



**Graduate Students' Association - University of
Saskatchewan Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday February 23, 2021 - WebEx
17:00 – 19:00**

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

#	Item	Page	Action
1	Call to Order		
2	Approval of the agenda	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
3	Guests: Provost and VP Academic Huskie Athletics		<i>Information</i>
4	Approval of the minutes from January 26, 2021	3-10	<i>Decision</i>
5	Information to be received	11-18	<i>Decision</i>
	A. January 28, 2021 Executive Meeting minutes		
6	Executive reports	19-27	<i>Information</i>
	A. Report of the President		
	B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations		
	C. Report of the VP Academic and Student Affairs		
	D. Report of the VP External Affairs		
	E. Report of the VP Indigenous Engagement (Verbal)		
7	Motion: Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) fees (details attached)	28	<i>Decision</i>
	Motion to approve the increase to the CFS fees from \$6.35/term to \$6.44/term. (Mendoza/Inam).		
8	Students with Disabilities: Academic, Accommodation and Access (AES) Policy review (details attached)	29	<i>Information</i>

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| 9 | GSA Fees for 2021-2022 academic year
A. GSA Membership fee
B. Health and Dental Plan fees | <i>Information</i> |
| 10 | Graduate Research Conference (GRC) | <i>Information</i> |
| 11 | Other Business/Announcements | <i>Information</i> |
| 12 | Adjournment | <i>Decision</i> |

Next Meeting: March 16, 2021.



University of Saskatchewan
 Graduate Students' Association
 Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday January 26, 2021. 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 January 26th, 2021 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 GSA President acting as Chair of Council per GSA Bylaws due to the resignation of the 2020-2021 Chair of Council; officially welcomed Members of Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:22 PM after quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Harini Aiyer, acting as Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Guest: Robyn Paches, Program Manager, Studentcare

Guest speaker Robyn Paches assisted by Ali Versi presented the health and dental plan offered to students through the GSA. Robyn Paches presented an overview of plan, plan basics, annual claims 2019-2020, the new service called “Empower Me” offered in response to Covid-19, and recommendations for moving forward. Robyn Paches shared the following as well:

- They have extended psychology coverage up to 80% per visit.
- The role of the GSA is to spread awareness of the health and dental plan, gather feedback from constituents, review the Executive and Studentcare recommendations, setting plans fees and benefits.
- Annual health claims last year (Sept 2019-Aug 2020) were \$359,964 and dental was \$259,685. Projection for this year remains fairly stable.
- “Empower Me” allows students internationally to access mental health support online (including nutritional and financial support). It has saved over \$10,000 for students since it was implemented in Spring 2020.

Councilor: Is there a new phone number to call? I know some students have been trying to reach Studentcare recently and the phone number on your website does not seem to be working. Is this due to covid? I know a few students who have been on hold every time they call and there was never an answer. What should they do?

Ali Versi: Thanks for raising this issue. The phone number remains the same, however, it is possible that COVID-19 has caused service disruptions. We will forward this concern to the member services department. In the meantime, I encourage members to use the alternative methods of reaching us such as online live chat, support form or by email: service@studentcare.net
Please see this link for alternative methods of contacting us: <https://studentcare.ca/plan/en-CA/UniversityofSaskatchewangraduatestudentsGSA/assistance-centre>

Councilor: If someone needs to take a sick leave can they still opt into the dental and health plan? if so, are they able to pay for just one semester rather than the full year?

Ali Versi: Normally, full-time students who begin their studies in the Fall are covered for a full year.

Councilor: Have more students opted-out of the health and dental plan this year (due to the transition to online program delivery), and how did you work with the insurance company to address that?

Robyn Paches: The GSA received a refund from premiums because students weren't able to access these services at the beginning of the pandemic. That being said, we haven't observed a massive increase in opt-out.

3. Appointment of Temporary Alternate Council Chair

Due to the recent resignation of the 2020-2021 Council Chair, per the GSA Bylaws the GSA President was to chair the meeting until a Temporary Alternate Council Chair was appointed by Council. The 2019-2020 GSA Council Chair Reggie was nominated and appointed as a Temporary Alternate Council Chair for the January 26th 2021 meeting alone.

