



**University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, August 11th, 2022; Zoom, 17:00-19:00

AGENDA

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

Item	Page	Action
1. Call to Order		
2. Approval of Agenda	1	<i>Decision</i>
3. Approval of the Decision Items from the July 14, 2022 Council Meeting		
3.1 GSA Annual General Meeting Minutes 2022 – April 19 th , 2022	2-12	<i>Decision</i>
3.2 GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2022	13-16	<i>Decision</i>
3.3 GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2022	17-22	<i>Decision</i>
3.4 Election of GSA Council Vice-Chair		<i>Decision</i>
3.5 Election of GSA Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee		<i>Decision</i>
4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes		
4.1 Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022	23-29	<i>Decision</i>
4.2 Approval of the GSA Executive Meeting Minutes July 7, 2022	30-34	<i>Decision</i>
5. GSA Executives Reports		
5.1 President's Report	35	<i>Information</i>
5.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report	36-37	<i>Information</i>
5.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report	38	<i>Information</i>
5.4 Vice President External Affairs Report	39	<i>Information</i>
5.5 Questions & Answers		
6. Other Business		<i>Information</i>
7. Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2022. 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.

**Zoom Meeting: The April 19, 2022, Annual General 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 place to curb the spread of the virus.*

Chair: Sadia Afrin Lema

Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski

Participants: Jory Litt-Jukes, Amy Jimmo, Kimberlee Dubé, Devin Wittow, Kayla Arisman, , John Malyk, Jensen Cherewyk, Rachel Harris, Natasha Boyes, Maddie Stewart, Abbas Fazel, Nichole Stoll, Michelle Ross, Ozra Mohammadi, Elysa Proulx-Cullen, Behdad Saed, Luis Alejandro Recalde Rosero, Fidelia A. Orji, Amanda Gannon, Kamiar Ghoseiri, Sristy Sumana Nath, Ayla Zehtab-Jadid, Amirsaeed Hosseini Jey, KC Hall, Rosmary Martinez, Rodeen Omar, Irini Soubry, Shamse Tasnim Cynthia, Grace Rath, Olsa Griebel, Ninu Kallingal, Shuqi Ren, Richa Tikoo, Riel Castro-Zunti, Jennifer Le, Pezhman, Iyanu Kumayon, Natasha Mostat

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

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 5:06 PM. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Recording Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

There was an amendment from the VP Finance and Operations via the President that was added as item 4.6.

Motion to approve the amendments and agenda. (Proulx-Cullen/Dubé)

Carried

3. Approval of GSA Annual General Meeting 2021 – April 13th, 2021

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

Motion to approve the April 13th, 2021, AGM minutes. (Proulx-Cullen/Cherneski)

Carried

4. Motions to receive GSA Standing Committee Reports and Executive Minutes

4.1.2 Governance committee meeting minutes

4.1.2.1 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2022

4.1.2.2 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2022

4.1.2.3 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes - February 9, 2022

4.1.2.4 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes - February 16, 2022

4.1.2.5 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes - February 23, 2022

4.1.2.6 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes - March 2, 2022

4.1.3 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes

4.1.3.1 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2021

4.1.3.2 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2021

4.1.3.3 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes – November 22, 2021

4.1.3.4 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2021

4.1.4 Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

4.1.4.1 Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2022

4.1.5 Awards Committee Meeting Minutes

4.1.5.1 Awards Committee Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2022

4.1.5.2 Awards Committee Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2022

Motion to receive the GSA Standing Committee Reports and Executive Minutes. (Zahan/Dubé)

Carried

4.2 Motion: Honorary Lifetime Membership

WHEREAS Section 5.1.4 of the GSA Constitution permits the naming of an Honorary Lifetime Member which is purely symbolic. Such a position shall be awarded by a majority vote at a General Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Reggie Nyamekye be made an honorary lifetime member in recognition of her diligence, dedication, and years of service to the GSA that served to enhance the image, reputation, and standing of the Association.

Welcome and congratulations were offered by Mostafa Kamal. Kamal spoke of Nyamekye's dedication and abilities, her knowledge and what an asset she is to the GSA.

Motion to bestow an honorary lifetime Membership on Reggie Nyamekye. (Zahan/Kamal).

Carried. 1 opposed.

4.3 Motion: Governance Documents

WHEREAS Section 8.6 of the Constitution of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Association Inc. (GSA) allows a General Meeting of the membership to amend the GSA Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bylaws and Policies be so amended as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee, as set forth in the following supporting documents (Revised Bylaws, Revised Policies) and take effect May 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership consents to the correction of non-substantive corrections, such as numbering, section order and typographical errors, which may arise following these amendments.

