



**Graduate Students' Association –
University of Saskatchewan
Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 23, 2021 - Zoom
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		
	Approval of the Agenda	1	<i>Decision</i>
	Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2021	2-21	<i>Decision</i>
2	Information to be received		
	Executive Meeting Minutes	22-27	<i>Decision</i>
3	2021-2022 Standing Committee Members (approval via email)	28-30	<i>Information</i>
4	By-Election VP Indigenous Engagement		<i>Information</i>
5	Executive Reports	31-38	<i>Information</i>
	A. Report of the President		<i>Information</i>
	B. Report of the VP Finance & Operations		<i>Information</i>
	C. Report of the VP Academic & Student Affairs		<i>Information</i>
	D. Report of the VP External Affairs		
6	Selection of Graduate Students to serve on search and review committees		<i>Decision</i>
			<i>Decision</i>
7	Election of GSA Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer		
			<i>Information</i>
8	Other Business/Announcements		<i>Decision</i>
9	Adjournment		

Next Meeting: December 14, 2021.



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Zoom 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

**Zoom Meeting: The October 26, 2021 Council Meeting took place via Zoom due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan along with University Administration has put social guidelines in to curb the spread of the virus.*

Chair: Alivia Mukherjee

Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski

1. Call to Order

Council Members were emailed the agenda package, as well as the Zoom meeting link with the meeting number and password to participate online. The Chair of the Graduate Student Council officially welcomed the 2021/2022 Members of Council, and newly elected representatives following the by-election to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1701 Saskatoon time after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked about any amendments to the agenda as circulated via email. No amendments were put forward.

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated. (Gannon/Dube)

Carried

3. Council Orientation (information)

The Council Chair presented on the Council Orientation, which was originally prepared by past Council Chair, Dr. Ziad Ghaith

1. University of Saskatchewan Graduates' Students' Association

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is a not-for-profit organization that represents all graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. The GSA provides professional, academic, and social activities and services, and promotes awareness of issues relevant to graduate students. All graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan are members of the GSA and thus have the right to vote in elections, referenda and at general meetings. The general membership is the highest decision-making body of the GSA.

1.1 GSA Mission

The mission of the Graduate Students' Association is:

- To cultivate a positive experience for graduate students
- To advocate for unique needs and concerns of graduate students
- To foster a cohesive graduate student community
- To build positive relationships with other organizations

1.2 GSA Membership

There are three classes of membership for the association:

- **Regular members:** All graduate students registered in the College of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) are automatically members of GSA.
- **Associate members:** Postdoctoral fellows at the University who have paid all Association fees in full.
- **Honorary Lifetime Member:** Symbolic membership with no Regular Membership rights or privileges. The title shall be awarded by a majority vote at a General Meeting.

1.3 GSA Members' Rights

The rights and privileges of Regular Members are:

- To vote and participate in all Association Elections, By-Elections and Referenda;
- To hold office within the Association;
- To attend meetings of the Association subject to the Bylaws and Policies of the Association;
- To move or second motions at such meetings;
- To speak for or against motions at such meetings;
- To vote in Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings;
- To access any services provided by the Association; and,
- To gain admission to and/or actively participate in any Association sponsored event and/or program, subject to the restrictions of that particular event and / or program. The rights and privileges of Associate Members are:
 - To access any services provided by the Association; and,
 - To gain admission to and / or actively participate in any Association sponsored event and / or program, subject to the restrictions of that particular event and / or program

2. Governing Documents

These governing documents contain all information pertinent to the Association, such as its purpose(s), its structure and its governance.

2.1. GSA Constitution

- The GSA Constitution includes the fundamental principles and how it is governed.
- The Constitution may **ONLY** be amended at a General Meeting **by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Members present.**

2.2 GSA Bylaws

- The GSA Bylaws include the rule that govern the Association to govern and regulate its affairs and actions.
- Bylaws may **ONLY** be amended at a General Meeting **by a majority vote of Members present**.

2.3 GSA Policies

- The GSA polices define the operations of the Association, such as GSA communication, volunteers and employees' policies etc.
- Policies may be amended by a majority vote of **Council or at a General meeting**.

3. GSA Structure

3.1 Executive Committee

- The Executive is a sub-committee of the Association and those in positions should be registered graduate students with the College of Graduate and Post doctoral Studies at the University;
- The Executive shall be responsible for the day to day activities of the Association, as specified by the Bylaws and Policies of the Association;
 - The Executive shall be comprised of:
 - The President
 - The Vice-President Finance and Operations;
 - The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs;
 - The Vice-President External Affairs
 - The Vice-President Indigenous Engagement
- The President and Vice-Presidents shall act as the Board of Directors;
- The composition of the Board shall adhere to those outlined in section 92 of the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995. If section 92(4) is not fulfilled, the GSA delegates to Council the authority to take the necessary steps to ensure compliance;
- Council, by recommendation from the Elections and Referenda Committee, may choose to appoint the Indigenous Liaison and one other member of Council to the Board, both of whom shall be resident Canadians as defined by the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995;
- If not applicable, appoint two members of Council to the Board, both of whom shall be resident Canadians as defined by the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act,1995;
- The Board shall meet at least once (1) per Fiscal Year, and in accordance with the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995;
- With the exception of the Indigenous Liaison, the Executive shall be elected in a general election of the Membership to be held before the end of the current fiscal year;
- The term for the Executive is from May 1 to April 30.

