atmosphere. In order to meet this aim, they hold numerous social activities and the largest of these activities during the academic year is the Soil Science Christmas party. The Soil Science Christmas party is an annual event held by the SSGSA as an opportunity for both staff and graduate students to interact in an informal setting. The SSGSA believes that the Christmas party helps overall academic success in the long run as well as providing an enjoyable social engagement occasion for everyone who attends. Every year, they become more efficient at lowering costs to run the event; using the GSA commons for the past few years has allowed for a significant opportunity to reduce the Christmas Party's expenses. As such, they decided once more to use the GSA commons for this event. The president thanked Aimee for giving details of the event and opened the floor for questions.

The VP Finance and Operations asked how many students they are expecting to attend the event to which Aimee replied about 50 graduate students. The VP Student Affairs asked what kind of

gifts they are thinking of providing. Aimee explained that there will be various contests and gift cards. The President asked if their department is sponsoring the event and if they have alcohol permit. Aimee said that the department will be sponsoring the event and they already have alcohol permit for the event. The President thanked Aimee for the explanation and clear description of the written document that was presented.

The President also mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event. She informed that a decision will be made and communicated through email within a week.

Motion: to approve funding in the amount of \$300 for this event

Moved: VP Student Affairs;

Seconded: VP External

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

6.3 Funding request from SPHSA (School of Public Health Student Association)

The VP Finance and Operations received a funding request from the SPHSA and invited one of the SPHSA executives to join the GSA Executive Meeting. Joshua, Nathan and Brittanie attended on behalf of SPHSA. The President welcomed them to the GSA Executive meeting and asked for a brief description of the event. They explained that the SPHSA have elected the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) commons as the prime venue of their annual Gala event this year which will be celebrated on February 28th, 2020. However, in order to move forward they are requesting funds to book the GSA commons. The School of Public Health has 124 students from which they expect at least 40 graduate students. The event is going to be centrally themed to bring together the students of public health and special guests to share and celebrate student's success for another year of dedicated work and accomplishments. The SPHSA wishes to provide an evening filled with positive experiences, entertainment, hospitality, and networking. The SPHSA is comprised of

dedicated members and special associated volunteers that will be dedicating their work to make this year's Gala event memorable and successful.

The VP Finance and Operations asked if the speakers were already selected for the event as well as if they have looked for other sources of funding. They have not yet decided on the speakers and they have not reached out to other organization for funds. The VP Finance and Operations also asked if the event is open to other graduate students. The event will only be open for the SPHA students. The VP Student Affairs asked to clarify certain elements with regards to breakdown of budget.

The President mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event. She informed that a decision will be made and communicated through email within a week.

Motion: to approve funding in the amount of \$250 for this event

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: President

Vote all in favour (2 abstentions due to conflict of interest), Motion Carried

6.4 Co-Curricular Record (CCR)

After meeting with a CCR specialist of the University of Saskatchewan, the president mentioned that we agreed that it is important for GSA to give CCR to students that participate in activities that aligns with the University policies which means activities that have a learning component. Therefore, none of the new initiatives (Zumba instructor, guppies, etc) meet the requirements to get CCR.

Motion: not adding CCR to the new activities developed in 2019/2020

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

6.5 ThinkGrad

ThinkGrad is an event that brings together GSA executives from other universities to discuss graduate student issues. Members of this group are graduate student representatives who are focused on spearheading research to strategically address pressing problems affecting higher education in Canada. The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that ThinkGrad 2020 will be held at GSA commons, University of Saskatchewan from Jan 24th to Jan 26th, 2020.

Motion: Executives will work together on the organization of the ThinkGrad conference.

Moved: VP External

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

6.6 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 that the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment in the amount of \$303,311.82 to Saskatoon Transit for Fall remittance on November 18, 2019.
- Payment in the amount of \$369,776.65 to StudentCare for Fall remittance on November 18, 2019.

- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping services in the amount of \$618.69 on November 18, 2019 for bookkeeping services.
- Payment in the amount of \$23,000 to fall bursary recipients on November 25, 2019.
- Payment in the amount of \$1,000 for conflict resolution workshop to College of Law on November 25, 2019.
- Payment in the amount of \$5344.00 to Hub Int'l for insurance renewal on November 27, 2019.

7. Items for Information/Discussion

7.1 University Sustainability plan

The President mentioned that she had been contacted by the Community Engagement Coordinator from the Office of Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan, Matt Wolsfeld. University of Saskatchewan will be undertaking a renewal of its campus sustainability plan, which will consider the participation of students ensuring that students' concerns, wishes, and visions for the future are effectively captured and integrated into the plan. For this, they were hoping to set in motion to achieve this is the creation of a new entity on campus: The Sustainability Student Coalition. This group will be comprised of representatives from campus clubs that are interested in contributing or taking part in sustainability planning and progress, in addition to individual student leaders who wish the same. The goals of the Coalition will be:

- a. To provide coordinated student input to the President's Advisory Circle on Sustainability (PACS) on issues related to sustainability.
- b. To coordinate and organize student efforts for action on issues related to sustainability.
- c. To serve as a mechanism for the student body to amplify concerns related to sustainability towards institutional leadership.