Motion to appoint Reggie as the Temporary Alternate Council Chair. (Gill/ Alexis)

Carried

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Motion to approve the agenda. (Mellidez/Gill)

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2020

There were no amendments.

Motion to approve the December 8, 2020 minutes. (Kamal/ Kumayon)

Carried

6. Information to be received

- a. Executive meeting minutes from December 3, 2020
- b. Executive meeting minutes from January 14, 2021

Motion to receive agenda items 6a and 6b. (Mellidez/ Simonot)

Carried

7. GSA Executives Report

- a. President's Report

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

- b. 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.

- c. Vice President External Affairs Report

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

- d. Vice President Indigenous Engagement Report

The Vice President Indigenous Engagement presented her report to Council. There were no questions for VP Alexis.

8. Appointment of GSA VP Finance and Operations

Three nominations were received for this position: Mery Mendoza, Ossama Mohamed and Sukanya Pati. All three nominees presented on their suitability for the position and answered questions from Members of Council.

Mery Mendoza received majority vote and was elected as the GSA VP Finance and Operations for the remaining winter 2021 term.

President Inam requested for an extension of the meeting by 10 minutes

Motion to approve the extension of the meeting by 10 minutes to elect the GSA Chair and Chief and Electoral Officer. (Gannon/ Proulx-Cullen).

Carried

9. Elections of GSA Chair and Chief and Electoral Officer

Two nominations were received: Devin Cherneski and Cameron Choquette. Both nominees presented on their suitability to Council.

Devin Cherneski received majority vote and was elected as the Chair and Chief Electoral Officer.

10. Announcements

President Inam requested that academic councils who had a pending cheque from the GSA, should email the GSA Office Manager gsa.admn@usask.ca to arrange a pick up as it was time sensitive.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:14 pm. (Gill/Dube)

Carried

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.10 2019	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Darnell Holt (Chloe Smith Lopez)	N/A	N/A	P	P	P					
ARCHAIA	Taylor Eagle (Angela Burant)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	A					
Biology Graduate Student Association	Mercy Harris (Dylan Baloun) (Joseph Abrams)	P	P	P	P	P					
Chemistry Course Council	Iyanu Kumayon Doug Fansher	N/A	P	P	A	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kayla J. Cropper (Kushagra Parolia)	N/A	P	P	P	A					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Gabrielle Mercier (Ashley Sutherland)	N/A	P	P	P	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon (Azadeh Nazeran)	N/A	P	P	P	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen (Una Goncin)	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji Saikat Mondal (Sristy Sumana Nath)	A	P	P	P	P					

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.20 2020	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Ninu Kallingal Mohandas (Tahereh Najib)	N/A	P	P	P	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Arman Haghanifar (Alizadeh Sardroud)	N/A	P	P	P	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Fahimeh Esmi (Khaled, Zoroufchi Benis)	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Ajay Shrinivas Muthukumar (Hamed Beiranvand Mohammad)	N/A	P	P	P	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Karim Shahbazi (Mahdiyar Molahasani)	N/A	P	P	P	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Tonye Jack (Alireza Razmavar)	N/A	P	P	P	A					
English Course Council	Tricia Monsour (Darius Simonot) (Amanda Burrows)	N/A	P	R	P	P					
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Brady Kroeker (Ahmed Abunada)	N/A	A	P	P	A					
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Natalie Houser (KC Hall)	P	P	P	P	P					

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.20 2020	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
Physical and Engineering Physics -PEGASUS	Kimberlee Dube (Nicholas Simonson)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P					
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Sukanya Pati (Ayat Zagzoog)	N/A	N/A	P	R	P					
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Matthew Reichert (Cherise Schlekewy)	N/A	N/A	P	P	A					
Plant Science	Dylan Sjolie (Matthew Wengler)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P					
SENSA	Mostofa Kamal Mariana Campos (Jaclyn Porter) (Rory Wheat)	N/A	P	A	A	P					
SPHSA	Aisha Sajid Maha Khan (Maggie Coupland) (Daniel Medina)	N/A	P	P	P	A					
Sociology GSA	Connor Morrison Maria Cruz (Alana Demkiw)	P	P	A	P	P					
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo (Aimée Schryer)	N/A	P	A	P	A					
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Alana Weber (Jensen Cherewyk)	A	R	P	P	P					
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Miranda Zwiefelhofer Michelle Tucker Jennifer Abi Younes	P	P	A	P	P					

