



**Graduate Students' Association - University of Saskatchewan  
Council Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020- WebEx  
17:00 – 19:00**

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

#	Item	Page	Action
1	<b>Call to Order</b>		
2	<b>Approval of the agenda</b>	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
3	<b>Guest from the CFS - Mental Health</b>		<i>Information</i>
4	<b>Approval of the minutes from October 20, 2020</b>	3-10	<i>Decision</i>
5	<b>Approval of the minutes from November 2nd, 2020 from the Elections and Referenda Committee.</b>	11-12	<i>Decision</i>
6	<b>Information to be received</b> A. Approval of the Executive meeting minutes from October 8, 2020 B. Approval of the Executive meeting minutes from October 22, 2020	13-27	<i>Decision</i>
7	<b>Appointment of two representatives to the University of Saskatchewan Student Forum</b>		<i>Decision</i>
8	<b>Re-allocate the budget line #53309</b>		<i>Decision</i>

The GSA Executives are requesting for the approval to re-allocate the budget line#53309, initially intended for the Conflict Resolution Workshop, to support the "Holiday Hangout" event this year. The Conflict Resolution workshop is not being offered this academic year due to COVID-19, and the in-person "Holiday Hangout" event cannot take place due to COVID-19 restrictions on-campus. The GSA Executives are proposing to hold

an alternative "Holiday Hangout" where meals will be delivered to students in Saskatoon during the December break. Students will be able to register for meals in advance.

**9 Executive reports**

**28-36 Information**

- A. Report of the President
- B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations
- C. Report of the VP Academic and Student Affairs
- D. Report of the VP External Affairs

<b>10</b>	<b>Other business/Announcements</b>	<b><i>Information</i></b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	<b><i>Decision</i></b>

***Next Meeting: December 8th, 2020***



University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
Council Meeting  
Tuesday, October 20, 2020. WebEx Meeting\*

As Council gathers, we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

*Attendance: See appendix A*

*\*WebEx Meeting: The October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council Meeting took place via WebEx due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan made directives to practice social distancing in order to curb the spread of the virus.*

### 1. Call to Order

All Council Members were emailed the Agenda package, as well as the WebEx meeting link with the meeting number and password to participate online. The Chair of Council officially welcomed the 2020/2021 Members of Councilors to the first meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Asiyah Suchak, the Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

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

*Motion to approve the agenda. (Inam/Gill).*

Carried

### 3. Council Orientation

The Chair and Chief electoral officer, Paula Vargas, presented a power point about the GSA, what it stands for and how it runs.

### 4. Approval of Minutes from September 22, 2020

*Motion to approve the September 22, 2020 minutes. (Ramin/Inam).*

Carried

## 5. Information to be received

- a. Executive meeting minutes from September 10, 2020
- b. Executive meeting minutes from September 24, 2020

*Motion to receive agenda item 5a and b. (Gill/Ramin).*

Carried

## 6. GSA Executives Report

### a. President's Report

The President presented her report to Council. There was a question for President Inam regarding the Student-Supervisor Agreement from a representative (Elyse) of the college of medicine. President Inam responded stating that the student-supervisor agreement is not legally binding, but if students want to seek legal advice they can at the college of Law. They decided to further discuss over email.

### b. Vice President Finance and Operations Report

The Vice President Finance and Operations presented his report to Council. There was a question for VP Ramin regarding the GSA Bursary from a member of the SENSA Academic Council.

Mostafa Kamal asked if the GSA was going to give \$500 this term for the bursary or will the recipients receive a full \$1000. VP Ramin responded saying it would be the full \$1000, but they as a committee and executive team would decide the number of students that would receive the bursary, it would be somewhere between 20 to 25. Mr. Kamal also asked if the GSA would be sticking to the policy of one bursary per academic year. Ramin responded saying they cannot receive the bursary in the last three or the coming three semesters. They thanked each other for their discourse.

### c. Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report

The Vice President Academic and Student Affairs presented her report to Council. There were no questions for VP Mellidez

### d. Vice President External Affairs Report

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

## 7. Committee of Council

- a. Motion to approve nomination for Budget and Finance Committee

The chair asked if there were any members interested in the committee and Aisha Sajid put her

name forward as an alternate councilor. Tongjia Yang also nominated herself as an alternate. However, she is a general member and the general member spots were filled as the chair pointed out. She asked if any council members were interested in the position. Only one position was needed now. Mostafa Kamal put his name forward.