As one of the primary student representative bodies on campus, they were hoping that the GSA can be represented on the coalition and, hopefully, act as a co-chair with a representative from the USSU. The Executive is happy to be part of this coalition however we all agreed that councillor from the School of Environment and Sustainability (SESS) would be better fit to co-chair this initiative.

7.2 Printer from GSA

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that one of the printers is broken and the office manager had contacted IT support to look for options. The IT support team checked with the administrators of the CPAS student printing system and they would not be able to replace the printer as this printer only printed about 700 pages last year and the threshold for having a CPAS printer is 250 pages per month. Since GSA does not offer printing services and there is no budget to buy new printer. Executives decided not to buy a new printer.

7.3 Executives Away Dates

Executives are travelling in December/January at different dates, but they will still be communicating regularly with each other via social media and email whenever needed.

7.4 Meetings with the candidates for Dean of CGPS

The President thanked the executives for attending the meetings with the candidates for Dean of CGPS. She explained that it was important to meet the candidates and evaluate their perspectives with regards to students and the University. We hope to have a fruitful relationship between the future Dean of CGPS and the GSA.

7.5 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Nutana Stakeholder Committee

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that he is serving on a stakeholder committee on behalf of the GSA. This committee is 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 implantation of the BRT system in Saskatoon. The first meeting of this committee was held on Saturday November 23rd from 1:00pm - 4:00pm.

7.6 Funding request from English Course Council (ECC)

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that Ian Moy from the English Course Council has informed the GSA that they had secured enough funding from other sources for the event GSA sponsored. Therefore, they won't be needing the GSA's financial support for the ECC's Literacy Eclectic Conference.

8. Other Business

9. Confidential Session

10. In Camera Session

11. Adjournment of Meeting

President asked if there were any other business arising. Since there were none, motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Moved: VP External

Seconded by: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2020**

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

Regret/Absent: None

Guests: Asanka Godakanda and Maria Alejandra Oviedo-Ludena

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. The President welcomed the executive to the New Year and thanked them for continuing our work with the same enthusiasm that we started our position at the GSA and she hopes that it continues throughout the remaining term.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated.

The President added the following items for action/information:

Committee for Teaching Award Nomination

The VP Finance and Operations added the following item for action/information:

Office Manager Vacation

Winter Term Bursary

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP Student Affairs;

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote All in Favour (VP External abstain), Motion carried.

3. Items for Action

3.1 Funding request for 2020 Annual Plant Science Graduate Student Symposium

The President received a funding request from Plant Science Graduate Student Symposium (PSGSS) and invited the executives from PSGSS to join the GSA Executive Meeting. Asanka and Alejandra attended on behalf of PSGSS. The President welcomed both of them to the GSA Executive meeting and asked for a brief description of the event. They explained that the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan will be hosting the 36th Annual Plant Sciences Graduate Student Symposium (PSGSS) in Saskatoon, on March 13th and 14th, 2020. This event is directed, planned and executed by the Plant Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA). This event is a conference that brings together graduate students from North Dakota State University, the University of Manitoba, University of Alberta, and the University of Saskatchewan. This conference is an excellent opportunity to promote plant science research to students from these universities and to promote the thriving agricultural industry in and around the prairies. They will be inviting renowned researchers in the respective fields of plant pathology, plant breeding, plant physiology, genomics and biotechnology, agronomy and weed science to speak at the symposium. Students from these universities will also present their research, which will cover a wide range of topics related to plant sciences. They expect about 100 attendees, of which the majority will be students from this field. This is a free 2-day event. There will also be tours for participants to the Canadian Light Source (CLS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The President thanked them for providing the details of the event and opened the floor for questions.

The VP Finance and Operations thanked both representatives for coming and explaining in detail the event and asked if they have collected sufficient funding for the event and how they stand financially. They have received funding from various sources and getting funding from GSA would ensure that the event will be success. The VP Student Affairs asked if the event will take place in

multiple places. Alejandra replied that the event will take place at the Holiday Inn, so it is a single-venue which will provide a discount to attendees for accommodation. The VP Student Affairs further asked if the Banquet will be open to students. Asanka replied that it is open to students and is free of charge. The President asked if they plan to provide bursary to students who are willing to join the conference. They replied that they are not able to provide bursaries but they will be providing free transportation service from the Airport to the venue. They further added that the attendees will need to cover the cost of accommodation by themselves.

The President mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event and thanked both Asanka and Alejandra for providing the proposal and further information. The president further indicated that a decision will be made and communicated via email within a week.

Motion: to approve funding in the amount of \$500 for this event

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour (VP External abstain), Motion carried.

3.2 Changing the schedule of GSA executive meetings

The President mentioned that there is a conflict in the schedule of the VP External with the executive meetings due to overlapping with her classes. To accommodate this, alternate dates and times for the GSA executive meetings are proposed. The future meetings for Winter Term are scheduled as:

January 28, 2020 at 4PM

April 28, 2020 at 5PM

February 4, 2020 at 5PM

February 18, 2020 at 5PM

March 3, 2020 at 5PM

March 24, 2020 at 5PM

Motion: to approve the above mentioned dates for executive meetings

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.3 GSA representative in the Lobby week CFS

The President mentioned that the GSA has received invitation to participate in Lobby Week. The Federation's federal lobby week has been scheduled for the week of February 18-21st, 2020. The Lobby Week provides an opportunity for students and student representatives to engage with, and seek commitments from, MPs and Senators on student issues. This year's lobby discussion will include recommendations and costings on universal, accessible post-secondary education, funding and supports for Indigenous learners, funding for graduate students and research, action on climate change, and student housing. CFS will be covering the transportation as well as accommodation of the GSA representative. The President recommends the VP External to attend this event on behalf of GSA and hopes that she shares her experience upon her return.