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.20 2020	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
Exec. President	Humaira Inam	P	P	P	P	P					
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Hadi Ramin	P	P	P	P	N/A					
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Carmen Marquez Mellidez	R	P	R	P	P					
Exec. VP External Affairs	Qasim Shahzad Gill	P	P	P	P	P					
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Tina Alexis	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P					



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2021 – Online: Microsoft Teams

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

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.

Present: Humaira Inam (President), Mery Mendoza (VP Finance and Operations), Carmen Marquez (VP Academic and Student Affairs), Qasim Gill (VP External Affairs), Tina Alexis (VP Indigenous Engagement).

Regrets/Absent: None.

Guest: Alizadeh Sadroud, Hamed, EGCC VP Finance, and Minaei Shahab, EGCC President.

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM and thanked the executives for their continuous hard work during these challenging times. The President also welcomed the newly elected VP Finance and operations to the GSA Executive team.

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 item for information:

5.6 GSA committees

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Indigenous Engagement.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour,
Motion carried.*

3. Approval of January 14, 2021, Executive Meeting Minutes

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the January 14th Executive Meeting Minutes.

Motion: To approve the January 14th, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Vote: VP Finance and Operations (1) abstained.

*4 in Favour, 1 Abstain,
Motion carried.*

4. Items for Action

4.1 Funding Proposal from the Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – asking for \$1,050 in funding.

The GSA has received a funding request from EGCC and representatives from this council were invited to participate in a GSA Executive Meeting. Hamed and Shahab attended on behalf of EGCC. The President welcomed both to the meeting and asked for a brief description of their events. Hamed explained that the EGCC represents over 400 graduate students and in order to engage and provide a platform to network and share their research, they are organizing two events. The first event is a photo contest, which is already happening with a deadline of a week (the first week of February 2021). The aim of this event is to encourage students from all backgrounds and interests to get involved with the community by taking photos. Students can submit a photo in three different categories, “Research during Pandemic”, “My Research”, and “Campus and City Life”. The winners will receive prize monies and will be asked for permission to use their artwork on the website and EGCC brochures.

The second event is the three-minute thesis competition from the College of Engineering (E3MT), and it will be held in late February 2021. The first time this E3MT event was held was in February 2020 and had financial support from the GSA, and it was very successful as some students were able to find funding for their projects from leaders within the industry. The aim for this year is to provide an opportunity for engineering graduate students to present their research work and refine the quality of their presentation as well as engage themselves within the academic community. This competition will also help the EGCC to move forward in enhancing the sense of community among engineering graduate students. This is an event for the six departments within the College of Engineering,

therefore the focus is to prepare students for the GSA and the regional 3MT competitions. For this year, the EGCC has already received \$ 2500 from external sources, but with the condition to use this money towards prizes only. EGCC explained that further support is still needed for their events. They are requesting a total of \$1050; \$250 for the photo contest event, and \$800 for the E3MT event from the GSA.

The President thanked both invitees for giving details of the event and opened the floor for questions. The VP External Affairs sought clarification on details of the E3MT, whether or not it was similar to the one that the GSA holds every year, the clarification was given by Hamed. The VP Finance and Operations asked about the number of students expected in the 3MT thesis competition, if they have requested funding from the Dean's office from the College of Engineering and whether or not they have the resources to cover expenses for the photo contest since this event is already happening. Shahab mentioned that they are optimistic and expect more than 50 graduate students to present their work, the college is not supporting these events and also explained that they have reserve funds to cover expenses for the photo contest.

The President asked about the rationality to provide \$100 for each judge, and sought clarification on the meaning of "door-to-door gift", how would they do a draw to ensure fairness? As well as if they have considered students who are not in Saskatoon. How are they going to get their gift bags? Hamed explained that they have highly qualified judges for the E3MT, and they want to make sure students' network and make connections with those judges which is why they want to give the judges good recognition as they are bringing financial contribution when funding projects. To ensure fairness, they may be using a scan code from their college, however they will further discuss this and make sure that the first E3MT winner is not included in the draw to ensure that the person who wins E3MT does not get selected for the door gift. 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 EGCC representatives for providing the proposal and further information. She informed them that a decision will be made and communicated through email within a week.

