



**Graduate Students' Association - University of  
Saskatchewan  
Council Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday October 26, 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	<b>Call to Order</b>		
2	<b>Approval of the agenda</b>	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
3	<b>Council Orientation</b>	3-12	<i>Information</i>
4	<b>Approval of the minutes from September 21, 2021</b>	13-17	<i>Decision</i>
5	<b>Information to be received</b>	18-19	
	A. 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021, Elections Referenda Committee		<i>Decision</i>
6	<b>Executive reports</b>	20-23	
	A. Report of the President		
	B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations		
7	<b>Committees of Council</b>		<i>Decision</i>
	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

- 8 Other Business/Announcements**  
VP-By Elections Indigenous-GSA 2021
- 9 Adjournment**

*Information*

*Information*

***Next Meeting: November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.***





University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

**GSA Council Manual**

Prepared by Ziad Ghaith  
(GSA Chair, 2018-2019)

Updated by the current GSA Chair.

*The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation.*

## **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 Membersrights

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 of the GSA and how it 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 Polices

- 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 position should be registered graduate students with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral 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:
  - President;
  - Vice-President Finance and Operations;
  - Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs;
  - Vice-President External Affairs;
  - Indigenous Liaison
- 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.
- With the exception of the Executive, Council members shall be elected according to the constitution and bylaws of their respective Academic 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 schedule 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. Robert's 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 recognize 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 call, 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.

Example<sup>1</sup>:

*Member rises and addresses the chair: 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:

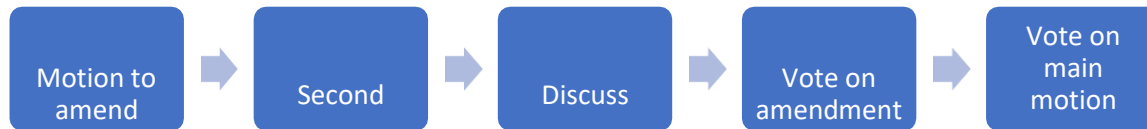
Amendment is a motion to change the wording of a main motion before voting on it. Usually this happens if new insights or information arise as a result of discussing or debating a motion.

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

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<sup>1</sup> This example was adopted from [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

motion is approved. After all the amendments are voted on, the debate on the main motion is resumed in its amended form.



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 strike 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.

Note:

Please direct any questions to the Council Chair at: [gsa.chair@usask.ca](mailto:gsa.chair@usask.ca)



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

**Tuesday, September 21, 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*

*\*Zoom Meeting: The September 21, 2021, Council Meeting took place via Zoom due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan made directives to practice physical 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 Zoom meeting link with the meeting number and password to participate online. The Chair of the Graduate Students' Association Council, Mr. Devin Cherneski, officially called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Mery Mendoza compiled the meeting minutes for this Council meeting.

### **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. (Proulx-Cullen/Kamal)*

**Carried**

### **3. Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2021**

The Chair asked if there were any suggested changes before the minutes were approved. There were none.

*Motion to approve the minutes from August 24, 2021, minutes. (Gannon/Proulx-Cullen).*

**Carried**

#### 4. Information to be received

- a. August 19, 2021 Executive meeting minutes

*Motion to receive item 4a (Dube/Rose)*

**Carried**

#### 5. GSA Executive Reports

##### a. President Report

President Zahan welcomed all academic councils (new and returning) and looks forward to working with them to support graduate student initiatives. She also thanks outgoing councillors for their hard work and support in the past academic year with initiatives and activities. The President summarized the initiatives that she looks forward to working on this year:

- Resources to support mental health: enhancing these and working with StudentCare to continue Empower Me, which even though less than 1 % of the students accessed this service last year, the GSA will continue to offer this service and will continue promoting it to graduate students.
- Student Supervisor Agreement: for the last few years, the GSA has been working hard to implement this agreement. We are continuing our efforts to encouraging students and faculty to implement this at the beginning of the students graduate journey. As of 2020, this agreement is mandatory for all new students and must be implemented within 1 year.
- We look forward to joining the library and CGPS to implement Conflict resolution sessions.
- Diversity and inclusion: advocating for support programs for graduate students to increase awareness.

*Question: Are there any initiatives underway for increasing awareness for diversity and inclusion?*

The GSA received a seat in the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression (ARAO) committee. As for initiatives, we've had informal discussions with the Dean, CGPS to increase the availability of awards for marginalized populations. There will be updates coming in the next few weeks.

##### b. Vice-President Finance and Operation Report

VP Moradi is currently preparing the fall bursary. The President is communicating with CGPS so that we can get more money for bursaries to serve more students. The applications will open next week. With the Bursary Committee, they've worked on improving the application process, using lessons learned and best practices from previous years.

We are currently waiting for feedback from senior leadership to see if we can open the GSA Commons for our students to use.

With the President, they executed a successful GSA Orientation swag bag pick-up.

President Moradi recognizes that with the resignation of two of the Executive members, the President has been doing a lot of the work and thanks her for her diligence.