Motion: to approve the VP External to attend the Lobby week

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: President

Vote All in Favour (Abstention from VP External), Motion carried.

3.4 Graduate student representative for the Arts and Science College Planning Advisory Committee

The Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Peta Bonham-Smith, is looking for a graduate student representative to join the Arts and Science College Planning Advisory Committee. The GSA appointed Osai Clarke, a graduate student from the College of Arts and Science to sit on this committee. He has agreed to be part of this committee.

Motion: to approve the graduate student Osai Clarke to sit on the above committee.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.5 Graduate student representative for the College of Education Search Committee for an Associate Dean, Research and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Committee

The College of Education is requesting for a graduate student representative to sit on college of Education Search Committee for an Associate Dean, Research and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Committee. The GSA appointed Kenisha Blair-Walcott to serve on this committee. She has agreed to sit on the committee.

Motion: To approve the graduate student Kenisha to sit in the above committee

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.6 Office Manager day-off on February 4, 2020

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the Office Manager has requested a day-off on February 4th, 2020 and asked if any executives are available to cover this shift. The President and the VP External volunteered to cover the morning shift (9am-12pm) while the VP Student Affairs volunteered to cover the afternoon shift (1pm-4:30PM). The VP Finance and Operations thanked the executives for volunteering their time and ensuring that the GSA commons runs efficiently.

Motion: to approve the above executives to cover the shifts of Office Manager's day-off on February 4, 2020

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.7 GSA Representative for 2020 Teaching Awards nominations for the Provost's Awards and the Sylvia Wallace Award

The President mentioned that she has received an invitation to serve on the 2020 Teaching Awards nominations for the Provost's Awards and the Sylvia Wallace Award. The goal of this committee is to ensure peer recognition in teaching excellence and to ensure that graduate and undergraduate students' voices and experiences play a role through in the process of recognizing teaching excellence on campus.

Motion: to approve the President to serve on the above committee

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.8 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 that the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to Coordinator Olatunji Olabiyi in the sum of \$531.06 issued on December 31, 2019 for covering shifts at GSA.
- Payment to Buckberger Baerg in the sum of \$3607.50 issued on January 09, 2020 for Financial Auditing services.
- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping Services Inc. in the sum of \$549.66 issued on January 09, 2020 for bookkeeping services
- Payment to Remai Modern in the sum of \$10,000 issued on January 13, 2020 as second deposit for 2020 Annual Gala
- Payment to Buckberger Baerg in the sum of \$2,220 issued on January 13, 2020 for Financial Auditing services.
- Payment to One Brand in the sum of \$1,152.77 issued on January 13, 2020 for Winter Orientation swag

Motion: to approve the expenditures outlined in this section above

Moved: President;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

4. Items for Information / Discussion

4.1 Winter Term Bursary Dates

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the call for applications for winter need-based bursaries will start from February 3rd, 2020 to February 21st, 2020. The applicants will be able to submit their application in the 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/before March 9th, 2020 with the final decision of the committee. He also mentioned that this information is reflected on the website now and will be circulated via GSA newsletter, and PAWS.

5. Other Business

6. Confidential Session

7. In Camera Session

8. Adjournment of Meeting

President asked if there were any other business arising. Since there were none, motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Moved: VP External

Seconded by: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2020**

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

Regrets/Absent: None

Guest: None

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated.

President added the following items for action:

National Graduate Caucus

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP External;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs.

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

3. Items for Action

3.1 Student Forum Representative

The GSA previously appointed two graduate student representatives to serve on the Student Forum. One of them is unable to attend the meetings in February and March 2020 due to conflicts with the schedule. The President mentioned that it is important for our representatives to attend those meetings and give feedback on any discussions that take place on the student forum. Therefore, a graduate student, Shashank Shekhar Kumar, was appointed to attend the February and March meetings.

Motion: To approve the above student to represent on Student Forum for the months of February and March, 2020.

Moved: VP External

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.2 National Graduate Caucus

The President mentioned that every year a representative from the GSA represents the University of Saskatchewan graduate students at the CFS National Graduate Caucus conference. This year, this conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from March 6th -March 8th. This is a national conference that brings together members from many institutions and open discussions in up-to-date initiatives. The President recommends the VP External to attend the event in representation of the GSA.

Motion: to approve VP External to attend National Graduate Caucus

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President

Vote: 3 in Favour, 1 Abstention (VP External); Motion carried.

4. Items for Information / Discussion

5. Other Business

6. Confidential Session

7. In Camera Session

8. Adjournment of Meeting

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

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: VP External

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43PM.