*Motion to approve nomination for Budget and Finance Committee (Inam/Orji)*

**Carried**

b. Motion to approve nomination for Bursary Selection Committee

The chair asked for nominations for the Bursary selection Committee after stating who was already on it. Khaled Zoroufchi Benis and Iyanu Kumayon put their names forward. The chair thanked them for their commitment.

*Motion to approve nomination for Bursary Selection Committee (Mellidez/Sajid)*

**Carried**

c. Motion to approve nomination for Governance Committee

The Chair asked if two councilors or alternate councilors were interested in the committee after stating which members were a part of the committee. Elyse Proulx-Cullen put her name forward the chair made sure she was a council member. The chair then asked again if there were any members of council interested in the Governance Committee. Amanda Gannon put her name forward and the chair asked for a mover and seconder. The chair thanked them for their commitment.

*Motion to approve nomination for Governance Committee (Kamal/Sajid)*

**Carried**

d. Motion to approve nomination for Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee

The chair stated who is on the council and asked for one councilor or alternate councilor. Mostafa Kamal put his name forward.

*Motion to approve nomination for Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee (Sajid/Inam)*

**Carried**

e. Motion to approve nomination for Elections and Referenda Committee

The chair stated who is on the council and asked for one general member and one council member or alternative council member. Rosmary put her name forward as a general member.

The chair asked for a council member or alternate council member to fill the remaining position. Khaled Zoroufchi Benis put his name forward. The Chair thanked them for their commitment and asked for a mover and seconder.

*Motion to approve nominations for Elections and Referenda Committee (Kamal/Inam)*

**Carried**

f. Motion to approve nomination for Awards Selection Committee

The chair stated all the current members of the committee and called for a member. Tonye Jack's name was put forward. The chair confirmed Tonye was part of the council.

*Motion to approve nomination for Awards Selection Committee (Kamal/Gill)*

**Carried**

g. Motion to approve nomination for Sustainability Committee

The chair stated who is on the council and asked for one council member or alternative council member. Khaled Z. Benis put his name forward. The chair thanked him for his commitment. She asked for a mover and seconder.

*Motion to approve nomination for Sustainability Committee (Simonot/Sajid)*

**Carried**

h. Motion to approve nomination for Diversity Committee

The chair stated that this committee has been filled and names all the committee members. She then asked for a mover and seconder as all are approved.

*Motion to approve nomination for Diversity Committee (Inam/Sajid)*

**Carried**

## **8. Ratification of Social clubs for 2020/2021**

a. India Students' Association

Representative: no representative

Carmen VP Academic Affairs came forward: all required documents have been acquired and we have a valid void cheque. She read the mission statement of the U of S India Student Association

*Motion to Ratify India Students' Association. (Kamal/Sajid).*

Carried

### **9. Other Business/Announcement**

The Chair opened the floor for other business or announcements. The chair recognized president Inam. She reminded all graduated students that we can book study space in the education building and that the request has to be submitted by the supervisor.

There was no other business and the Chair thanked President Inam for her remarks.

The Chair recognized Mostafa Kamal and he was wondering if there was an update on the app for the health benefits of the students. The President asked for clarification on the question, and Mostafa Kamal clarified. The president responded that there is an app for private health insurance with student care the app is live. They thanked each other.

The Chair recognized Elyse, she states that a student expressed great dismay about the tragedy in Quebec and was wondering about the committee on indigenous affairs, and she wanted to pass that on to them. She thanked the chair.

The chair asked IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THERE WAS NONE

### **7. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn at 6:51 pm. (Marquez/Ramin).*

Carried

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<b>Western College of Veterinary Medicine</b>	Miranda Zwiefelhofer Michelle Tucker Jennifer Abi Younes	P	P								
<b>English Course Council</b>	Tricia Monsour Darius Simonot Amanda Burrows	N/A	P								
<b>Chemistry</b>	Iyanu Kumayon Doug Fansher	N/A	P								
<b>Engineering Graduate Community Council</b>	<p><b>Mechanical Engineering</b>          Jack, Tonye          Razmavar, Alireza</p> <p><b>Electrical and Computer Engineering</b>          Shahbazi, Karim          Molahasani, Mahdiyar</p> <p><b>Chemical Engineering</b>          Esmi, Fahimeh          Zoroufchi Benis, Khaled</p> <p><b>Biological Engineering</b>          Kallingal Mohandas, Ninu</p> <p><b>Biomedical Engineering</b>          Haghanifar, Arman          Alizadeh Sardroud</p> <p><b>Civil, geological, and Environmental Engineering</b>          Muthukumar, Ajay Shrinivas          Hamed Beiranvand,          Mohammad</p>	N/A	P								