3.2 GSA Council

- There shall be a Council of the GSA which shall serve as the policy, political and advocacy body of the organization;
- Members of Council are:
 - The Executive;
 - Regular Members who are;
 - The designated graduate student representatives of Academic Councils;

- The designated graduate student representatives of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Council

4. GSA Council Role

4.1 Council members' duties

The duties of a Councillor shall include, but are not limited to:

- Representing their Academic Council;
- Attending all Council Meetings;
- Serving on Association Committees;
- Ensuring the well-being of the Association; and,
- Being familiar with all governing documents including the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporation Act, 1995

Voting Councillor allocation for each academic council:

- One (1) for an Academic Council containing less than one hundred (100) Regular Members;
- Two (2) for an Academic Council containing one hundred (100) or more Regular Members

4.2 Removal of a Councillor

- 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 regardless of whether regrets were sent. The Councillor shall be suspended for the next two (2) Council meetings, at the discretion of Council Chair;
- If a Councillor is absent for one (1) duly called Council meeting, the Council Chair shall warn that any further vacancy will result in their suspension;
- The Council Chair shall notify an Academic Council if their Councillor has been suspended;
- Any Councillor may be deemed ineligible to sit on Council by a two-thirds(2/3) vote of Council, usually on recommendation from the Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee;
- Should a Councillor be removed, the Chair will inform their Academic Council;
- A Councillor's eligibility is removed when they are no longer a Regular Member;
- The Council Chair is charged with notifying both Council and the appropriate Academic Council when a Councillor is removed.

4.3 Council Meetings

Council will meet regularly as follows:

- Once in the spring term (May–June);
- Once in the summer term (July–August);
- Monthly over the fall and winter terms (September–April)
- Regular Council meetings must occur on a business day
- The meeting schedules are posted on the Association website

4.4 Council Rule of Orders

All business of the Association shall be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order unless a motion has been approved by a majority of voting members, as put forward by those required to attend the meeting.

5. Roberts' Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order are set of rules for conduct at meetings that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion. Robert's Rules of Order originally published by Henry Martyn Robert in 1876, ten subsequent editions with some revisions have been published since then.

5.1 Motions

A motion is a formal step to introduce a matter for consideration by a group. Motions can be oral or written.

Any GSA Council or Alternate member can:

- Move motions
- Second motions
- Debate motions
- Vote on motions

Making a motion:

- Written motion can be sent to the Council chair upon email notification of calling for agenda items to be added to the agenda
- Oral motion. The process of oral motion should be as following:
 - Obtain the floor and wait until the Council Chair recognizes you
 - Make your motion, speak clearly by saying "I move that..."
 - Another member of the Council should second your motion to be open for debate and discussion. If no one second the motion after the Chair calls, the motion is lost and will not be debated.
 - Once the motion is moved and seconded, the Chair will state your motion and place it before the members of the Council for consideration or action.
 - Note: Once the motion is presented by the Council Chair, it cannot be changed without a consent of the members.
 - Once the motion is stated, the mover and any other member can speak to it (not at the point of moving it). Mover has right to speak first.
 - Any comments or debate must be directed to the Chair not to the members.

Example¹:

Memberrisesandaddressethechair: Mr./Madam

Chair.

Chair recognizes member (by title or name). Member makes the motion.

I move that...

Another member seconds the motion.

I second the motion.

The chair states the motion and opens debate.

It is moved and seconded that...

Is there any debate? Or Are you ready for the question? Chair recognizes members wishing to speak.

After debate concludes. Chair restates the motion and puts the question to a vote.

The question is on the motion to...

Those in favor of the motion. Those opposed. Those abstaining. Chair announces the result of the vote and what action will be taken.

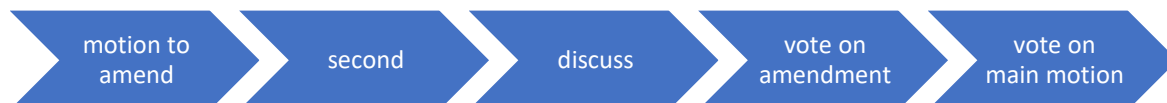
the motion is adopted. We will ...

Amending a motion:

Amendment is a motion to change the wording of a main motion before voting on it. Usually this happens if new insights or information arise as a result of discussing or debating a motion.

Any amendments need a mover and seconder. Once the amendment is moved and seconded, discussion on amendment should happen and then a vote take place only on the amendment. This vote will ONLY determine whether the motion is amended or not. It does not determine if the main motion is approved. After all the amendments are voted on, the debate on the main motion is resumed in its amended form.

¹This example was adopted from www.pta.org



There are two types of amendments:

- Primary amendment: applies to the main motion
- Secondary amendment: applies only to the primary amendments.

Amendment to the third degree is not allowed.