The Chair asked for any questions on motion 4.3 at this time. There were none.

Motion to amend governance documents. (Zahan/Kamal).

Carried

Proulx-Cullen abstained as she was the Chair (of Governance Committee) of that meeting.

4.4 Motion: Approval of the GSA Financial Statements

WHEREAS Section 8.1.2.1 of the GSA Constitution governs the presentation of Financial Statements to the Membership.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the reviewed financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Inc. be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2023.

Motion to approve the GSA 2021-2022 Financial Statements. (Moradi/Zahan).

Carried

The VP Finance and Operations was indisposed at this point of the meeting (because of emergency health issue) and unable to answer questions. Questions may be sent to his email.

4.5 Motion: Approval of the GSA Auditor for the 2022-2023 Financial Year

WHEREAS Section 8.1.2.2 of the GSA Constitution and Section 149(1) of the Saskatchewan Non-Profits Corporation Act governs the appointment of an auditor.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Buckberger Baerg and Partners LLP be appointed as auditors for the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

As the Finance and Operations was indisposed at this point in the meeting, the President, spoke in his stead. This company has been used as auditors for the GSA for many years.

Motion to approve Buckberger Baerg and Partners LLP as auditors for the 2022-2023 Financial year. (Moradi/Zahan)

Carried

4.6 Motion: Approval of withdrawal of \$40,000 from the GSA account

WHEREAS GSA executives proposed the withdrawal of \$40,000 from the GSA account to distribute a special GSA bursary due to a significant number of increases of need-based bursary applications from the graduate students financially hit heard by since the start of the COVID crisis which was approved by the GSA Finance and Budget Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The request for withdrawal of \$40,000 be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2023.

The President, the VP Finance and Operations, and the VP Academic and Student Affairs spoke on the motion and explained the increased need for financial support since the beginning of COVID. This was requested by the Budget and Finance Committee to give more money in the form of needs-based bursaries. The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) will match the funding. This money previously has not been earmarked for anything.

Question: The wording of the motion needed clarification: is the money for students who applied for bursaries in the 2021-2022 academic year but previously did not receive anything?

Answer: That is correct. The additional money is going to students who applied to the GSA in the 2021-2022 Academic year and because of the demand, not all students were able to be approved. This withdrawal is going toward current Graduate students who have already applied but did not receive any financial aid from the GSA.

Motion to approve the withdrawal of \$40,000/year for the year ended April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2023, from the GSA account for Graduate student bursaries due to excessive demand. (Moradi/Kamal)

Carried

5. GSA Executives' Annual Report

5.1 President's Report

Highlights of the report were conveyed to graduate students and was available in the agenda package, as well as posted on the GSA website for review. The President spoke about how much they learned and how much they enjoyed their position, as well as how challenging it was personally and academically. The President also spoke about the importance of the position as a representative of the 4400 Graduate students. The full report is online and is roughly 40 pages. The President thanked all present including council members, executives, office staff, and other administrative roles.

5.2 VP Finance and Operations Report

The VP Finance and Operations spoke highly of the outgoing President as well as the other executives, thanking all of them and speaking highly of the experience as an executive as well as the difficulties that arose. They emphasized their motivation of always trying to consider what was best for Graduate students and trying to improve student life for them. The goal was always to successfully manage the finances and to financially support students where possible. The full report, including meeting attendance, is available online to view.

5.3 VP Academic and Student Affairs

The VP Academic and Student Affairs thanked everyone including all the Councillors, committee volunteers, and all of the current, and outgoing executives for their dedication and commitment to the GSA. The VP Academic and Student Affairs finds himself incredibly lucky to have worked with such a great group of people and is moving into the position of the GSA President for the coming academic year (2022-2023). He spoke of some highlights included in his report as well as his goals for the coming year in his new position and thanked everyone for their hard work.

5.4 VP External Affairs

The VP External Affairs thanked everyone and shared that he really enjoyed his tenure as a part of the GSA. Enormous responsibilities with all of the VP positions, and he is confident that his tenure was handled and was managed to the absolute best of his abilities. The VP External Affairs shared some highlights from the report that is also available to read online. He was particularly proud of their interactions with MPs and interactions with policy-makers. He thanked everyone for the opportunity and for the year.

5.5 Q&A

Question: For all executives: do you think the upcoming challenges are a continuation of current challenges, or what do you think is on the horizon, and what new issues will the incoming GSA Executives face?