University of Saskatchewan – Graduate Students’ Association
Governance Committee Meeting
November 20, 2019 (5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

Attendance:

Attendees: Mery Mendoza (President), Alejandra Fonseca (VP Student Affairs), Naheda Sahtout (Councillor), Priya Goundar (Regular Member), Phillip Radetzki (Regular Member), Scarlett Ling (Regular Member)

Regrets: (Council Chair), Rifat Zahan (Councillor), Emediong Etukudo (Regular Member)

Update on action items from previous meeting:

- Circulate the minutes of Nov 1 meeting.
 - Update: Completed
- Ms. Sahtout to contact the Team Leader, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success
 - Update: Completed
 - Ms. Sahtout contacted the Team Lead via email to arrange a meeting. Both Ms. Sahtout and Ms. Mendoza attended the meeting. He recommended Ms. Sahtout and Ms. Mendoza contact an Indigenous graduate student. Ms. Sahtout has contacted this student via email and is awaiting a response. Ms. Sahtout has also contacted other Indigenous graduate students who may be able to offer insight into how best to move forward with this new position. During the meeting, the Team Leader advised against combining the Indigenous and International Student position into one, given the priorities of Indigenous students are different. The new position would potentially be titled “Vice President Indigenous Engagement”.
- Circulate the terms of reference for the committee.
 - Update: Completed
 - No concerns were raised from attendees regarding the terms of reference
- Circulate the constitution
 - Update: completed
 - Revised section by section (proposed amendments listed below)

Proposed amendments to the GSA Constitution:

Section of the constitution	Amendments
1. Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed to the name
2. Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was mentioned some changes were made to this section last year and recommended the committee revisit this section once all other documents (bylaws and policy documents) have been revised to ensure definitions are consistent in all documents. • A member sought to understand why the fiscal year and the academic year did not have the same definition. It was explained the fiscal year is from May 1 – April 30 because executive members are voted in May 1 and their term ends April 30. • A member also suggested changing the definition of ‘Members or Membership’ (Section 2.1.9) to include “as defined by Section 5.1. • A member noticed the dashes in the document were all different sizes. It was agreed that this will be changed for formatting. • A member recommended adding the term ‘Board of Directors’ to the list of definitions. It was agreed to add ‘Board of Directors’ to the list with the definition – “as defined by section 6.4”.
3. Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For section 3.5, a member questioned why a specific section of the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995 was not cited. It was clarified we did not have to add this Act into the constitution because this can be easily located by conducting an internet search. • A member questioned whether we should consider using the term ‘mission statement’ rather than purpose. The GSA website uses the term “mission”. After some research and deliberation, attendees agreed the term ‘purpose’ should be changed to ‘mission’. • A member recommended changing ‘external community’ in section 3.1.1. to “external communities” to include all the different community groups. No meeting attendees raised any concerns regarding this change. • A member wondered whether ‘political choice’ should be added to section 3.3, which outlines the different forms of discrimination the Association will not tolerate. Another member wondered if instead of outlining a comprehensive list of the different forms of discrimination, it would be better to

	<p>eliminate the list and simply state the following: “The GSA strives to be free from all forms of discrimination in all endeavors.” A member asked if ‘academic evaluation’ should be added to the list as well. It was explained that the GSA does not deal with academic performance in any capacity unless the student chooses to disclose that information to the GSA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a member’s suggestion, the committee deleted the long list outlining all the different forms of discrimination. After deletion of the list, section 3.3 reads as follows: “The Association recognizes that every student has the right to equal treatment with respect to student activities, services, and organizations, without discrimination. The Association further recognizes that some Members have been historically and systematically disadvantaged with resultant under-representation in institutions of post-secondary education.” The Association shall strive to be free of all forms of discrimination in all endeavours;” • Section 3.4 and 3.5 –the purpose of these sections was explained. No changes were proposed for either section.
<p>4. Scope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was explained that because the GSA is a non-profit organization, our governing documents have to follow the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act. It was also emphasized that the Bylaws and Policies of the Association should not contain information that contradicts the Constitution. • Attendees did not propose any changes to section 4.

<p>5. Membership and Fees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member highlighted some changes that were made to this section last year. Post-Doctoral students, until last year, were allowed to be Members of the GSA and could hold executive positions. Changes were made to ensure that graduate students would only be representing other graduate students. • A member felt section 5.1.2.2. was vague and sought clarification. It was explained that the current University Act recognizes certain student associations. This section ensures students do not become members of multiple student associations with financial obligations to each one. • A member wondered if students who are visiting from other universities for a short term would be considered members of the GSA. It was explained that these students, if they wished, could pay fees to the GSA to become members and access services offered by the GSA. • A member had a question regarding “To move or second motions at such meetings” under Rights, Privileges, and Obligations, which is erroneously numbered as 5.1.1.4. Clarification was requested if only council members had this right. A member responded that it is subject to the bylaws and agreed to add this phrase to the constitution. The sentence was changed to “To move or second motions at meetings of the association” • In section, 5.1.4.4, a member proposed changing ‘may’ to ‘can’. This change was made. • A member questioned section 5.2.3, which states that “The GSA fee may be increased by no more than five percent (5 %) per fiscal year, without a referendum.” Members were curious about how the amount was agreed upon. A lengthy discussion followed. It was explained that student fees can only be increased for justifiable reasons such as replacement of GSA computers, and other equipment, allocation for bursaries etc.
<p>6. Executive Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was explained some changes were made to this section last year because the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act states that 25% of the Board should be Canadian residents. • The “Indigenous Liaison” in section 6.3.5 will potentially be replaced with “Vice President Indigenous Engagement” pending consultation. There was some discussion regarding the election of this role. Specifically, meeting attendees were asked if it would be appropriate to have only indigenous students vote in the election for this position or if all graduate students should be permitted to vote. Members felt that only indigenous students should vote in this election.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6.4.2.1 will be deleted as it is no longer necessary. • Section 6.4.2.2. was changed to “Appoint 1 or 2 more members of Council as necessary”, this would mitigate any problems if the VP Indigenous Engagement role does develop as intended. • Section 6.5 was changed to the following: “With the exception of the Vice President Indigenous Engagement, the Executive shall be elected in a general election of the Regular Membership, to be held before the end of the current fiscal year;” • A new section was added – Section 6.6 states “The Vice President Indigenous Engagement shall be elected in a general election of the Indigenous graduate students to be held before the end of the fiscal year.”
7. Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes were made to this section
8. General Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each component of this section was explained. • It was emphasized that when the committee reviews GSA’s Bylaws, we have to ensure the content in all documents remain consistent.