Motion: to approve funding in the amount of \$550 for EGCC for their E3MT competition and photo-contest.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs.

Seconded: VP External Affairs.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

4.2 Payment of \$1,175 towards the professional recording of participant videos for the 3MT 2021 competition.

The VP Academic and Student Affairs explained that students will be provided with a professional recording to work on their 3MT presentation this year. The President and VP Academic and Student Affairs will be away on March 26, 2021, and details of the program need to be finalized before signing a contract for this event.

Motion: to table the item to the next GSA Executive meeting

Moved: VP External Affairs.

Seconded: VP Indigenous Engagement.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

4.3 Graduate Research Conference (GRC) 2021

The GRC 2021 has been cancelled due to change over in the GSA Executive and time constraints. The previous VP Finance and Operations resigned from their position and there was a transition of a month until the new VP Finance was elected.

Motion: to not hold the GRC 2021 due to the explanation provided above.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs.

Seconded: VP Indigenous Engagement.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

4.4 Fee Approval for 2021-2022 academic year: CFS fee increase based on CPI as per our agreement.

The GSA at the University of Saskatchewan is a voting member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). As such, the GSA membership is required to pay fees set by the CFS. Every year the CFS increases fees which are based on CPI. This year it was informed that the fees will be increased by 1.008 % for GSA members.

The Canadian Federation of Students has indicated the new fee for the 2021/2022 academic year is as follows:

- The current CFS fee is \$6.35/term.
- The new CFS fee will be \$6.44/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 in the inflation rate, as communicated by CFS.

Motion: to approve the increase to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) fees from \$6.35/ term to \$6.44/term. (To send to Council for approval)

Moved: VP External Affairs.

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

4.5 Fee Approval for 2021-2022 academic year: Sask-Transit fee increase based on CPI “1-3%” as per our agreement. Prior to an update to CPI release.

As per our contract with Saskatoon Transit, the UPASS fee is to increase in proportion to the January 2021 Saskatoon CPI.

The Saskatoon January CPI will be released on February 17th, 2021 by the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics. However, the GSA has to send a fee proposal with the changes of this fee to the Fee Review Committee prior to that date. Based on previous statistics, a consideration of a 1 to 3% increase was evaluated, and it will be adjusted upon the release of CPI.

The old UPASS fee is \$114.16 from which \$111.16 is remitted to Saskatoon Transit and \$3 is collected as administrative fees, of which a portion goes to the University and a portion goes to the USSU for UPASS activation.

Considering that CPI will increase on a range of 1-3% increment, the new fee would be \$115.27 to \$ 117.49:

- For 1%: The new UPASS fee will be \$115.27 ($111.16 \times 1\% = 112.27 + \$3 = 115.27$)
- For 3%: The new UPASS fee will be \$118.30 ($111.16 \times 3\% = 114.49 + \$3 = 117.49$)

The UPASS fee is 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 increase the UPASS fees from \$111.87/term up to \$117.49/term, which will be adjusted accordingly. (To send to Council for approval).

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs.

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour.
Motion Carried.*

4.6 Fee Approval for 2021-2022 academic year: GSA membership fee

The GSA membership fee is charged to all graduate students. This fee will remain unchanged for the 2021-2022 academic year.

(To send to the Council for information)

Motion: to not change the GSA fee

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Vote: Passed

*All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

4.7 Fee Approval for 2021-2022 academic year: Health and Dental fees

The Dental and Health services are provided to all graduate students from the University of Saskatchewan on behalf of the GSA. Students can opt-in and opt-out from this plan following the eligibility criteria within the timeline proposed. This fee will remain unchanged for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Motion: to not change the Health and Dental fees for the 2021-2022 academic year

(To send to the council for information)

Moved: VP External Affairs.