*Question: Is the number of bursaries for the fall term going to increase?*

We have applied for an increase to the bursary amount from CGPS and are currently waiting for their response. Once we hear back, we will be able to determine how many bursaries we can allocate for the fall term. In our request to CGPS, we were sure to acknowledge that this year has been stressful for students and so a greater number of students are in need of greater financial security.

**c. Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs Report**

The report has been submitted; however, the individual has resigned from their position. President Zahan is continuing work on organizing the Conflict resolution sessions and will continue this work with the new candidate.

The by-election is currently in process.

**d. Vice-President External Affairs Report**

Although this individual has resigned, the Executives have continued their work.

The by-election is currently in process.

**e. Vice-President Indigenous Engagement Report**

No report.

**6. Ratification of Social Clubs for 2021/2022**

**a. Nepalese Students' Association**

Representative Abinash Subedi indicated this is a small group of undergraduate and graduate students.

**b. Tox on Tap**

Representative Jensen Cherewyk indicated this is a graduate student run group that brings together scientific and general public communities to discuss science. The venues are usually pubs where various speakers talk about toxicology related topics. With the pandemic, the group has shifted towards virtual talks and although it's a bit more challenging, they're hoping to have another talk in the fall.

**c. Bangladeshi Students' Association**

No representative.

**d. Let's Talk Science**

Representative Alivia Mukherjee indicated that they are working on a green initiative project this term. The group will be hosting an orientation this Friday. The groups main purpose is to create awareness about science and enjoying it through different activities.

*Motion to ratify the above social clubs for 2021/2022 (Rose/Pasloski)*

**Carried**

## **7. Appointment of 2 Representatives to the University of Saskatchewan Student Form**

President Zahan indicated that they were looking for representatives for the Student Forum. This group discusses important issues and provides student perspectives with university administration and governing bodies. The representatives act as student leaders to discuss best practices, etc. The GSA has 4 members on this Forum, 2 are GSA Executives and 2 are GSA Council members.

*Question: Can we have more information about the Student Forum, what it is and what is required in terms of participation?*

There will be 4-5 meetings per year, and there will be discussions around different topics. Student representatives have the option to provide input and thoughts on the topic of discussion.

Council member Kamal indicated that he had the opportunity to represent the GSA last year on the Student Forum. This is the body where the university community meets and discusses different issues, like the importance of mandating the student-supervisor agreement, EDI training among different stakeholders. It is a great opportunity to share your views as a graduate student.

President Zahan will share the document to Council members who are interested in serving on this committee.

## **8. Election of GSA Chair and Chief Electoral Officer**

There was 1 nomination received from candidate Alivia Mukherjee.

Mukherjee is a PhD candidate in the College of Engineering, in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year. She was the Chair of the GSA Sustainability Committee and has volunteered her time with the GSA as well as attended initiatives hosted by the GSA. Her hope is that she will be able to contribute to the position with her knowledge and leadership skills that she has gained. She was previously the Vice-President of ECCC and thus has knowledge of student governance. She believes she has good communication and leadership skills and believes because of this she would be able to contribute successfully as Chair.

*Motion to appoint Alivia Mukherjee as GSA Chair and CEO (Kamal/Rose)*

**Carried**

## **9. Election of GSA Vice-Chair and Vice-Chief Electoral Officer**

There was 1 nomination received from candidate Jovita Dias.

Dias is a second-year student in the online MPA program in JSGS of public policy, and currently lives in Calgary. She is passionate about women empowerment and child literacy, and in her downtime, she volunteers for Girl Guides of Canada, the Shoebox Project for Women and Calgary Reads. Additionally, she also serves as a director-at-large on her condo board and has recently accepted the position of a Policy Analyst with BC Public Service's Ministry of Health.

Her professional career and volunteer experiences have provided her with several opportunities to draft and review Business Plans, Strategic Governance Frameworks, take meeting minutes, offer advice to leadership, participate on committees etc..., Last year, she got involved with the GSA's Governance Committee. She is working towards a Leadership Intensive Certificate from



the Banff Centre of Arts and Creativity and has completed courses on design thinking, contextual intelligence, and establishing indigenous institutions of governance that have helped me immensely in understanding different governance processes and building leadership capabilities.

*Motion to appoint Jovita Dias as GSA Vice-Chair and Vice-CEO (Cherewyk/Kamal)*

**Carried**

## **10. Election/Appointment of GSA Recording Secretary**

There was 1 nomination received from candidate Nicole Pasloski.

Pasloski is a second year Masters of Sociology student who enjoys being involved in the student association. Last year, due to course commitments, she took a smaller role in the GSA and this year hopes to play a bigger role. She has acted as secretary for the sociology undergrad student society, note taker for the Access and Equity services, and a columnist for the Sheaf and thus has a lot of experience taking notes for herself and for others. She was also part of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee last year.