Conclusion:

- Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.
- The next meeting will be scheduled next year (2020).



University of Saskatchewan – Graduate Students’ Association
Governance Committee Meeting
January 30, 2020 (5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Attendance:

Attendees: Mery Mendoza (President), Alejandra Fonseca (VP Student Affairs), Naheda Sahtout (Councillor), (Council Chair), Rifat Zahan (Councillor), Priya Goundar (Regular Member)

Regrets: Phillip Radetzki (Regular Member), Scarlett Ling (Regular Member)

Absent: Emediong Etukudo (Regular Member)

Update from previous meeting:

- Circulate minutes from the Nov 20, 2019 meeting.
 - Update: Completed
- Regarding changes to the GSA constitution:
 - It was explained that changes to the constitution from the last meeting are outlined in the meeting minutes and are also tracked for the annual general meeting. It was stated that the committee would have to re-visit the constitution at a later date.

Agenda for this meeting: Review the GSA Bylaws

Proposed amendments to the GSA Bylaws:

Section of the constitution	Amendments
<p>9. Council</p> <p>1.1 Terms of Reference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was explained that the council is made of members from different departments and colleges that ratify with the GSA; not all departments/colleges are represented. Currently, the College of Education, Nursing and Law and some smaller departments in Arts and Science are not represented. • Section 1.1.3 – a member wondered what position statements were. It was explained they are official statements distributed to the media or senior administration, which incorporates the council’s input, and are representative of the views of the GSA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.1.2 – a member asked if it should be specified that motions to council meetings may also be submitted to the council chair. All agreed to make this change. • No other changes proposed to 1.1
1.2 Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.2.1 – a member wondered if the word “may” should be changed to “shall”. This change was made as other committee members were in agreement. • Section 1.2.4 – It was recommended this section be changed to: “No Councillor shall represent two different academic councils”. Most committee members agreed to make this change. A member wondered if academic councils were defined anywhere. It was indicated that we could perhaps add it to the constitution. *Note* - In the GSA constitution, we should further define what an academic council is or make revisions as appropriate. • Section 1.2.5 –this sentence was modified to: “The number of Councillors, with voting rights, for an Academic Council is determined by the Voting Councillor Allocation, as defined by section 1.5”
1.3 Alternate Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.3.3 – To ensure consistency with previous sections, this section was changed to “An Alternate Councillor shall not represent two different academic councils;” • Section 1.3.4 – a member wondered if in a situation where both the Academic Councillor and the Alternate Councillor are not available to attend the meeting, and they want to send another representative, are we going to make exceptions for that? It was felt that if a council is willing to send a representative to attend a meeting, they are making an effort to keep participating. To capture this in section 1.3.4, one sentence was added to this section: “In the event that an Alternate Councillor is unavailable, a designated representative of the Academic Council may attend the meeting as long as the Chair is notified;” • Section 1.3.5 – this section was modified to correspond to section 1.3.4. This section is now: “Alternate Councillors or the designated representatives of the Academic Council shall be vested with the voting and speaking rights of the Councillor they are replacing.”
1.4 Councillor Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt this section needs to be rephrased because some Councillors think they have to be a part of all Committees. Section 1.4.1.3. was changed to “Participating on Association Standing Committees, as desired;”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.4.1.5 – Association Constitution changed to “Association’s Constitution”
<p>1.5 Voting Councillor Allocation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.5.1 – It was recommended indicating where the University census data is. This section was changed to “The Voting Councillor Allocation for an Academic Council will be based on the most recent University census which can be found within the Information and Communications Technology – Reporting and Data Systems.” • A member raised some concerns regarding the number of representatives permitted to have voting rights. It was emphasized that while it was understood each academic council had a voting allocation, it wasn’t clear in this section that not all representatives attending could vote. Changes to 1.2.5 (above) and 1.5.2.1 and 1.5.2.2 were made to incorporate this (see below). • Section 1.5.2.1 – This section was changed to: “One (1) Council Member for an Academic Council containing less than one hundred (100) Regular Members;” • Section 1.5.2.2 – This section was changed to: “Two (2) Council Members for an Academic Council containing one hundred (100) or more Regular Members.”
<p>1.6 Removal of a Councillor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.6.1 was modified because it was felt that Councillors should not be penalized if they sent their regrets. This section was changed to: “A Councillor will be suspended if the allocated voting seat for their Academic Council is vacant for two (2) or more consecutive, or three (3) per academic year, duly called Council meetings, if regrets were not sent.” • Section 1.6.5 – This section was changed to: “Should a Councillor be removed, the Chair shall inform their Academic Council...” • Section 1.6.6 was deleted because it was redundant.
<p>1.7 Council Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes made to this section.
<p>1.8 Selection of Council Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.8.4 – A member disagreed that this should be the first order of business. This section was changed to: “At the Council meeting, in which the Chair shall be elected, the President, or their designate, shall act as Council Chair until the Council Chair is elected;” • Section 1.8.8 – To provide greater clarity, this section was changed to the following: “In the absence of the elected