<b>College of Medicine Graduate Student Society (CMGSS)</b>	<b>Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology:</b> Kayla Jacqueline Cropper Kushagra Parolia <b>Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology:</b> Gabrielle Mercier Ashley Sutherland <b>Community Health and Epidemiology:</b> Amanda Gannon Azadeh (Oz) Nazeran <b>Health Sciences:</b> Elyse Proulx-Cullen Una Goncin	N/A	P									
<b>Exec. President</b>	Humaira Inam	P	P									
<b>Exec. VP Finance and Operations</b>	Hadi Ramin	P	P									
<b>Exec. VP Student Affairs</b>	Carmen Marquez Mellidez	R	P									
<b>Exec. VP External</b>	Qasim Shahzad Gill	P	P									



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association  
Elections and Referenda Committee Meeting  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, 1:00 pm**

**# Item**

- 1 **Signing of Confidentiality Agreement**
  - Meeting called to order at 1:05PM.
  - Chair briefed committee on confidentiality agreement.
  
- 2 **Election rules**
  - Chair briefed committee on GSA Bylaws – Section 4, role of committee, and expectations of members.
  - Expectations were indicated for candidates running for positions during election.
  
- 3 **Election timeline**
  - Election timeline proposal was introduced and explained by Chair.
  - Normally, 8% of graduate students need to vote in order for an election to be satisfied. (Chair will check and inform council on exact minimum number of students needed to vote for election to be satisfied)
  
- 4 **Ratification of the Nominees** *Decision*
  - Chair shared with the council both nominees' applications
  - Chair will share why nominees cannot be bankrupt with council through email.
  - Decision to accept nominees Moved by Zoher and seconded by Aisha

*Motion Carried*
  
- 5 **Communication and promotion plan**
  - Only social media and institutional emails allowed to be used due to COVID.
  - Chair will ask that nominees are allowed to use PAWS news for promotion
  - Aisha recommended that we need some way to monitor the personal accounts of candidates to ensure that they are following campaigning guidelines
  
- 6 **Other business**
  
- 7 **Adjournment**
  - Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:54





**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**October 8, 2020**

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

**Regrets/Absent:** None.

**Guest:** Jesus Corona Gomez, Vice-President of Finance from the Multicultural Student Association (MSA).

**1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks**

The President called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM and informed the Executives that the VP of Finance from the Multicultural Student Association (MSA) will be joining the executive meeting today to present the MSA's funding request proposal.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

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

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

**4 in Favour**  
**Motion Passed.**

### **3. Approval of the September 10, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the September 10, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes. There were none.

*Motion to approve the September 10, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes was moved by the President and seconded by the VP Academic & Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.*

***4 in Favour***

***Motion Carried.***

### **4. Approval of the September 24, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President informed the Executives that the meeting minutes from September 24, 2020 would be finalised this week, and asked to delay the approval of the meeting minutes until the next Executive meeting.

*Motion to delay the approval of September 24, 2020 Executive Meeting Minutes until the next Executive meeting was moved by the VP Academic & Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

***4 in Favour***

***Motion Carried.***

## **5. Items for action**

### **5.1. Multicultural Student Association Funding Request**

The President welcomed Jesus Corona Gomez, the VP of Finance from the Multicultural Student Association (MSA), and asked him to share the MSA's funding request and events proposal with the GSA Executives. Jesus introduced himself and stated that the MSA is planning to conduct two virtual events to engage graduate students this term. There are no

