



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 23, 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

Standing Committee Members list: See Appendix B

**Zoom Meeting: The November 23rd, 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: Jovita Dias

Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski

1. Call to Order/Opening remarks

The agenda package was emailed with the Zoom meeting link for online participation. The Chair welcomed members of council and called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm CST. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Recording Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked about any amendments to the agenda as circulated via email.

The President requested for a minor amendment to the 6th item on the agenda to be changed from "Decision" to "Information."

The Chair noted the minor amendment.

Motion to approve the amendment. (Proulx-Cullen / Cherewyk)

Carried

Motion to approve the amended agenda. (Proulx-Cullen / Cherewyk)

Carried

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2021

The Chair asked if there were any suggested changes before the minutes were called for approval.

Motion to approve the October 26, 2021, meeting minutes. (Kamal/Dube)

Carried

2. Approval of Executive Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2021

The Chair asked if there were any questions about the Executive meeting minutes before the minutes were called for approval.

Motion to approve the November 6, 2021, Executive meeting minutes. (Proulx-Cullen/Orji)

Carried

3. 2021-2022 Standing Committee Members (approval via email)

The Chair extended thanks to all who participated in voting and ratification of new committee members via email. *The full list is contained in Appendix B.*

4. By-election VP Indigenous Engagement

After the Election of the Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer at tonight's council meeting a call for ratification of the By-Election for VP Indigenous Engagement will be circulated for approval to the Elections & Referenda Committee.

5. GSA Executives Report

A. President's Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for the President.

B. Vice President Finance & Operations Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for VP Finance & Operations.

C. Vice President Academic & Students Affairs Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for VP Academic & Student Affairs.

D. Vice President External Affairs Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for VP External Affairs.

6. Selection of Graduate Students to serve on Search and Review Committees

The President provided a brief overview of the available positions on the Search and Review Committee. Interested applicants can forward their names to the GSA President via email (gsa.pres@usask.ca).

7. Election of GSA Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer

In accordance with the bylaws, following the resignation of the Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer, a call for nomination was sent out to all GSA students on November 9, 2021. The President received two (2) nominations.

In accordance, with Roberts Rules of Order, the Chair asked three times for any nominees to put their name forward from the floor. No new nominations from the floor were received. Following which the two (2) candidates were asked to make their statements to council on why they would make good candidates for this role.

- Shirmin Bintay Kader: Major in Health Sciences; identifies as an activist and researcher from Bangladesh. Spoke about their professional and volunteer experience as well as their areas of research, and what skills make them a good candidate for the position.
- Hema Sandeep Narava: A first year Master of Public Administration student with computer science background. Work experience in IT and passionate about governance & policy. Spoke about their volunteer experience and professional leadership experience.

Upon completion of the candidates' speeches, the GSA President and GSA VP Academic and Student Affairs asked several questions to the candidates to help council members determine if they understood the role and responsibility of the Council Chair role. Both candidates responded to every question posed.

The Chair then requested for the candidates to leave the meeting to conduct the confidential online voting. A survey link was deployed to the council members via zoom for council members to cast their vote confidentially.

After the voting was completed, the Chair and the Recording Secretary verified all voters and tallied the votes.

Voting Results were as follows:

Hema Sandeep Narava: 10 votes

Shirmin Bintay Kader: 9 votes

Abstention: 1

The Chair made a motion to elect Hema Sandeep Narava as the new Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer of the Graduate Students' Association. (*Kamal/Cherewyk*)

Carried

Both the candidates were invited back into the meeting, where the results were shared and Hema Sandeep Narava was informed of their new role. The Council congratulated the new Chair and Chief Electoral Officer. The Chair thanked Shirmin Bintay Kader for putting forward their name for this position.

8. Other Business/Announcements

Question/comment: *The councillor from Kinesiology asked if there could be a survey or questionnaire completed when a grad student completed their program – something like an exit interview.*

First, the President addressed this question and as a follow-up the VP Academic and Student Affairs addressed this question and would like to work with the councillor and the GSA to implement this as it would help future students as well as the university to address issues and improve processes where necessary.

9. Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn at 6:17 pm CST. (*Dubé/Kamal*).

Next Meeting: December 14, 2021.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 21, 2021	Oct. 26, 2021	Nov. 23, 2021	Dec. 14, 20 21	Jan. 18, 2022	Feb. 15, 2022	Mar. 15, 2022	Apr. 13, 2022 (AGM)	Jun. 2022	Aug. 2022
Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman – Councillor Ayla Zehtab-Jadid – Councillor Shayla Batty – Councillor Iyesogie Iyiewuare – Alternate Grace Rath – Alternate Kamal Abu-Hena – Alternate	N/A	P	P							
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo - Councillor Eric Neil – Alternate	N/A	P								
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Jensen Cherewyk – Councillor Hannah Mahoney - Alternate	N/A	P	P							
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	N/A									

GSA Executives	Name of GSA Executives	Sep. 21, 2021	Oct. 26, 2021	Nov. 23, 2021	Dec. 14, 20 21	Jan. 18, 2022	Feb. 15, 2022	Mar. 15, 2022	Apr. 13, 2022 (AGM)	Jun. 2022	Aug. 2022
Exec. President	Rifat Zahan	P	P	P							
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P							
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mostafa Kamal	N/A	P	P							
Exec. VP External Affairs	Devin Cherneski	N/A	P	P							
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A							

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 – Hema Sandeep Narava (Elected during Council Meeting of November 23, 2021)**
- 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) – Hema Sandeep Narava
- 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 – Hema Sandeep Narava
- 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 Zareen 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