	Council Chair, a temporary alternate Council Chair shall be nominated and elected from the floor of Council by a majority vote;”
1.9 Council Chair Remuneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes were made to this section
1.10 Resignation of Council Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes were made to this section.
1.11 Recording Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.11.3.2 was changed to the following: “Record and prepare minutes for Council and General meetings, upon the request of Council Chair;”
10. Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.1.3.2.3 – Change to “The Association’s Constitution...” • *Note* - Add every Executive has to write a report.
2.2 President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.2.1.4 – A member suggested we change the language to make it grammatically correct. It was changed to “Chairing Executive committee meetings;” • Section 2.2.1.9 – Change to “The report shall be presented to the Regular Membership...” • No other changes were made to this section
2.3 Vice-President Finance and Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.3.1.9 – Changed to “Overseeing the finances of the Association and keeping the budget up-to-date” • Section 2.3.1.11 – Changed to “To liaise with the Association auditor and ensure an annual audit of the Association is performed;” • Section 2.3.1.7 – Changes “Needs-Based” to “Need-Based” • Section 2.3.1.12 – Changed to “To liaise with the Association bookkeeper...”
2.4 Vice-President Academics and Student Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.4.1.4 – Changed to “Organize the Three Minute Thesis (3MT)...” • Section 2.4.1.4 – Add parenthesis next to Three Minute Thesis (3MT) • Section 2.4.1.3 was changed to the following: “Organize a program of social events, including the Fall and Winter Orientations, for the enhancement of the graduate student experience;” • Deleted the existing 2.4.1.6. • New 2.4.1.6 changed to “Responsible for Ratification of all Academic Councils and Social Clubs:”
2.5 Vice-President External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.5.1.1 – Change Association to Association’s • Section 2.5.1.6 – Comma added so now the sentence reads “Work with lobbying organizations, the Association has an affiliation with, under the oversight of the President;”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.5.1.3 – Changed to “Organize the Annual GSA Awards Gala in its entirety, in consultation with the Executive” • Section 2.5.1.9 – Changed to “Be responsible for communicating with...”
2.6 Indigenous Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was mentioned we should re-visit this later once we have consulted with how best to proceed with the new position.
2.7 Overruling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes made to this section
2.8 Resignation of an Executive Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.8.3 – the word “resolution” was removed, now it reads “By a simple majority vote...” This was also split into two. • Section 2.8.3 – By a simple majority vote, Council appoint an interim Executive to hold office until this By-Election is complete. • Section 2.8.4 – A By-Election shall not be necessary if the remaining term of office of the resigned Executive member is four (4) months or less.
2.9 Suspension or Removal of an Executive Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.9.3 – “wage” changed to “honoraria” • Section 2.9.4 – “resignation” changed to “removal” • Section 2.9.5 – changed to “By a majority vote”..... • New section – 2.9.6 – “A By-Election shall not be necessary if the remaining term of office of the removed Executive member is four (4) months or less.”
6. Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was explained that this is a new section which was added last year because we have a new agreement with the University. This allows the GSA to send emails to graduate students. • Section 6.1 – Changed to “Association’s News and Events” • Section 6.1.1. – changed to “All Regular Members must be informed of all Association’s news and events...” Also changed Social Club to “Academic and Social Club Ratification” • Section 6.2.4 – Changed “VP External” to “President”

Conclusion:

- Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2020. We will continue with section 3 and section 5 of the Bylaws.



**University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association
Elections and Referenda Committee Minutes
Friday 17th January 2020**

Present:

- Council Chair/Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)
- Asanka Godakanda (Council member)
- Mostofa Kamal (Council member)
- Nataliia Zakharchuk (General/regular member)

Regrets:

- Rohini Vijayan (General/regular member)
- Kaidan Xu (General/regular member)

Absent:

- Josh Katz (Council member)

1. Signing of Confidentiality Agreement

The Council Chair/CEO called the meeting to order at 6.20 pm. She welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She had everyone do a round of introductions and shared that a confidentiality agreement had to be signed by each member before the Elections and Referenda Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) could move forward.

2. Role of Committee Members

As a recording secretary was needed, Kamal put himself forward to be the secretary.

The Chair went through the expectations of Committee members with regards to ensuring the success of the Elections period. The Chair mentioned that it was important that all members communicate and respond to emails in order for the Committee to have a smooth election process. The Chair shared that Committee members must meet to ratify the nominations and election results

3. Tentative Election Timeline

The following timeline was proposed.