Methods of Amending

- Striking: I move to amend the motion by striking out the word "GSA."
- Inserting: I move to amend the motion by inserting the word "Saskatchewan" after the word "University"
- Striking and inserting: I move to amend the motion by striking out the word "GSA" and inserting the word "Association"

Important: amendments should not change the essence of the main motion, if the chair determines that the amendments strikes to the heart of the motion, a new motion would need to be moved.

Important Terminology:

- Calling the question: is asking to stop the debate on the motion or amendment and vote. This requires 2/3 majority of the assembly.
- Point of order: every member is obligated to ensure that all rules are followed. If any member feels that the rules are not followed, any member can raise it immediately. Once the point of order is raised the Chair is obligated to turn to you and ask you to state your point, then the Chair will clearly state that your point is well taken or not, based on whether your point is valid or not.

5.2 Council Minutes

- The recording secretary of the GSA takes minutes of every Council meeting. These minutes are unofficial until they are approved by the Council.
- Draft minutes will be posted on the Association website within one (1) week of a Council, General or Executive committee meeting.
- Approved minutes will be posted on the Association website within forty-eight(48) hours of approval.
- The Council Attendance Record shall be included in the minutes of a Council meeting.
- Minutes are recorded as following:
 - Open session: minutes are recorded and posted on the GSA website.
 - Confidential session: minutes are recorded but not posted on the website.
 - In Camera session: no minutes are recorded.

- Some attendees indicated they did not receive a copy of the meeting package and were asked to place their email in the Zoom chat or otherwise forward it to the Chair via email at gsa.chair@usask.ca so that they may be included on the email list for future meetings.
- Jovita Dias placed the PDF of the emailed meeting agenda package in the Zoom Chat for attendees to download and view
- there was confusion about members of council and why some members did not receive the agenda package. It was ascertained that the council member list may need to be updated due to the transition of the Chair into their position only days before the council meeting combined with the switching of positions within Graduate student councils.

4. Approval of the minutes from September 21, 2021.

The Chair asked if there were any suggested changes before the minutes were approved. There were none.
Motion to approve the minutes from September 21, 2021, minutes. (Proulx-Cullen/Dias).

Carried

5. Information to Be Received

A. 22nd October 2021, Elections Referenda Committee

The Chair mentioned that we reached our quorum and the results of the elections were ratified quickly by the Elections and Referenda Committee by email. There was good voter participation and congratulations were extended to the new Executive VP Academic and Student Affairs: Mostafa Kamal, and congratulations were also extended to the new Executive VP External Affairs: Devin Cherneski.

- the Elections and Referenda Committee also made a recommendation to allow for campaigning to continue up until the end of the voting period.
- this recommendation was put to the council by the Chair and moved by Dias; seconded by Litt-Jukes. The Chair will forward this recommendation to the Governance Committee.

6. Executive Reports

6a. Report of the President

- President Zahan welcomed everyone, congratulated to new council members and welcome to returning council members.
- President Zahan has been working closely with the VP Finance and Operations re: more money for Fall bursaries as well as applications for the bursaries. Applicants will be contacted in the near future by the VP Moradi.
- September 30th was the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and the GSA partnered with Wanuskewin to provide volunteer support for events leading to National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- Empower Me – free counselling services available 24/7/365. Surveys have shown very few students are utilizing this service. About less than 1%. There is a very short wait time for Empower Me services. President recommended for people to use it for counselling or crisis moments, and to share the information about this service with colleagues and other students. There was a consideration to remove the service but it is important to those who *do use* it, so after

consultation with the Studentcare, it will be kept throughout this academic year on a test basis. If uptake is not higher this year, it will be discontinued for next year.

--GSA joined with USSU to rally against sexual violence on campus. President Zahan spoke at the rally by mentioning available resources to students on campus

-GSA is actively engaging in conversation with administration about ways to make campus a safer place – any ideas can be shared in meeting or directly to President Zahan

-Events being organized:

- Yoga philosophy in collaboration with faculty member from Community Health and Epidemiology
- Event that will lead toward Academic, professional and leadership skills – workshop on Academic Honesty, Integrity, and Misconduct, this will be in collaboration with faculty member in Department of Computer Science

-Student/Supervisor Agreement (SSA) – it is important for students to protect themselves, as well as for supervisors to protect themselves. If the GSA is going to be asked to advocate for a Grad student, it makes a significant difference if they have the SSA in place. CGPS and GSA have worked together to make the SSA a reality. President Zahan brings this up at Administration meetings as well to bring Faculty on board.

-The President asked “what obstacles do you face while having this agreement in place? What needs to change?” Then the GSA can follow up with the CGPS.

-The President thanked everyone and requested for students to reach out if there is anything the GSA can do to support them during their studies.

Questions?

Natasha: From my students in my college – in terms of thesis time and completion, the onus seems to be mostly on the student and the time onus does not seem to be on the faculty member and many students experience delays eg. faculty take a long time to get documents back to students, or else purposefully delay the student in order to keep them around longer to help with their own research or something similar. Can we add language to address this?

Response: Madame President spoke with CGPS about this, but she will speak with them again perhaps to add a clause or something in regard to the timeline.

Amanda Gannon says this is something she has heard as well.