prizes for the first two events. However, the MSA is planning to provide prizes for future events that they have planned for 2020-2021 in order to increase student engagement. It is for that propose that they seek funding from the GSA, the funding will go towards prizes that they will be giving out to students at their social events. Jesus added that these events were created to promote cultural diversity and inclusivity, especially for international students who may be facing culture shock when arriving in Canada. The President asked whether MSA's social events were open to all graduate students or if they were only for MSA member. Additionally, the President stated that if these events were for only for MSA members, then what strategy will MSA be adopting to reach out to all graduate students. Jesus replied that these social events were open to all graduate students, though it is predicted that the majority will be MSA members. Some of the social events include contests, the MSA is planning to upload contest materials to their Facebook page, and people need to follow their page to like posts in order to vote. The President raised the concern about the fairness of voting to ensure that everyone is given a fair chance to win prizes, and asked how the MSA is going to make sure votes are submitted fairly. Jesus replied that they may use SurveyMonkey and ask for students' NSID to ensure that only USask students are voting. The President further asked that because of COVID-19 it might be difficult to give out prizes to students who are not in Saskatchewan, how would the MSA handle this situation. Jesus admitted that they have not thought of this scenerio, but he will discuss this matter with the other executives of the MSA. The President also asked Jesus to include the GSA logo on their events' poster, and that these posters would need to be sent to the GSA Executives prior to the event for approval, should their funding request be approved. The VP Academic & Student Affairs asked whether the MSA is willing to change the wording of their December event name from "Chrstimas" to "Holiday" as not everyone celebrates Christmas. Jesus responded that the MSA would be happy to re-word the event name to be more inclusive. The VP Finance asked if the MSA was receiving funding from other sources or whether this option has been looked into by the MSA. Jesus stated that the MSA had not looked at other sources of funding at this time. The President thanked Jesus for presenting MSA's funding proposal and taking the time out to attend the GSA Executive

meeting. The President informed Jesus that the Executives would discuss the MSA's funding proposal and relay their decision to the MSA via email.

After Jesus had exited the GSA Executive meeting, the GSA Executives discussed the funding proposal and found MSA's funding request appropriate for the events they had planned. However, there were some issues around fairness of voting for some of their events, which needed to be cleared up before those events could take place. Additionally, as the GSA Commons is closed right now there was the issues of providing reimbursement to the MSA in-person, or the cheque would have to be mailed. The VP Finance stated that according to the GSA policies, the GSA can provide reimbursement for social events once the event has already occurred, and he also raised concerns on the funding amount that is available for mailing purposes in the budget as this expense has increased during the pandemic. The President stated that she understood those concerns, but due to COVID-19 there are limited options available as not everyone can come to the GSA to pickup their cheque. The VP Academic & Student Affairs stated that perhaps we could provide a lump sum to the MSA for their events and they could submit another proposal. The President said this was a good idea, and the VP Finance agreed that this may work as well. The Executives agreed that a firm decision could not be made yet regarding MSA's funding proposal as there were some issues that needed to be cleared up.

*Motion to delay the decision on providing funding for MSA social events until further information is received was moved by the President and seconded by the VP Academic and Students Affairs. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour**

**Motion Carried.**

5.2. *Search Committee for Vice-Dean Academic and Vice-Dean Research for the College of Arts and Science*

The President was contacted by the College of Arts and Science to assign two graduate students from the College of Arts and Science to serve on the search committee for Vice-Dean Research, Scholarly & Artistic Work, and Vice-Dean Academic.

*Motion to approve graduate students Andrea Wishart to serve on the College of Arts and Science search committee for Vice-Dean Research, Scholarly & Artistic Work, and Douglas Fansher to serve on the College of Arts and Science search committee for Vice-Dean Academic. Motion moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour  
Motion Carried.**

### 5.3. *Faculty Council for College of Engineering*

The College of Engineering contacted the President and requested that the GSA assign two graduate student representatives to serve on the Faculty Council for the College of Engineering.

*Motion to approve graduate students Shahab Minaei and Azar Khorsandi to serve on the Faculty Council for the College of Engineering was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour  
Motion Carried.**

### 5.4. *Cheque Remittance*

As per the GSA bylaw 5.4.4, the VP Finance put forward the following expenses above \$500, to be approved by the Executive team:

*Motion to approve the expense of \$2,343.90 to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) for the student handbook under the budget code of 52340, was moved by the President and seconded by the VP Academic & Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour  
Motion Carried.**

*Motion to approve the expense of \$867.81 for Chip Bookkeeping under the budget code of 52650 was moved by the VP Academic & Student Affairs and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

**4 in Favour  
Motion Carried.**

**5.5. Participating in the Graduate National Trivia Championships.**

The VP Academic & Student Affairs stated that the Graduate National Trivia Championship would be held on November 25, 2020 and each University can send up to ten teams with each team consisting of five people. It is the GSA's discretion as to which students will make up each team, and there is a \$150 registration cost to enter the championships. The President stated that although this is a good initiative to engage graduate students from all across Canada, however, we would need to ensure that we have 50 participants to enter the competition before we can make the decision to pay the \$150 registration fee. The President stated we could provide this funding if we could have ten teams attending. The President asked the VP of Academic & Student Affairs to create a social media post for this event so we can get graduate students to participate and formulate teams.