President: It was difficult when Grad students are working entirely from home, they don't understand what goes into running the Association, there is miscommunication, and Graduate students are disconnected from the campus community.

Question: Commendation and congratulations to the outgoing executives. We observed members (Chairs and VP Indigenous Engagement) resign and there is concerns about it. Why did this happen? Is it based on the workload? If so, is workload something that should be reassessed?

President: We do not want to comment since they all resigned for very specific and different reasons. It could be workload and spreading duties over more positions could be a possibility, but this is a complex issue with many individual opinions involved.

Question: Is there anything else in the works to assist students as inflation continues to affect graduate students?

President: There will be crisis financial aid available to students as specified by senior leadership at the university. They are pursuing policies with graduate students to ensure a minimum amount of years of funding. This is an ongoing and pressing issue.

The executives have been advocating for graduate students to at least make what someone working at minimum wage would make and four years guaranteed funding for PhD students.

Question: What is the plan for the VP Indigenous Engagement position?

President: The Elections Committee often receives zero nominations and it is difficult to get people to put their names forward. It is important that we are aware and look to engage, but people are not putting their names forward. At this point, we are not sure what the plan is.

Question: Is there a plan regarding unconditional opt-outs for the Saskatoon Transit Fee?

President: This will be a question for the incoming executives, this is an ongoing conversation.

6. Election Results

The Chair acknowledged the work of Candace the Office Manager and the Elections and Referenda Committee. She also acknowledges all those who voted.

7. Introduction of new Executives

President: Mostofa Kamal

VP Finance and Operations: Ehsan Moradi

VP Academic and Student Affairs: Sristy Sumana Nath

VP External Affairs: Ozra Mohammadi

VP Indigenous Engagement: *Vacant*

8. Other Business

There was no other business put forward at this time.

9. Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn at 5:51 PM. (*Dube/Cherneski*)

Carried

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 2021	Oct.26 2021	Nov.23 2021	Dec.14 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2022	Jun. 2022	Aug. 2022
Physical and Engineering Physics - PEGASUS	Kimberlee Dube – Councillor Nicholas Simonson - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Jennifer Chami - Councillor Asiyah Suchak - Alternate	N/A	A	A	P	A	P	P	A		
Plant Science	Sandesh Neupane – Councillor Adam Carter - Alternate	N/A		P	P	P	A	A	A		
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Michael Tweten - Councillor Devin Wittow – Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
SENSA	Tatiana Corello - Councillor Jaclyn Porter - Councillor Rory Wheat - Alternate	N/A	P	A	A	A	P	P	A		
SPHSA		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
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	A	A	P	P	P		
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo Councillor Eric Neil – Alternate	N/A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Jensen Cherewyk – Councillor Hannah Mahoney - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	N/A	A	A	P	A	P	P	A		

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 2021	Oct.26 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2022	Jun. 2022	Aug. 2022
Exec. President	Rifat Zahan	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mostafa Kamal	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Exec. VP External Affairs	Devin Cherneski	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P		
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Tina Alexis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	N/A	N/A		



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2022 – ZOOM

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM

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

Present: Mostofa Kamal (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Sristy Sumana Nath (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Ozra Mohammadi (Vice-President External Affairs).

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests: N/a

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM by GSA *President Mostofa*.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

*Vote: All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

4. Items for decision

4.1 To approve the GSA Council meetings Dates.

Motion: To approve the date for the 2022-2023 GSA council meetings on Second Thursday of each month at 5-7 PM.

- *Jun 9, 2022*
- *Aug 11, 2022*
- *Sep 8, 2022*
- *Oct 13, 2022*
- *Nov 10, 2022*
- *Dec 8, 2022*
- *Jan 12, 2023*
- *Feb 9, 2023*
- *Mar 9, 2023*
- *April 13, 2023*

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

*Vote: All in Favour,
Motion Carried.*

4.2 To approve GSA executives By-weekly meeting dates

Motion: To approve the date for the 2022-2023 GSA council meetings on “first and third” Thursday of each month at 5-7 PM.

- *Jun 2, 2022*
- *Jul 7, 2022*
- *Aug 4, 2022*
- *Sep 1, 2022*
- *Sep 15, 2022*
- *Oct 6, 2022*

- *Oct 20, 2022*
- *Nov 3, 2022*
- *Nov 17, 2022*
- *Dec 1, 2022*
- *Dec 15, 2022*
- *Jan 5, 2023*
- *Jan 19, 2023*
- *Feb 2, 2023*
- *Feb 16, 2023*
- *Mar 2, 2023*
- *Mar 16, 2023*
- *April 6, 2023*
- *April 20, 2023*

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

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

4.3 4.1 To approve the GSA Commons opening Dates.