Response: there does need to be a balance, faculty are very busy, but the President understands this concern and will speak with CGPS again.

6b. Report of the VP Finance and Operations

-Ehsan Moradi

- GSA commons remains closed; the GSA is hoping to be able to get it open again, at least for Grad students to use for studying
- tuition installment plans: past two months the GSA Executives have been communicating with University Admin about removal of holds on accounts of students who are paying tuition by installments. Many holds remain although a number have been removed. No longer full holds but rather only on course registration for those who cannot pay full tuition at once.
- Fall Bursaries – communication with CGPS – received more money for bursaries – 28 bursaries are available for fall term – so far have received 116 applications, 92 of which are completed. Following Bursary Selection Committee, the committee will start approving applicants.
- Due to COVID, students are in more need perhaps than previous years so VP Moradi has started communicating with private companies – many positive reactions so far – no confirmed money yet but he is optimistic the GSA will receive more bursary money for winter.
- Studentcare Insurance – many students faced problems when trying to use insurance – Studentcare sent some names too late to insurance company
- VP Moradi thanked attendees. He has high hopes for the upcoming academic year.

Questions?

1.

Jovita: Is there sufficient representation from all grad schools for the bursaries (within the pool of applicants)?

Mostafa Kamal: bursary committee blindly evaluate all applications, so there is no bias.

Response VP Moradi: we have applications from different colleges

2.

Natasha: When are cheques coming to colleges?

Response VP Ehsan: Bursary cheques or GSA Funding for college council cheques?

Natasha: Academic Council Cheques.

Response VP Ehsan: Everything is ready and they will be coming out shortly if people have not received them already

7. Committees of Council

- a. Motion to approve nomination for Budget and Finance Committee
- b. Motion to approve nomination for Bursary Selection Committee
- c. Motion to approve nomination for Governance Committee
- d. Motion to approve nomination for Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee
- e. Motion to approve nomination for Awards Selection Committee
- f. Motion to approve nomination for Diversity Committee
- g. Motion to approve nomination for Sustainability Committee

h. Motion to approve nomination for Elections and Referenda Committee

-the Chair asked for names for each committee, whereby multiple people volunteered their names, but were unable to sit on a committee due to membership status (e.g., being council member or regular member).

-there was confusion around why some people had responded to a previously sent email about wanting to partake in a committee and their names did not appear on the spreadsheet that the Chair was in possession of.

Question: Proulx-Cullen: thought names were put forward by councillors but now people need to reapply as there seem to be names absent from the document? The document seems to be incomplete as some of those who expressed interest via email were not included in the updated list.

Response President Zahan: it seems as though there have been names of those interested lost in the transition from the previous Chair to the new Chair, as well as multiple IT-related technical issues that have arisen in recent days at GSA. Moving forward, the Chair will create a google form to ratify the names Chair put forward. If people have interest in a committee, they were asked to forward their names to the Chair; names should be received by this Friday, October 29th, 2021. Voting will follow.

GSA aim for transparency. The president thanked Counsellor Proulx-Cullen to bring this forward. The President promised to collaborate with the Chair to rectify this for next time. Therefore, the Chair will check her email inbox as early as August to find those names, which were put forward first for standing committees. Then the Chair will send ratification request to the Council members to ratify the GSA standing committees.

President Zahan made a motion to follow these steps to populate the committees in a fair way so that everyone interested can put their names forward.

(Kamal/Dannhauser)

Carried

8. Other Business/Announcements

8a. President Zahan indicated that the GSA is still looking for members for the Committee for the Student Forum. She requested to send interested council members' names to President Zahan.

8b. VP Indigenous Engagement By-Election-GSA 2021

There will be a by-election soon to fill the position of VP Indigenous Engagement. There will be two information sessions and then interested Indigenous students will be asked for nomination packages and what the position entails.

Questions?

None brought forward.

9. Adjournment

information

move to adjourn (Proulx-Cullen/Dias)

Carried

Adjourned at 1807 Saskatoon time.

Next meeting November 23rd, 2021

Appendix A. Attendance

Attendees not listed or councils are not on attendance list:

Bailey Pelletier – Dept of Archaeology and Anthropology

Dara Gerbrandt – English

Anèl Dannhauser – AgBio – Sustainability

Yasaman Yousefi Sigari – Physics and Engineering Physics

Jung-Min Kim – Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology

Lauren Aubrey – School of Public Health

Joshua Shitta – Community Health and Epidemiology

Hannah Mahoney – Toxicology Graduate Students Association

Rafael De Souza Cavassani – Soil Science Department

Nabeela Kanwal – Biochemistry, Immunology and Microbiology

At the beginning of the meeting there were 46 attendees, but in total we only gathered 35 names including those on this list and on the attendance list.

College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon (Azadeh Nazeran)	N /A	P								
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen (Una Goncin)	N /A	P								
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji Saikat Mondal (Sristy Sumana Nath)		P								



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

Nov 06, 2021

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: Rifat Zahan (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Devin Cherneski (Vice-President External Affairs), Mostofa Kamal (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs)

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests: Huzzatul Khan (BASUS president)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by President Zahan.