*Motion to delay the approval of the \$150 registration fee for the Graduate National Trivia Championship until 50 students have signed up to participate, was moved by the President and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

**1 Abstain due to conflict of interest, and 3 in Favour  
Motion Carried.**

## 6. Items for Information / Discussion

### 6.1. *Fall 2020 Social Events*

The President asked the VP Academic & Student Affairs about the progress of the bi-weekly “Coffee Afternoons” event. The VP Academic stated that the event has had very little student turnout, with two Executives and two graduate students attending the last event. She also added that some students may not follow the GSA Facebook page and are likely not aware of the events we are holding. The President suggested that the VP Academic post the GSA events on PAWS to garner more student attention. The President also asked all Executives to seek input from other Executives before making any posts on PAWS.

The President asked the VP Academic when she wants the social media poster for the “Halloween Costume/Facepaint Contest” to be published on the GSA social media platforms. The VP Academic stated that she would send the poster on October 14 for uploading.

In regards to the “Halloween Trivia Night” event, the President asked if there would only be one winner for each session. The VP Academic confirmed that there would be only one winner for each trivia night session. The President also asked how much money the VP Academic wants to spend on prizes for these events, considering that the available budget for social events is \$500 for the entire academic year. The VP Academic stated that we could do \$100 in total for each event. The Present proposed the following amount for each prize:

- a. Cultural event: 1<sup>st</sup> place winner would receive a \$75 gift card, 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner would receive a \$50 gift card, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner would receive a \$25 gift.
- b. Halloween Trivia Night: one prize of \$75.
- c. Halloween Costume/Face paint Contest: 1<sup>st</sup> place winner would receive a \$75 gift card, 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner would receive a \$50 gift card, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner would receive a \$25 gift.

The President stated that we have a budget constraint for the Halloween trick-or-treat bag event, and we might need to reach out to ISSAC for sponsorship or find other forms of funding. She also said that it was possible that we may not be able to organize the Halloween trick-or-treat event due to the lack of funding. The VP Finance mentioned that since this is going to be a new event by the GSA, considering the current situation of COVID-19, we might be able to take out money from the GSA new initiative budget.

#### 6.2. *3MT Competition 2021*

The President asked the VP Academic & Student Affairs about the organization of the 3MT Competition for 2021 and what progress was being made. The VP Academic stated that currently there were no updates to report, but she will inform the Executive as information becomes available. She also informed all Executives that the 3MT Competition will be taking place virtually next year.

#### 6.3. *Health Chat Events*

The President asked the VP External for an update about Health Chat events. The VP External stated that they had the Yoga Nidra night recently, and unfortunately, there was not a considerable turnout, and the GSA needs to promote events further in order to engage more students. The President then asked the VP External about the “Mental Health Monday” seminars that were to be organized and the VP External was communicating with the Student Wellness Centre regarding this. The VP External stated that he had not received any further responses from the Student Wellness Centre, even though he had followed up with them. The President suggested reaching out to the Saskatoon branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association for possible workshop/seminar presenters. She also said that the VP External could also implement a well-being event with prizes under his portfolio.

#### 6.4. *Fall 2020 Bursary*

The President asked the VP Finance about any updates regarding the fall 2020 bursaries. The VP Finance reported that the bursary applications were opened on October 1, 2020

and application would be submitted electronically through the GSA website due to the ongoing pandemic situation until October 31, 2020. The VP Finance stated that he would provide further updates to the Executive team at the next Executive meeting.

6.5. *Graduate Research Conference 2021*

The President asked the VP Finance whether he had started thinking about the Graduate Research Conference for 2021 as she had been advised by the previous GSA Executive team that planning of the Graduate Research Conference needs to be started early. The VP Finance stated that there is no update on this event at this time. The President asked the VP Finance to start communication with potential speakers that will be invited to this event.