*Motion to appoint Nicole Pasloski as GSA Recording Secretary (Proulx-Cullen/Rose)*

**Carried**

## **11. Other Business/Announcements**

- a. The GSA Health and Dental Plan change of coverage period will end soon. There has been announcements through social media and emails. If you have an alternative health care coverage, you will have the option to opt out from the GSA Health and Dental plan, and the deadline to submit this request is September 30 – any requests after this date will not be accepted.
- b. Call for volunteers for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation by Wanuskewin Community, who is organizing a series of events. They have different events where they need dedicated volunteers to help them. We've already received a list of volunteers, but always looking for more. Please get in touch with President Zahan who will connect you with the Wanuskewin Community. If we have enough volunteers, they will arrange a bus from the GSA to the Heritage Park. Please indicate your interest early as it will help us to plan how many students are volunteering.

## **12. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn at 6:05 PM (Proulx-Cullen/ Cherewyk)*

**Carried**



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

Elections and Referenda Committee

Minutes

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

E-mail Meeting

**Present:**

- Council Chair/Chief Electoral Office (CEO)
- Khaled Zoroufchi Benis (Council member)
- Rosmary Martinez (General/regular member)
- Nicole Pasloski (General/regular member)
- Zoher Rafid-Hamed (General/regular member)

**Absent:**

**1. Complaints**

- The Council Chair/CEO called the meeting to order through e-mailing members after 12:00 p.m. At this time there was no complaints.

**2. Results**

- The Council/Chair and CEO shared results through e-mail to the committee members. The results showed the following:

Total number of voters 398 [Election Quorum: 377]

**Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs**

Do you have confidence in **Mostafa Kamal** fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs?

<b>Mostafa Kamal – Yes</b>	<b>269</b>
Mostafa Kamal – No	24
Abstain	84

### **Vice-President External Affairs**

Devin Cherneski	<b>171</b>
Edgar Martinez Soberanes	158
Abstain	69

### **3. Ratification of Results**

- The Election Committee ratified the results to have the following two candidates as the 2021/2022 Executives of the GSA.
  1. VP Academic and Student Affairs: **Mostafa Kamal**
  2. VP External Affairs: **Devin Cherneski**

### **4. Recommendations:**

- The Election Committee made the following recommendations for consideration to the Governance Committee and to *future* Elections and Referenda Committee.
  - Recommending a review to allow candidates to campaign up to the end of the voting period

### **5. Other Business**

- The Council Chair/CEO confirmed that this was the last meeting of the Committee.

### **6. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned same day by e-mail. The Council Chair/CEO thanked the members for all their contributions as it was challenging under the circumstances.



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

President's Report - GSA Council Meeting, October 2021

Dear Councilors,

I welcome all academic councils, new and returning graduate students for the October council meeting. I would also like to thank all of you for your continued participation and support to the Graduate Students' Association.

In this report, I have provided a brief explanation of my focus during my tenure, which includes:

### **1. Bursaries for Fall 2021**

The Graduate Students' Association with support from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies provides need-based bursaries to eligible graduate students. The application for fall term is closed and we have received applications from interested graduate students.

### **2. Celebration of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**

The Graduate Students' Association worked with the Wanuskewin Community to provide volunteers to facilitate the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021.

### **3. Working towards Enhancing Resources to Support Students' Mental Health and Well-Being**

The Graduate Students' Association is celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week by 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 also joined a rally with the USSU against sexual violence on October 7, 2021 at the UofS. GSA is advocating for a safer place on campus for our students and university community. GSA is also going to organize a workshop on "Yoga Philosophy", in collaboration with a faculty member at USask.

#### **4. Supporting Students' Academic, Professional, and Leadership Skills**

The Graduate Students' Association provides students services by organizing workshops, seminars, or other events to help them enhance their academic, professional, and leadership skills. GSA is going to organize a workshop on "Academic integrity, honesty, and misconduct", in collaboration with a faculty member at USask.

#### **5. 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 also collaborating with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to organize events dedicated to the improvement of the student-supervisor relationship during the fall 2021 term.

We look forward to working with graduate students and the university community to support a harmonious journey during their academic endeavour.

I look forward to working with all of you at the Graduate Students' Association during my tenure.

Rifat Zahan

President, Graduate Students' Association



**University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association**  
**VP Finance and Operations report - GSA Council Meeting, October 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. GSA Fall Orientation**

The Graduate Student's Association (GSA) University of Saskatchewan holds virtual Fall orientation and curbside pickup for the fall orientation swag bag.

**2. Promoting GSA services and Responding Student concerns**

Last month, we saw that the university kept the holds on the students' accounts, although we asked them not to add extra stress to students by removing installment plans and putting holds on students' accounts. Nonetheless, holds that are taking place are only related to the course registration.

We have been communicating with the CGPS to get more contributions for the bursary, for which we received 32k more that allows us to give 32 more bursaries to graduate students. We opened the fall bursary application on Oct 1 and closed on Oct 22. We received 116 applications that new bursary committee members will process to 28 applications.

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](mailto:gsa.fin@usask.ca)

Thank you,

Ehsan Moradi

VP Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

Elections and Referenda Committee

GSA By-Elections 2021

VP-Indigenous

- **Information session**
- **Nomination**

**Thank you**

**Alivia Mukherjee**