2. Approval of the Agenda

President Zahan asked whether there were any amendments to the agenda as circulated. There was no amendment.

Motion: To approve the agenda with the proposed amendments.

Moved: VP Indigenous Engagement

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of the last Executive Meeting Minutes

The President mentioned that due to the resigning of executive members, there were no meetings for the two existing members of the executives, and the last meeting minutes with the full executive committee in the month of August was already approved.

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

4. Items for action

4.1. Bangladesh Student Association at the University of Saskatchewan (BSAUS) proposal

The GSA President asked the BSAUS President, Huzzatul, to present BSAUS's funding request proposal. The BSAUS President thanked GSA Executives for the invitation to present their funding proposal and Q & A's. According to the BSAUS President, their proposed event "is an event that is about reception of freshers and also farewell to the graduates". The event is scheduled for November 13th from 6 to 10 pm. This event includes a reception to the first years, which usually consists of the introduction of BSAUS to the students who are newcomers and then introducing them to the Executives of BSAUS and other student organizations or associations present at that event.

He continued on to what BSAUS does, and how they can be reached out to by students and help connect with other resources for the university during their student life. BSAUS President explained that the next part would be a farewell to the graduates, and they will be recognized for recently completing their degrees from the University of Saskatchewan. The BSAUS event also includes multi-cultural performances, including Bangladeshi and western music, on-stage dramas, etc., followed by dinner for all attendees. Although the BSAUS program is designed to welcome first years from Bangladesh and recently graduated Bangladeshi students, the cultural program is open for the greater USask community. The BSAUS President clearly stated that they will advertise their event across different social media platforms, including GSA's social media. The BSAUS President indicated that they are organizing this event to promote networking

opportunities for the graduating class and the first years and introduce Bangladeshi culture to the greater University of Saskatchewan community. Thus, this event will strengthen their bonding in a social gathering, which will also help them get through this challenging time i.e., COVID-19 pandemic.

The GSA President thanked the BSAUS for their presentation and asked GSA Executives if they had any questions. The VP External Affairs asked if the BSAUS organized a similar event last year or not. The BSAUS President answered that a virtual event was organized last year. VP Finance and Operations asked if there had been any changes to the BSAUS proposal since sending the proposal last time. The BSAUS said that the only difference is that the venue is changed. The VP Academic and Student Affairs asked if BSAUS had prepared a budget for the event? The BSAUS President shared an approximate budget on his screen and explained the budget in detail. BSAUS also sent the budget by email to GSA President and VP Finance and Operations. The VP External Affairs asked about the cost of attendance to the event for each participant. The BSAUS President said that the cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids.

The VP Academic Affairs asked if BSAUS was looking for a certain amount of financial help from the GSA? The BSAUS President explained that they are looking for the maximum possible financial assistance from the GSA. The GSA President told BSAUS that we would decide on the proposal and we would let them know. BSAUS thanked GSA and invited the executives to join their event. The VP Academic and Student Affairs asked the BSAUS President about COVID-19 protocol and health & safety standards during the event. The BSAUS President confirmed that they would follow all the protocols and policies imposed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). He also mentioned they would sell approximately 250 tickets in a follow-up question, but the program hall's capacity is 750. Therefore, the attendees will be able to sit and enjoy the program with sufficient physical distancing.

After the BSAUS President left the meeting, the GSA President asked Executives' ideas about the proposal. The VP of Finance and Operations mentioned that the event could be an example for other social groups, and he suggested that the GSA support the BSAUS event. The VP External asked the maximum amount that GSA can help with this event, and the GSA president mentioned that due to our budget, we could help a maximum of \$500. The VP Academic Affairs said that he has been advocating for this kind of registered council event for a long time, and he will continue his support in the future. The VP Academic Affairs also mentioned that he thinks this type of event will help students in many different aspects, and the GSA should promote such events if the opportunity arises. The GSA President mentioned that GSA can support academic councils and ratified social groups according to the budget limits. The President also noted that there was only this proposal since our tenure. The GSA President called for a motion to approve \$500 aid for the BSAUS proposal. The VP of Academic Affairs stated that he wants to abstain from this motion since he is a member of BSAUS. Motion carried by positive votes from all other executives.

Motion: To approve the BASUS proposal to support by \$500.

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: 3 in Favour, 1 Abstain

Motion Carried.

4.2 Winter Orientation

The GSA President said that we have only \$800 budgeted for the winter orientation. She added that winter orientation falls under the VP Academic and Student Affairs portfolio, but all Executives will work as a team. The President explained that we distributed over 500 bags during fall orientation, which we planned to distribute only half of it during fall and another half during the winter, but due to the high demand of students, GSA Executives decided to give away all the 500 swag bags during fall term. Therefore, the budgeted winter orientation money may only cover snacks for the winter orientation and for swag items we need to request from College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) and Studentcare.