6.6. *Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Nutana Stakeholder Committee*

The President stated that the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Nutana Stakeholder Committee aims to develop a good relationship between the Nutana community and the BRT project team in order to successfully implement the BRT system in Saskatoon. The President also mentioned that the VP Finance will continue his predecessor's role of representing the GSA on this committee.

6.7. *Transit*

The President brought up the issue of access to transit during the winter as bus stops had been moved off-campus during the pandemic. The bus stop issues are concerning because students do not have a warm place to stand while waiting for the bus in the winter. The President did discuss this with the USSU and was informed that unfortunately, the University will not allow re-opening of Place Riel due to the access it provides to the tunnels. Additionally, there is no way to close the second set of doors that leads into Place Riel. The President discussed other possible solutions and said that she would bring this issue up with senior leaders at the next meeting.

6.8. *VP Academic's Report from the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association Meeting*  
VP Academic and Student Affairs provided an update from the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) meeting. She stated that the USFA shares the same concerns as graduate students regarding communication between students and supervisors and access to buildings on campus. The VP Academic said that attendance at this meeting is valuable for both students and faculty in order to promote a positive relationship and work collaboratively. She will continue meeting with the USFA bi-monthly to ensure transparency and active communication.

## **7. Other Business**

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

## **8. Confidential Session**

## **9. In-Camera Session**

## **10. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked for the adjournment of this meeting.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP Academic and Student Affairs. Vote: Passed.*

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



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2020**

**Present:** Humaira Inam (President), Hadi Ramin (VP Finance and Operations), Qasim Gill (VP External)

**Regrets/Absent:** Carmen Marquez (VP Academic & Student Affairs).

**Guests:** None.

**1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks**

The President called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM. She informed the Executive team that the VP Academic & Student Affairs, Carmen Marquez, sends her regrets as she won't be able to attend the Executive meeting today due to extenuating circumstances.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President requested the removal of the agenda items that the VP Academic & Student Affairs wanted to discuss today. She also asked whether there was anything else to add or remove from today's agenda. Seeing none, the President asked for a:

*Motion to approve the amended agenda as circulated, was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

**3 in Favour**

***Motion Passed.***

### **3. Approval of the October 8, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President informed the Executives that the meeting minutes from October 8, 2020 had not been finalized and asked for the delay of approval until the next Executive meeting.

*Motion to delay the approval of October 8, 2020, Executive Meeting Minutes was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

***3 in Favour  
Motion Carried.***

### **4. Items for action**

#### *4.1 Funding Request from Multicultural Student Association*

The President stated that per the GSA Policy 11.4.2, the Multicultural Student Association executives need to submit a receipt for their prizes after each event has occurred. The President asked to approve the following motion:

*Motion to approve funding for prizes that the Multicultural Student Association (MSA) will be giving out during their social events for the 2020-2021 academic year, provided that a receipt is submitted after each event takes place. The motion was moved by the VP External and seconded by the VP Finance. Vote: Passed.*

***3 in Favour  
Motion Carried.***

#### *4.2 Cheque Remittance*

The President asked the VP Finance if there were any finances that needed to be approved by the GSA Executives for amounts that exceed \$500. The VP Finance stated that there were no expenses that needed approval at this time.

### **5. Items for Information / Discussion**

### *5.1 Senate Meeting*

The President informed the Executives that the University Senate meeting will be taking place on October 24, 2020 via email, and she encouraged all Executives to participate in this meeting. The President stated that she has already submitted the GSA report for University Senate, and it will be available for viewing on the University of Saskatchewan website, but historically the GSA President would also verbally present their report to Senate.

### *5.2 Renewal of Insurance*

The President asked the VP Finance to provide an update to the Executives regarding the renewal of insurance. The VP Finance informed the team that we are in the process of renewing the GSA's insurance for liability which happens on an annual basis.