Motion: To approve the date for each executive that they should be present on GSA commons

- *Monday: Sristy*
- *Tuesday: Mostofa*
- *Wednesday: Ozra*
- *Thursday: Ehsan*
- *Friday: Mostofa*

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

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

5. Items for Discussion

5.1. GSA Executives Committee Duty Assignment – The president Mostofa asked executives about their roles and emphasis to be aware of the duties mentioned on by-laws.

5.2. Spring and Summer GSA need-based bursary dates – The VP finance will inform the decisions after discussing it in regarding committee.

5.3. GSA coordinator hiring – The coordinator needs to work on GSA 3 hours per day. The position will be announced in PAWS and social media. Training for the position will be done by GSA administrator Candace.

5.4. GSA representatives for different university governance committees

President Mostofa reminded the executives about the various university committees they will represent the GSA.

5.5. Fall 2022 orientation date selection

This item will be discussed on June 2, 2022, executive committee meeting.

5.6. Spring/summer graduate student transport (UPass or low-paid parking)

5.7. Student rights policy

5.8. Discussion about Research and innovation program – Mostofa will be in touch with Jacelyn to invite her to one of the council meetings to present.

6. Adjournment of Meeting – President Mostofa motioned to adjourn the executive meeting in May 2022.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

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



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2022 – ZOOM

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mostofa Kamal (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Sristy Sumana Nath (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Ozra Mohammadi (Vice-President External Affairs).

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests: N/a

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by GSA *President Mostofa Kamal* followed by a Land acknowledgment. The agenda items for the meeting were compiled after starting the meeting. The GSA president mentioned that following the GSA Bylaws 2022 [2.5.1.11], the VP of External Affairs need to act as recording secretary for the executive meeting.

2. Items for discussion

2.1 Convocation Ceremony:

The executives attending list changed as follows:

Convocation Day	Morning Session (attendee) Start at 9:00 am	Afternoon Session (attendee) Start at 2:00 pm
Monday, June 6, 2022	None	Mostofa Kamal (President)
Tuesday, June 7, 2022	Sristy Sumona Nath (VP Academic and Student Affairs, GSA)	Ozra Mohammadi (VP External Affairs, GSA)
Wednesday, June 8, 2022	Sristy Sumona Nath (VP Academic and Student Affairs, GSA)	Ozra Mohammadi (VP External Affairs, GSA)
Thursday, June 9, 2022	Ozra Mohammadi (VP External Affairs, GSA)	Ehsan Moradi (VP Finance and Operations, GSA)
Friday, June 10, 2022	Mostofa Kamal (President, GSA)	None

2.2. *GSA 2022-2023 Handbook (message from the president)*

President Mostofa will provide it by June 9, 2022.

2.3. *Swag bag items for Fall/Winter Orientation 2022-2023:*

The GSA executive agreed to order swag bag items for both fall and winter terms in one purchase order so that items can be purchased at a discounted price. Since budget codes for fall and winter orientation are different, it is recommended to maintain separate purchase receipts for different terms, such as one receipt for fall and one for winter term. Executives have received concern regarding swag bag item's distributed in earlier orientation programs because of their shorter lifetime or durability. Thus, the current executives agreed to purchase items of better quality that will last longer. The committee also decided that the number of swag bag items for the fall and winter term will be less considering better quality items. The VP of Finance informed that the 2022-2023 budget allows the GSA the spend a maximum of \$6,200 for the Fall 2022 orientation

program. The GSA executives recommended the VP of Academic and Student Affairs spend up to \$5000 on the Swag bag items and keep \$1,200 for the orientation day event. The executives asked the VP of Academic and Student Affairs to make a draft list of recommended items for the fall and winter orientation program and share it with the GSA executives for further discussion and approval. Since better quality items are considered for the upcoming orientation program, the GSA can afford a limited number of swag bag items in the forthcoming orientation program. Hence, the GSA executives agreed to distribute the swag bag items only among the new students. The GSA will create a registration form for incoming students for swag bag item distribution. The GSA executives also agreed to order a t-shirt for the executives and volunteer for the orientation program.