The GSA President asked Executives to propose items that we can prepare for the winter orientation. She also mentioned that we had a good number of participants for the fall orientation because of our good promotion. GSA Executives agreed to do the same for the winter orientation. VP Finance and Operations mentioned that we spent more than \$5000 for the fall orientation, and still, we needed more, so preparing swag bag items would be hard with the budgeted \$800 for winter term. VP Moradi added that he thinks giving students a gift like a mug would be nicer than a small number of food items. VP Academic and Student Affairs asked if we should keep affordable items to distribute among more students, which VP Finance and Operations mentioned that we could afford the food items only with the existing budget. The President said that by limiting food items and asking for swag items from CGPS and Studentcare we may be able to prepare a good number of the swag bags. The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that we spent over \$1200 on the food items only during the fall term. VP Academic and Student Affairs said that only \$800 for winter term would be hard to manage. The President proposed that we can use our discretionary funds to help this budget.

The President asked VP Academic and Student affairs if he had a specific date for the winter orientation. VP Kamal and President Zahan proposed January 12, 2022 for the orientation and January 14th, 2022 for the swag bags pickup. VP Moradi asked if GSA could give swag bags to new students only? The President explained that since we do not have in-person plans like BBQ parties, concerts, or other gatherings, restricting swag bags to new students only would not be a good idea. GSA wants to be inclusive of all graduate students. The President asked to move the motion to approve virtual orientation to be held on January 12, 2022 at 1 pm, and Swag Bag Pick Up on January 14, 2022 at 12 pm.

Motion: To approve the winter orientation dates.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External affairs

*Vote: All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

5. Items for Discussion/Information

5.1 Graduate Student Research Conference (GSRC)

President Zahan requested an update from VP Moradi about the GSRC, which falls under VP Finance and Operations' portfolio. VP Moradi mentioned that he is planning the event and contacting keynote speakers. He also designed posters to invite students to the conference. He also noted that the event would be held virtual. VP Moradi informed the Executives that he wants to have different committees from different departments to have a better and faster judging process about the researchers.

5.2 Holiday Hangout

The President opened discussion about a holiday hangout for all graduate students. President Zahan added that we need financial support for the refreshments for the holiday hangout event. She then said that Student Affairs and Services may help us with some expenses. The President proposed that we can provide food like curbside pickup to avoid delivery charges as they can get expensive. President Zahan explained that a holiday hangout is very important for helping students' wellness and mental health. She added that we would have a meeting with the Director of Student Affairs and Services to go through the event's details and the amount of financial support he would provide. VP Kamal said it might be better to wait for the meeting to see how much we get financially to understand the plans better moving forward.

5.3 GSA Common reopening

The President went to the next item, which was discussion about GSA commons reopening. She mentioned that all executives should attend the GSA commons to cover weekdays, as it is a requirement. Executives had a conversation about covering hours to see if they could cover the 8 hrs per day for five days per week. VP Kamal mentioned that the university would be entirely in-person next semester. But due to the President's ongoing health condition and VP Cherneski living outside of Saskatoon and with the COVID-19 guidelines, Executives decided to defer the decision to another meeting.

5.4 GSA Chair honorarium

The President started the conversation regarding the next agenda item, which was GSA chair honorarium. She explained that she received some suggestions about increasing the chair honorarium. Then the Executives explained that we have to keep the honorarium fair for the whole GSA team, so considering GSA Executives with a large workload, GSA cannot have a chair

honorarium close to the Executives'. VP Finance and Operations supported that idea and mentioned that we have to increase all payments, if the Chair's honorarium increases, which is a lot of extra expense for the GSA. The President added that increasing GSA Executives' or Chair's honorarium means increasing students' fees, which will be burdensome for graduate students.

The VP of Academic Affairs said that the Chair's workload increases during the election season only, therefore, he suggested that we increase the Chair's honorarium during the election season only. VP External Affairs mentioned that he was the GSA chair before. He acknowledges the GSA Chair's workload, so he said expanding the honorarium could make attractions for the future for interested candidates to apply for the position, and VP Cherneski supports the idea of increasing the honorarium of the Chair. VP Finance and Operations mentioned that we have to compare the amount of work with the Executives' in that situation. Therefore, not increasing Executives' honorarium would not be fair. Also, VP Moradi mentioned that keeping the honorarium as it is makes interested people join GSA who are not thinking about the money only, but also the experience the person will gather by serving GSA as the Chair. Therefore, VP Moradi suggested that we can use our discretionary fund to have a short-term increase in the Chair's honorarium during the election season, which is optional for all Executives.

5.5 GSA Office Manager salary

The GSA President mentioned that the GSA Office Manager requested an increase in her salary. Executives discussed the matter, and they decided to have the decision in a Board of Governors meeting.

6. Closed Session

7 Adjournment of Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic Affairs

***Vote: All in favour,
Motion Carried.***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

2021-22 Standing Committees Update - November 2021

Dear Members of Council,

The below is the list of ratified members of the 2021-22 Standing Committees.