### *5.3 Mental Health Seminar*

The President asked the VP External to provide an update on the mental health seminars that were to be organized for "Mental Health Monday". The VP External said that he has contacted the Saskatoon branch for the Canadian Mental Health Association but hasn't heard anything back yet. He also reached out to the Student Wellness Centre again, and they also did not respond. The VP External suggested postponing the "Mental Health Monday" events until the winter term so we can better prepare, as no one has replied to his communication yet. The President asked the VP External if there was anything else, besides the seminar, that we could do to bring awareness to mental health issues. The VP External stated that we are inviting a speaker from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to the next GSA Council meeting to talk about the Mental Health Toolkit and based on the input we receive from students regarding the toolkit, we could move forward with the initiative as appropriate. The President stated we could invite someone from Studentcare to talk about Empower Me so more students will be aware of this service provided by the GSA.

#### *5.4 Canadian Federation of Students*

The President asked if the VP External received the agenda for the next Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) meeting. The VP External said that he had received an email regarding the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) Standalone meeting but hasn't received the agenda yet. The VP External stated that he will share the agenda with other Executives once he receives it. The CFS General meeting will be after the NGC meeting, and the VP External was asked to send any items for discussion or action for the agenda. The VP External asked the Executives to provide an item that they would like to add to the agenda. The President asked the VP External to share the agenda with other Executives when received so we could include the items for action or discussion to the agenda as appropriate.

#### *5.5 Fall 2020 Bursary*

The President asked the VP Finance about any updates regarding the fall 2020 bursaries. The VP Finance stated that so far, we have a decent number of applications for the fall term bursaries, however he would suggest extending the deadline by two weeks to allow more students to apply. The President responded by saying that graduate students have had plenty of time to apply for fall bursaries as the application will be available for 31 days and extending the deadline would just delay the process of giving out bursaries. The President asked the VP Finance to let her know how many applications will be received by October 31, 2020 and if an extension is required then that can be further discussed.

### **6. Other Business**

The President asked if there was other business to discuss.

The VP External stated that he would like to discuss the Yoga Nidra event that is taking place every Wednesday. He said that there were a few people who attended the last Yoga Nidra session, but we should advertise the event more in order to improve participation. He also stated that he had advertised the event on PAWS on the day of the yoga event. The

VP External emphasized that sending out a reminder to students for our events is quite important, especially when it is close to the date/time of the event. The President thanked the VP External for his input and stated that the GSA's social events would be reposted online to remind students of upcoming events.

**7. Confidential Session**

**8. In-Camera Session**

**9. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked for the adjournment of this meeting.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM was moved by the VP Finance and seconded by the VP External. Vote: Passed.*

***3 in Favour  
Motion Carried.***



## University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

### President Report - GSA Council Meeting, November 2020

Dear Councilors,

In this report, you will find a brief update of the initiatives the GSA has been working on:

#### **1. Pandemic Response Team**

The GSA executive plays a key role in advocating for and ensuring the inclusion of graduate students' concerns in the pandemic response plan to ensure that the transition to the current situation becomes smoothly for everyone. Although we are not part of the decision making process, we have been able to hold meetings with the Pandemic Response Team to address graduate students' concerns and provide input where appropriate.

#### **2. Graduate Faculty Support**

The supervisor handbook discusses the roles and responsibilities of faculty and provides in-depth guide on important concepts including communication, learning styles, time management, and other concerns that when addressed, will help both faculty and students to get most out of this crucial relationship. This document has been in the process of being completed since 2018 when our predecessors were working on this document in collaboration with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). The current GSA Executives have continued this work with CGPS and are close to finalizing the handbook so it can go to publishing and be available to faculty in the near future.

#### **3. Student-Supervisor Relationship**

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

#### **4. Student Engagement**

We faced a drastic reduction of social connections and access to campus which includes

important services, such as food services, jobs, and in-person mental health counseling which is and an important safety net for identifying loneliness and isolation. The GSA Executives have been working on organizing social events for this term to increase graduate student participation and provide a platform where students can network and socialize.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the GSA Commons remains closed and as such many of our events will be taking place online. We will continue our efforts to create a sense of community among our student population, provide services, advocacy, and support our graduate students during these unprecedented times.

Thank you,

Humaira Inam  
President, Graduate Students' Association

## Monthly Report from the VP Finance and Operations (October 2020)

Hello GSA members,

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

### 1) GSA Fall Bursary Update

The GSA Fall Bursary is opened for applications. Similar to the spring/summer bursaries, the fall call is online and through Survey Monkey. We had a meeting with the GSA bursaries committee to discuss the selection criteria. The application will be closed on October 31, and we will have further meetings to select the recipients of the bursaries.