Proposed Event Dates	Events Name
February 10 and 24, 2020	Election announcement, call for nomination and promotion
March 2, 2020	Nomination opens
March 9, 2020, 12:00 pm	First orientation for the candidates
March 12, 2020, 12:00 pm	Second orientation for the candidates
March 16, 2020, 12:00 pm	Third orientation for the candidates
March 16, 2020, 5:00 pm	Nominations closes
March 16, 2020, 5:30 pm	Election Committee meets to ratify the nominations
March 17, 2020, 2:00 to 3:00 pm	Mandatory procedures meeting for all nominees
March 18, 2020, 9:00 am	Campaigning begins
March 23, 2020, 5:00 to 6:00 pm	All Candidates forum
March 29, 2020, 11:59 pm	Campaigning ends. All campaign material must be removed by 11.59 p.m.
March 30, 2020, 9:00 am	Vote begins
April 3, 2020, 5:00 pm	Vote ends
April 6, 2020, 3:00 pm	Deadline for formal complaints. Must be emailed or delivered to the GSA Chair/CEO
April 6, 2020, 5:30 pm	Election Committee meets to ratify and announce the results

4. Review of Nomination Forms

The Chair shared a draft of the 2020-2021 nomination form for members to review. The entirety of the form must be completed for the Committee to consider the nominee.

5. Election Rules

The Bylaws must be followed by everyone.

6. Communication and promotional plan

Announcements can go through the GSA Newsletter/email, the GSA website as well as through PAWS and the GSA Social media pages.

7. Other business

The Chair will communicate via email to all members.

8. Adjournment

The Council Chair/CEO thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 7.35 pm.



**University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association
Elections and Referenda Committee Minutes
Friday 7th February 2020**

Present:

- Council Chair/Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)
- Asanka Godakanda (Council member)
- Mostofa Kamal (Council member)
- Nataliia Zakharchuk (General/regular member)

Regrets:

- Kaidan Xu (General/regular member)
- Josh Katz (Council member)

Resignation:

- Rohini Vijayan (General/regular member)

1. Committee Updates

The Council Chair/CEO called the meeting to order at 6.05 pm. She welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She informed the Committee that a member was currently out of the jurisdiction and unable to attend meetings, while one had resigned from the role.

2. Final Elections Timeline

The following timeline was proposed and accepted by the Committee as the 2020/2021 GSA Elections Timeline.

Event Name	Proposed Date/Time
Election announcement, call for nomination and promotion	Feb 10 th – Feb 23 rd
Nomination opens	Feb 24 th (9.00 am)
First Orientation meeting	Feb 27 th (5:30 – 6:30pm)

Second Orientation meeting	March 2 nd (5:00 -6:00 pm)
Third orientation meeting	March 5 th (1:00-2:00 pm)
Nomination closes	March 9 th (5:00 pm)
Election Committee meets to ratify the nominations	March 9 th (5:30 -7:00 pm)
Mandatory procedures meeting for all nominees	March 10 th (5:00 -6:00 pm)
Campaign begins	March 11 th (9:00 am)
All Candidates Forum	March 16 th (5:00-6:00 pm)
Campaigning ends. All campaign material must be removed by 11:59 p.m.	March 22 nd (11:59 pm)
Voting begins	March 23 rd (9:00 am)
Voting ends	March 27 th (5.00 pm)
Deadline for formal complaints. Must be emailed or delivered to the GSA Chair/CEO.	April 3 rd (12:00 pm)
Election Committee meets to ratify and announce the results	April 3 rd (12:00 pm)
Introduction of New Executives at AGM.	April 14 th

3. Other business

The Chair will communicate via email to all members.

4. Adjournment

The Council Chair/CEO thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 7.15 pm.



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association
President's report - GSA Council Meeting, February 2020

Dear GSA Councilors,

Please, find below the two main areas the GSA is working on:

- **Tuition**
- **Graduate Handbook**

1. Tuition

The current tuition proposal for thesis-based graduate programs aims to increase tuition by 10 % each year for the next 5 years for domestic students, along with an increase in the differential fee for international students by 6.9 % each year for the next 5 years. In five years, domestic students will see around 50 % tuition increase, and international students will see around 124 % increase in tuition. The University's principles such as predictability, transparency and affordability and accessibility, are lacking in this proposal. First of all, when we talk about the principle of predictability; it is really unreasonable that current graduate students would be able to expect these large increases.

The university is planning on giving a bursary to graduate students beginning in 2020/2021 to minimize the effects of this tuition increase (to only a 3 % increase for domestic students and a 6.1 % increase for international students) but this proposal to provide a bursary assumes a Masters student will complete their program in only 2 years and a PhD student will only take 4 years. This proposal does not consider that degrees are different from department to department. Most students who do research do not finish a Masters program in 2 years or a PhD program in 4 years. These students will be drastically disadvantaged by this proposal.

Second, this proposal is not transparent for graduate students because it has been created by administration without any consultation of graduate students. Students are informed about the new proposal, without opening a possibility for any real feedback. Consultation sessions are simply a means of passing information to students.

Third, when we talk about affordability, we want to make sure we do not add more financial stress to our graduate students. With many of our students struggling to balance tuition and living costs, it is important to ensure that we protect the core of this university, our researchers. Research drives the university forward and we are very competitive researchers, producing high quality research, which is why we belong to the U15. By raising tuition, graduate students are forced to leave school to work a second/third job, which withdraws from our ability to successfully complete the research project.