2021-22 Budget and Finance Committee

Members include:

- **VP Finance and Operations as Chair - Ehsan Moradi**
- President - Rifat Zahan
- Council Member - Zahra Mubarak
- Regular/general Member – Soheila Ahmadi
- Regular/general Member - Sristy Sumana Nath
- Regular/general Member - Ozra Mohammadi
- Regular/general Member- Sourabh Kumar

2021-22 Bursary Committee

Members include:

- **VP Finance and Operations as Chair - Ehsan Moradi**
- VP Academic and Student Affairs - Mostofa Kamal
- Council Member - Iyanu Kumayon
- Council Member - Shahab Minaei
- Council Member - Khaled B Zoroufchi
- Regular/general Member - Cody Malone
- Regular/general Member - Melissa Onwuliri
- Regular/general Member - Ozra Mohammadi
- Regular/general Member - Joshua Shitta

2021-22 Election & Referenda Committee

Members include:

- **Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer**
- Council Member - Naz Zareen Oishie
- Regular/general Member - Shamse Tasnim Cynthia
- Regular/general Member - John Malyk

- Regular/general Member - Rosemary Martinez
- Regular/general Member - Daniel Nyarko-Afriyie
- Regular/general Member- Nabeela Kanwal

2021-22 Governance Committee

Members include:

- President - Rifat Zahan
- VP Academic and Student Affairs - Mostofa Kamal
- Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer (Ex-Officio)
- Council Member - Elyse Proulx-Cullen
- Regular/general Member - William Davis
- Regular/general Member - Eronmwon Joyce Iroque
- Regular/general Member - Nabeela Kanwal
- Regular/general Member - Hema Sandeep Narava
- Regular/general Member - Ankita Srivastava

2021-22 Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee

Members include:

- Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer
- Council Member - Naz Zareen Oishie
- Regular/general Member - Shamse Tasnim Cynthia
- Regular/general Member - Gurinder Dhanju
- Regular/general Member - Sourabh Kumar
- Regular/general Member - Nabeela Kanwal
- Regular/general Member - Sristy Sumana Nath

2021-22 Awards Selection Committee

Members include:

- **VP External Affairs as Chair – Devin Cherneski**
- President - Rifat Zahan
- Council member – Shahab Minaei
- Regular/general Member – Sourabh Kumar
- Regular/general Member - Pezhman Zolfaghari Didani
- Regular/general Member - Sristy Sumana Nath
- Regular/general Member - Leonie Bettin
- Regular/general Member - Ozra Mohammadi
- Regular/general Member - Arash Mollahosseini

2021-22 Sustainability Committee

Members include:

- VP External Affairs - Devin Cherneski
- VP Indigenous Engagement - vacant
- Council Member - Shahab Minaei

- Council Member - Khaled B Zoroufchi
- Regular/general Member - Xingyu Zhou
- Regular/general Member - Ahmad Reza Salehi
- Regular/general Member - Sukhwinder Singh
- Regular/general Member – Anel Dannhauser
- Regular/general Member – Anupriya Senthilkumaran

2021-22 Diversity Committee

Members include:

- VP External Affairs - Devin Cherneski
- VP Indigenous Engagement - vacant
- Council Member – Naz Zarreen Oishie
- Council Member - Elyse Proulx-Cullen
- Regular/general Member - Zhang Yongsheng
- Regular/general Member - Rita Idowu
- Regular/general Member - Martyne Farris
- Regular/general Member - Anupriya Senthilkumaran
- Regular/general Member – Josie Conacher



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

President's Report - GSA Council Meeting, November 2021

Dear Members of Council,

I would like to welcome all of you to the November council meeting. The Graduate Students' Association is dedicated to serve the graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan by connecting them with the appropriate resources, providing guidance, and advocating for them.

In this report we will present some initiatives that the Executives have been working on, which includes:

1. GSA Winter Orientation 2022

The Graduate Students' Association Executive team will be hosting a virtual orientation event on January 12, 2022, at 1:00 PM (Saskatchewan Time) via Zoom, where we have invited Studentcare to welcome our new incoming graduate students and provide information on the Health & Dental Plan. The GSA Executives will also be organizing a curbside pick-up of swag bags for all graduate students on January 14, 2022, at 12:00 PM (Saskatchewan Time) in front of the GSA Commons Building. All graduate students are welcome to join these two events. Further details about these two events can be found on our website.

2. Working towards Enhancing Resources to Support Students' Mental Health and Well-Being

The Graduate Students' Association is promoting existing resources to support mental health for students. As part of this initiative the GSA is working closely with Studentcare to continue 'Empower Me', which was initiated in 2020 to provide students with mental health support. The GSA is continuing its effort to have discussions with the university senior leaders to make campus a safer place for all students. The GSA is organizing workshops on "Yoga Philosophy" with collaboration with a faculty member from Community Health and Epidemiology.

3. Advocating for Students Services Provided by Consumer Service Division

The Graduate Students' Association initiated regular conversations with the Consumer Service Division. The GSA is strongly advocating for students living in the university residence to get enhanced support, have a more inclusive environment, and having policies catered for graduate students.

4. Promoting the Student-Supervisor Agreement

The Graduate Students' Association continues its effort to promote the student-supervisor agreement and encourage both new and continuing students to have a student-supervisor agreement in place at the beginning of their academic journey. The GSA is having conversations with faculty members, senior leaders, as well as students to get feedback on the student-supervisor agreement. The GSA also advocating for students getting delayed on their degree programs and requested the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and College of Arts and Science, and University of

Saskatchewan Faculty Association to investigate at a granular-level the reasons behind such delay, except for the students having accommodation.