### 2) Closure of GSA Commons

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

### 3) Financial update

As part of my responsibilities, I monitor the GSA financial revenues and expenditures to make sure that we are following the approved budget.

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

#### *Meetings*

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

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Please feel free to contact me at [gsa.fin@usask.ca](mailto:gsa.fin@usask.ca) should you have any questions or need any further clarification.

Sincerely,

**Hadi Ramin**

**Vice-President Finance and Operations**

Graduate Students' Association

Email: [gsa.fin@usask.ca](mailto:gsa.fin@usask.ca) | Web: <https://gsa.usask.ca/>

Facebook: [UsaskGSA](#) | Twitter: [GSA\\_USask](#) | Instagram: [GSA\\_Usask](#)

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

October 2020

**RE: VP Academic and Student Affairs Report to Council**

Dear Council Members:

Please find below my November report to council.

**1) Halloween Events**

Halloween this year consisted of two different events: face painting/ costume competition and Halloween trivia. The face painting/ costume competition had a great turnout and the winners were announced as soon as CGPS confirmed the graduate student affiliations. The Trivia night consisted on a competition held online on October 29<sup>th</sup> but the turnout was very limited, only one student attended. The curbside pick-up service that was announced in my previous report could not happen due to the spike in COVID cases in Saskatoon. We decided to stay safe and will try to organize something like this further along in the year.

**2) 3 Minute Thesis Conference**

On March 26th 2021, the GSA will be hosting the 3MT Conference. I will be planning this event with the Event Organizing Committee. Details are being discussed with the host institution and more information will be shared when decisions are made. A call for abstracts and registration will be sent out and prospective judges will be contacted as soon as final details are decided.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
October 13, 2020	Teaching and Learning Committee
October 14, 2020	President's Executive Committee
October 15, 2020	University Council
October 20, 2020	Friends for dinner Event Coordination
October 21, 2020	Meet and Greet with George Foufas, Director of Consumer Services
October 21, 2020	Academic Programs Committee
October 22, 2020	GSA Executives Meeting
October 26, 2020	Executives meeting with Martha Smith
October 27, 2020	Executives meeting with Pandemic Response Team
October 29, 2020	Bursaries Committee



**Graduate Students' Association**  
University of Saskatchewan

1337 College Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 0W6  
Phone: (306) 966-8471 Fax: (306) 966-8598  
Email: gsa.admn@usask.ca

November 2020

**RE: VP External's Report to Council**

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

1) **GSA Executive meetings**

I am attending the executive meetings regularly where we discuss various topics and events for the fall and winter terms.

2) **Health Chat Events**

The following health chat events will continue to be offered for the fall 2020 term:

*2.1 Yoga Nidra*

Yoga Nidra is being offered online with the collaboration of the Recreation Centre every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The event will end on December 2, 2020 and is not being offered during the November term break. We encourage graduate students to participate in this guided meditation exercise in order to relax and de-stress each week.

*2.2 Financial Literacy Seminar*

The Financial Literacy Seminar was held on October 13, 2020 from 4:00 PM to 5:00PM, where Professor Brian Lane from the Edwards School of Business presented on a number of financial topics, provided information on financial investment, how to manage finances, and answered students' questions. This event was well received by graduate students, and the GSA Executives expressed their interest to invite Professor Lane back next term. Students also expressed interest in having access to the presentation slides that Professor Lane presented, and with the professor's permission the GSA has uploaded these slides on the GSA website.

### *2.3 Resume & Cover Letter Workshop*

The GSA will be holding a resume and cover writing workshop on November 17, 2020 where we have invited Dr. Janet Hill from the Department of Veterinary Microbiology to speak on improving professional skills.

### **3) Canadian Federation of Students**

I will be attending the Canadian Federation of Students - National Graduate Caucus (NGC) standalone meeting from November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 which is a great chance to share, learn, and connect with other locals. The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National General meeting will be held from November 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, tentatively. I have registered to attend this meeting as well.

### **4) Meetings/Events**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meetings/Events</b>
October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	CGPS University Council Meeting
October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Financial Literacy Seminar
October 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	PEC/Student Council Execs Meeting
October 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Student Sustainability Coalition
October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	GSA Council Meeting
October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020	Yoga Nidra
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2020	GSA Executive Meeting
October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	CGPS Equity and International Committee Meeting
October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Yoga Nidra