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

5. Items for Information / Discussion

5.1 Plagiarism Seminar

The VP Academic and Student Affairs contacted a speaker for this event. Possible dates are the last week of February 2021. A representative from the Gwenna

Moss Teaching and Learning Centre may be invited. Further information will be unfolded as the event gets closer.

5.2. Initiatives for Indigenous Students

The VP Indigenous engagement will contact her Indigenous cohorts to set up a meeting. She will attend Indigenous events, such as the Indigenous Graduate Student Working Group on February 4th, 2021, and brainstorm about possible events and goals for the term. Possible events for Indigenous students can include, seminars, workshops, panel conversations, educational presentations about communities and the importance of land acknowledgements and what they mean, etc. Further information will be released by the next meeting on February 11th, 2021.

5.3 Health Chat Events

The VP External informed the executives that he has finalized a few events. The first event he finalized is the “Sleep Workshop” with the collaboration of the Student Wellness Center. The event is happening on February 1st, 2021 at 3 PM. The posters and online WebEx link have been shared accordingly. The second event is the “Financial Literacy Seminar” which has been finalized as well and will be taking place on February 22nd, 2021 at 4 PM. The poster has been finalized and as soon as the WebEx link is available the event will soon be on our social media. The third event is a “Resume & Cover Letter Writing Workshop” in collaboration with the Student Employment and Career Centre. The date of the event has been finalized and happening on March 10th, 2021 at 4 PM. The poster and WebEx link will soon be finalized and shared. The fourth and the last event will be a Mental Health Seminar with the collaboration of the Student Wellness Center, the details of the events will be shared soon.

5.4 Past and Present Executives on GSA Website

The VP External Affairs proposed to include the names of past executives on the GSA website. A conversation about confidentiality and other conflicts was discussed and the Executives agreed upon not adding past names to the website. It was also suggested that a collection of names could be done to keep them internally in a spreadsheet at the GSA Commons.

5.5 GSA Standing Committees

The President suggested that the Executives start their meetings with their GSA committee members ASAP and send their minutes to the GSA Chair to be

included in the agenda for the GSA Council meetings. The President expects an update of each committee in the next GSA Executive meeting.

Mery is chairing the Bursary Committee meeting. Tina and Qasim to attend and chair the Sustainability Committee and Diversity Committee meetings. Executives will provide an update at the next GSA Executive meeting scheduled for February 11th, 2021.

6 Other Business

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

7 Confidential Session

8 In-Camera Session

9 Adjournment of Meeting

The President asked for the adjournment of the meeting.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs.

Seconded: VP External Affairs.

Vote: Passed.

*All in Favour,
Motion carried.*



University of Saskatchewan -Graduate Students' Association

President's Report - GSA Council Meeting, February 2021

Dear Councilors,

The Executive team wish to remind Council that the GSA will be hosting the 2021 3MT Competition and the GSA Annual Awards this term on March 26 and April 10 respectively. These events will be held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic situation. Further details will be provided by the VP Academic and Student Affairs and the VP External as they work towards executing these initiatives. We hope that Councillors can encourage students to participate in the 3MT and nominate their peers for GSA awards.

1. Graduate Student Tuition
2. Student Supervisor Agreement
3. Graduate Professional Skills

1. Graduate Student Tuition

As many of you may be aware, there have been a number of tuition consultations taking place virtually across the university in the past few weeks. The GSA continues to advocate for the need of transparency and affordability as some of these tuition consultations have not included exact numbers and it is unclear as to what the university's tuition plan is for the 2021-2022 academic year. We are inquiring for the new proposal prior to the official release of this document (before it is sent to the board of governors) as we want to make sure that our students are not disadvantaged by any financial hardship, and thus any tuition increase is a cause for concern. We will continue to advocate on behalf of our students and engage senior administration in discussions to find ways to better support our graduate students.

2. Student Supervisor Agreement

As of May 2020, the student-supervisor agreement is mandatory for all incoming graduate students in thesis/research-based programs and must be completed within the first year of your program. The student-supervisor agreement provides a baseline of understanding of the expectations from both the student and the supervisor. We encourage continuing students working with a supervisor to also complete the student-supervisor agreement and utilize it as a means of understanding their role and responsibilities with their supervisor, and vice versa. We continue to stress the importance of the student-supervisor relationship, and we continue to promote this document across colleges to students and faculty members to help improve accountability and the relationship between students and supervisors.