The GSA is also collaborating with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to organize events dedicated to the improvement of the student-supervisor relationship during the winter 2021 term.

5. Enhancing support to students' academic, professional and leadership skills

The Graduate Students' Association is working towards enhancing support for graduate students to improve their academic, professional, and leadership skills. We have planned to work throughout the year to organize social events, workshops, seminars, cross-cultural experiences and connect students to stakeholders for possible collaborations on campus.

We look forward to working with the graduate students and academic councillors to continue our effort to support our graduate students during their academic journey at the USask.

Rifat Zahan
President, Graduate Students' Association



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

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

Dear GSA Councilors,

Please, find below the main area I together with the other GSA executives worked and working on during the Fall term:

1. Fall Bursary

Fall 2021 bursary application is closed on October 22 since then we are waiting for new bursary committee ratification. After bursary ratification we will start application evaluation and try to publish the result in a week.

2. Promoting GSA services and Responding Student concerns

During last month we tried to join the meeting and advocate for student in different areas:

- President/PRT/USSU/GSA
- PEC/ Student council executives
- Town hall
- Parking and transportation
- GSA/USFA external relation committee
- A&S Dean's Exec-GSA Exec meet
- Student forum executive meeting
- Biweekly executive meetings

We tried to advocate student against tuition increase, university residency policies and facilitate parking services.

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,

Ehsan Moradi

VP Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association

Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs, October-November 2021

The VP Academic and Student Affairs attended 15 meetings along with other GSA executives. The VP Academic and Student Affairs contributed in various ways, as listed below, and maintained regular business duties.

	Meeting Name	Meeting Date	
1	Graduate Student Society of Canada	October 27, 2021	Discussed about the importance of lowered tuition fees and removing international tuition differential to attract the best graduate students at the Canadian Universities.
2	New Executives Emails and Folders	October 27, 2021	The GSA President provided training about using GSA Executive's email and its effective management strategies.
3	Monthly meeting: GSA Executives/Jay Wilson, VP, TLSE	October 28, 2021	Discussed library hour extension with approaching exam due date
4	Meeting with Parking Services Manager	October 29, 2021	Discussed discounted parking pass during the summer term
5	Student Forum Executive Meeting - to plan the November 23 Student Forum Agenda	November 2, 2021	Conveyed concern about tuition increase and international tuition differential
6	Academic Programs Committee	November 3, 2021	Graduate student admission discussion and approval of the degree-level certificate.
7	A&S Dean's Exec-GSA Exec meet & greet	November 3, 201	The GSA executives meet faculty association members and discuss various student, tuition, teaching, etc.
8	Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee meeting	November 4, 2021	Discussion about new automated parking meter and replacement of coin operated machine. Parking fees increase.
9	GSA/USFA External relation committee meeting	November 4, 2021	
10	Coffee w/ Bangladesh Delegation	November 5, 2021	Bangladesh's commerce minister visited U of Sask's

			GIFS and met and greeted Student leaders to learn about Bangladeshi students' experiences and concerns.
11	GSA Monthly Executives meeting	November 5, 2021	Please see the enclosed GSA Executive meeting minutes for details.
12	PEC/Student Council Executives monthly meeting	November 9, 2021,	Conveyed about graduation timeline, scholarship timeline, and widespread violation of equity, diversity, and inclusion principles at U of SASK residence by the management.
13	Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee	November 9, 2021,	Participated in teaching and learning exercises and contributed to the discussion.
14	Graduate Programs Committee next meeting	November 9, 2021,	Graduate student admission discussion and approval of the degree-level certificate.
15	President/PRT/USSU/GSA meeting	November 12, 2021,	Discussion about Covid-19 protocol and vaccination policies.

Regards,

Mostofa Kamal

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



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 2021

RE: VP External's Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my report:

1) **GSA Executive meetings**

I am currently attending executive meetings regularly where we discuss various topics and events for the Fall and Winter terms. My first meeting as an executive for the GSA was very interactive and engaging.

2) **Health Events** – attended GSA Yoga and Health (Yoga Philosophy).

3) **Canadian Federation of Students**

The 40th Annual National General meeting will be held from Tuesday, November 16th to Thursday November 18th, 2021 – virtual format.

4) **Meetings/Events**

The following are a list of meetings I have attended:

Date	Meetings/Events
October 27 th , 2021	Graduate Students Society of Canada (GSSU)
October 28 th , 2021	GSA Monthly meeting: GSA Executives/Jay Wilson, VP, TLSE
November 2 nd , 2021	Governance Committee

November 3 rd , 2021	CGPS Interdisciplinary Committee Meeting
November 3 rd , 2021	Art's & Science Dean's Executive-GSA meeting
November 4 th , 2021	GSA/USFA External relation committee
November 5 th , 2021	GSA Workshop: Yoga and Health (Yoga Philosophy)
November 5 th , 2021	GSA Executive Meeting
November 9 th , 2021	PEC/Student Council Executive monthly meeting
November 12 th , 2021	President/PRT/USSU/GSA meeting

Best Regards,

Devin Cherneski

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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

Facebook: UsaskGSA | Twitter: GSA_USask | Instagram: GSA_Usask

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