The GSA is working on a petition and encourage all graduate students and campus community to sign it. We will continue our discussions with our student leaders to strategize the next steps we will be taking. We will always work aiming to support the education and academic success of our graduate students. We are also open to discussing this proposal with our leaders on campus to bring our concerns and questions and discuss possible solutions.

2. Graduate Handbook

The GSA in collaboration with the CGPS is working on a Graduate student handbook from the College of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies perspective. The associate Dean of CGPS has requested permission from Saint Mary's University to use their Graduate Student Handbook as a template and adapt it to the University of Saskatchewan. The GSA will be working on it and will distribute the first draft to the councilors for feedback.

We will continue working on initiatives that support the academic success of our graduate students and campus community as a whole. We welcome you back to campus and look forward to working together.

Thank you,

Mery Mendoza

President, Graduate Students' Association



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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February 2020

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my February report to council:

1) **GSA Guppies**

We are excited to report that **the GSA Guppies are working on participating in Futsal every Thursday 5pm at the REC. Please come let's cheer them.**

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 Winter Term to be held in the GSA commons.

	Date	Time
Zumba (eventbrite)	13th March & 27th March	5pm – 6pm

3) **GSA ANNUAL AWARDS GALA**

Graduate students and members of faculty; please consider nominating individuals for the following awards. The individuals selected for these awards will be honored at the GSA's Annual Awards Gala on April 4, 2020.

The award categories are:

1. Advising Excellence
2. Excellence in Community Service

3. Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership Award
4. Professional Excellence
5. Research Excellence in Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Law or Education
6. Research Excellence in Indigenous Studies
7. Research Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies
8. Research Excellence in STEM

Deadline for nominations: Monday, March 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM. Please visit the GSA website [HERE](#) for further information regarding the Awards and the nomination process.

4) **Gala Preparations**

The gala preparations are ongoing. It will be held April 4th and our venue to be Remai Modern and tickets are on sale. You can purchase your tickets from the GSA office manager's desk. Also the nominations are open. Please inform graduate students in your departments. Please visit the GSA website [HERE](#) for more information.

5) **Sustainability Committee meeting**

Minutes from last meeting

- We have decided to conduct the Documentary event (name to be decided) on 04 March 2020, Wednesday from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- We will have two speakers for the event Matt Wolsfeld (opening remark) and Gift Marufu (closing remarks)
- We will be providing pizza and pop as refreshments
- To encourage the audience, we will conduct a Kahoot session and the questions will be based on the documentaries
- Decided to get some gifts for the speakers as well as for Kahoot winners

6) **Meetings**

The following is a list of some 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



**University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association
Monthly Report from the VP Finance and Operations (February 2020)**

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 Winter Bursary on February 3rd. The last date to submit the applications is on February 21st, 2020. 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 March 9th, 2020. 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 Winter term.

Additionally, I continue to sit on various committees to improve the graduate student's experience on and off campus. The GSA continues to support the ratified social clubs.

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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February 2020

RE: VP Student Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members:

Please find below my January-December report to council.

1) Graduate Research Conference

The Graduate Research Conference "Behaviour, Society & Technology: A glimpse of current research approaches" was hosted on February 13 and 14, 2020 at the GSA commons. It was successful but more participation will be optimal. Since the planning of the Conference takes longer than other events, it might be advisable to host the conference in March.

2) 3MT Competition

The 3MT competition will be hosted on March 6th, 2020. A call for participants was sent earlier in the month and a reminder will be sent out in the next GSA newsletter. The possible judges will be invited next week.

3) Meetings

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

Date	Meeting
January 21, 2020	Meeting with the President
January 22, 2020	Events Committee Meeting
January 23, 2020	Student Forum Meeting
January 24, 2020	Wellness Strategy Meeting
January 28, 2020	GSA Council Meeting
January 29, 2020	PPC Subcommittee meeting
January 30, 2020	Governance Committee Meeting
February 6, 2020	Tuition Consultation Meeting

Fee Changes

CFS Fee Change:

The Canadian Federation of Students has indicated the new fee for the 2020/2021 academic year.

- The current CFS fee is **\$6.30 / term**.
- The new CFS fee will be **\$6.35 / term**.
- The CFS fee is charged to graduate students, as per our contract with CFS, in the fall and winter terms.
- This increase accounts for increases to the inflation rate, as communicated by CFS.

Motion: *To approve the increase in CFS fees from \$6.30 / term to \$6.35 / term.*

UPASS Fee Change:

As per our contract with Saskatoon Transit, the UPASS fee is to increase in proportion to the January Saskatoon CPI.

- The Saskatoon January CPI is **2.1 %**, as determined by the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics.
- The old UPASS fee is \$111.87
 - \$108.87 is remitted to Saskatoon Transit
 - \$3 is collected as administrative fees of which a portion goes to the University and a portion goes to the USSU for UPASS activation
- The new UPASS fee will be \$114.16
 - $\$108.87 \times 2.1\% = \111.16
 - $\$111.16 + \$3 = \$114.16$
- The UPASS fee is only charged to graduate students in the fall and winter terms.
- There are opt-out criteria outlined in our contract with Saskatoon Transit. Graduate students who fulfill the opt-out criteria may apply for a refund following the timelines and procedures.

Motion: *To approve the increase in UPASS fees from \$111.87 / term to \$114.16 / term.*