3. Graduate Professional Skills

One of our goals this academic year was to provide initiatives that will enhance professional skills and assist graduate students in the working world after graduation. We are pleased to offer two new career building workshops in collaboration with the Career Centre which will focus on interviews, networking, and job searching, in addition to the resume and cover letter workshop.

The GSA continues its role to advocate on behalf of graduate students in order to support student success and relay student concerns, organize events to engage students, and collaborate with the USask community to foster an environment of positivity.

Humaira Inam

President

Graduate Students' Association



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

VP Finance and Operations report - GSA Council Meeting, February 2021

Dear GSA Councilors,

I am humbled to be representing our graduate students' community in the role of VP finance and operations for the remaining of the fiscal year. I would like to thank each one of you for placing your trust and confidence in my abilities to serve our students in this role. I look forward to continue the work that was handed to me from the previous representative.

Please, find below the two main areas I together with the other GSA executives are working on during the winter term:

- **Need-based bursary, Winter 2021**
- **Free tax clinics 2020, Winter 2021**

1. Need-based Bursary

As part of the GSA services, we provide the need-based bursary to graduate students who have demonstrated financial need, academic performance as well as community engagement within and out of our university. Any graduate student registered at the University of Saskatchewan during the winter term 2021, is eligible and encouraged to apply for this support. The deadline for applications is due on February 25, 2021 at 5:00 PM. The bursary committee will review the applications and make a final decision which will be further informed to the applicants.

2. Free tax clinics

Every year the GSA is committed to providing free tax clinics to graduate students community where they receive help to fill their taxes. As members of the Canadian Federation of Students, we have free use of the UFile.ca website and receive support and training from the Community Volunteer Income Tax program (CVITP) to better provide assistance to our students. For the 2020

taxes, the GSA has started communicating with CVITP asking for tools and support to help offer free tax preparation services to our student community. Further information will be released as the plans to organize this event unfold.

I look forward to working with each one of you and making your voices heard as far as my role allows me to. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at gsa.fin@usask.ca

Thank you,

Mery Mendoza

VP Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

February 2021

RE: VP Academic and Student Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members:

Please find below my January-February report to council.

1) 3MT Competition

The 3MT competition will be hosted on March 26th, 2021. A call for participants will be sent later in the month and a reminder will be sent out in the next GSA newsletter. The possible judges have been already invited and I am expecting a response by next week.

2) Academic Integrity, Misconduct and Plagiarism workshops

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the inevitable switch to an online environment, universities all across the country have recorded higher number of misconduct cases than usual. The USask community, with the support of the GSA, has established a series of seminars and discussions around these topics. During this past month, apart from attending these events, I have been organizing a series of workshops that will help our students understanding what is and how to avoid Academic and Non-Academic Misconducts. The first workshop will be facilitated by Ms. McMillan, who is a writing specialist working at the USask library, on March 2nd at 4:30 PM. I encourage everyone to attend and participate in the discussion. More details will come on the rest of the series.

3) Meetings

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

Date	Meeting
January 28, 2021	University Council GSA Executive Meeting
February 1, 2021	Executives meet with Dr. Airini Student Forum Executive Meeting Academic Programs Committee
February 2, 2021	Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee
February 3, 2021	Academic Programs Committee Executives meet with Dr. Debbie Burshtyn Academic Misconduct Seminar series
February 4, 2021	Academic Misconduct Seminar series
February 5, 2021	Parking Advisory Committee
February 9, 2021	Executives meet with Dr. Ryan Walker CGPS Council
February 10, 2021	President's Executive Committee Academic Programs Committee GSA Governance Committee
February 11, 2021	VP Academic Affairs and Library staff meeting
February 12, 2021	Student Sustainability Coalition Executives meet with Dr. Airini
February 16, 2021	Executives meeting with Studentcare Student Forum Executive meeting
February 17, 2021	Graduate Academic Affairs meeting
February 19, 2021	Executives meet with the Pandemic Response Team
February 23, 2021	Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

February 2021

RE: VP External Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my report to Council:

1) Health Chat Events

The following health chat events are being offered for the Winter 2021 term:

1.1 Sleep Workshop

A sleep workshop with the collaboration of the Student Wellness Centre was offered on February 1st at 3:00 PM. The guest speaker was Devan Moxely, who is a mental health nurse. We advertised the event on our social media platforms and had more than 60 people attended the event.

1.2 Financial Literacy Seminar

We will be hosting another Financial Literacy Seminar on February 22nd, 2021 at 4:00 PM with Professor Brian Lane from the Edwards School of Business. This event has also been posted on our social media platforms and was included in the GSA Newsletter.

1.3 Resume & Cover Letter Writing Workshop

We are organizing a Resume & Cover Letter Writing Workshop on March 10, 2021 at 4:00 PM in collaboration with the Student Employment and Career Centre where Dawne Warner will be speaking on resume building, cover letters, and other skill sets required for the working world.

1.4 Mental Health & Wellness Workshop

The last event will be a Mental Health workshop in collaboration of the Student Wellness Center. The guest speaker of this event is Dr. Murray Drew, who will share his journey with mental health. The event will be held virtually on March 15, 2021, at 4:00 PM via WebEx.

2) GSA Standing Committees

I am in the process of organizing committee meetings with the help of the VP Indigenous Engagement for the GSA Sustainability Committee and Diversity Committee. The meeting minutes will be provided to Council once the meetings have taken place.

3) Meetings/Events

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

Date	Meetings/Events
January 25, 2021	CGPS Equity & International Committee Meeting
January 28, 2021	GSA Executive Meeting

January 28, 2021	University Council Meeting
February 01, 2021	Sleep Workshop
February 01, 2021	Introduction Meeting with Dr. Airini
February 09, 2021	CGPS Council – Winter Meeting
February 09, 2021	CFS National Office Lobby Week Training Session 3
February 10, 2021	PEC/student council executive meeting
February 10, 2021	Interdisciplinary Studies Committee

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Fees

WHEREAS the GSA is an affiliated member, Local 101, of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

WHEREAS as a voting member of CFS and CFS-Services, the GSA has signed to act as an agent for CFS and CFS-Services, with respect to the collection of CFS and CFS-Services membership fees.

WHEREAS Regular members of the GSA pay a CFS membership fee each semester, which is collected by the GSA and remitted to CFS.

WHEREAS the current 2020 - 2021 Canadian Federation of Students fee is \$6.35 per semester.

WHEREAS according to the CFS and CFS-Services' Bylaws, the membership fees are adjusted each academic year by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the previous calendar year.

WHEREAS fees collected by the University incur a 1 % administration cost. Upon recommendation by the Board,

BE IT RESOLVED that the new Canadian Federation of Students fee increases for the 2021 - 2022 academic year from \$6.35 per semester to \$6.44 per semester, to accommodate for the change in CPI and a 1 % administration cost.

Motion moved by Mery Mendoza and seconded by Humaira Inam.

Students with Disabilities: Academic Accommodation and Access (AES) Policy review

Background:

In 2017, Disability Services for Students underwent a name change to Access and Equity Services. This change was driven by a broadening of our mandate to assist students from all protected ground categories in addition to the area of disability. The protected grounds that are now most commonly accommodated by our office are disability, family status, and religious accommodation.

The current policy does not reflect the duty to accommodate all protected grounds and because of this, the policy is being revised to reflect the protected grounds for accommodation that are being requested by students of the University. This revision will not involve large changes to existing policy or procedure, rather the existing policy and procedure will be made more inclusive of all protected ground categories and update procedures for the administration of accommodation requests based on these grounds.

Committee Commitment:

AES is asking for representation from all the colleges, student associations and other departments such as the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, Office of the Registrar and Risk Management. This will be a working group of approximately 16-18 individuals. It is important for us to have involvement from as many colleges as possible as AES receives accommodation requests from students in all Colleges. The Policy Oversight Committee will look for this engagement and consultation from all affected colleges during their review of the policy revision.

AES has currently created a draft revision of the policy and accompanying procedures documents for the working group to review. The time commitment would involve reviewing documents and attending meetings starting in March 2021.