2.4. Melisa Kyrejto, Academic Affairs Specialist, requested more volunteers for the Academic misconduct hearing board:

The Academic Misconduct hearing board consists of either a GSA executive or a graduate student nominated by the GSA. Generally, the VP of Academic and Student Affairs sits on the Academic Misconduct hearing board. However, because of the busy schedule of the VP of Academic and Student Affairs and occasional conflict of interest (e.g., a student from the same department, personal relationship with accused students, etc.), the hearing board requested more graduate student members so that a substitute of VP Academic and Student Affairs can be found easily. President Mostofa suggested Khaled Zoroufchi Benis, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical Engineering, because of his extensive volunteering and leadership experience with the GSA for the last few years. VP Ozra recommended another graduate student named Bernd from the Chemistry department for the Academic Misconduct hearing board.

2.5. GSA Fall Orientation:

The GSA executives decided to organize the Fall 2022 orientation in person on September 8, 2022, from 10 am to 12 pm at the GSA commons. The VP Academic and Student Affairs will serve as the Emcee of the orientation event, while all other GSA executives will give an introductory speech at the event. Sristy will prepare an orientation presentation that will cover GSA's annual activities, including Holiday Hangout, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Annual Tax Clinic, GSA Need-based bursaries, etc. The GSA executives recommended the VP Sristy to consult with the immediate past GSA President, Rifat Zahan while preparing for the. VP Academic and Student Affairs will share the orientation presentation with the other GSA executives for review and

approval by the GSA President. The executive committee decided to serve pizza following the orientation program. VP Sristy will work with the GSA Office Manager to for ordering of the food.

2.6. Organizing a Science Communication Workshop:

The GSA President proposed to organize a day-long Science Communication Workshop for the University of Saskatchewan graduate students in Fall 2022. This workshop aims to train graduate students in better strategies and efficient skills for communicating their research to a broader audience apart from peer-reviewed scientific journals such as blogs, newspaper op-eds, town halls, policymakers, etc. President Mostofa proposed to organize this workshop in the fall so that graduate students can apply the knowledge gained from this workshop in the 2023 3MT competition. The GSA President expressed his desire to identify another University of Saskatchewan graduate student from the 2023 3MT competition so that the champion would maximize the chance of winning the western regional 3MT competition following the success of the University of Saskatchewan's candidate at the Western Regional Competition in 2022. President Mostofa reminded that Antonia Powell, a Master of Science in Applied Microbiology graduate student, who won the western regional Three Minute (3MT®) Thesis Competition 2022 among 16 other graduate students represented by 16 universities from Western Canada. The GSA President will discuss this proposed workshop with the Dean of the College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies (CGPS) and will request financial support to organize this workshop. President Mostofa will prepare a detailed proposal for the proposed workshop and share it with the other GSA executives in the coming months.

2.7. Spring/Summer bursary dates:

The GSA will provide 25 regular need-based bursaries during the Spring and Summer 2022 terms from its regular bursary budget and matched funding from the CGPS. At the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of GSA, the council approved to draw 40K CAD additional funding from GSA to provide additional need-based bursaries (which will be equally divided into three terms) during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The GSA executives decided to award ten additional need-based bursaries from the above approved GSA funding. Therefore, during the Spring and Summer of 2022, the GSA will award 35 need-based bursaries. The GSA bursary committee will follow the below schedule to distribute the Spring and Summer 2022 bursaries:

Bursary Application Open: June 8, 2022

Bursary Application Close: June 29, 2022

Bursary Results Announcement: July 4, 2022

2.8.Meeting Date for University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA):

Professor Nadim Jamali from the Department of Computer Sciences has been elected by the USFA to represent the faculty members at the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors. Professor Jamali sent an email to the GSA executives expressing his interest in having a formal meeting to hear from the newly elected GSA executives about their list of priorities and advocacies for graduate students during their tenure. Professor Jamali expressed his interest in becoming a supporting person for the GSA and wants to work together to ensure the University of Saskatchewan's academic and leadership excellence. The GSA President informed the GSA executives about the critical role Professor Jamali can play at different governing bodies at the University of Saskatchewan in supporting GSA advocacy works. Upon discussion, the GSA executives were scheduled to meet Professor Jamali on June 10, 2022, at 8:45 am.

2.9.Meeting Date for Health and Dental Plan Coordinator

The GSA President informed the GSA executives about a potential orientation meeting with the Studentcare representative, Mr. Robyn Paches, who oversees the GSA Health and Dental Plan on behalf of the GSA at USask. The GSA President reminded the GSA executives that one of the priorities of the current GSA executive committee is to extend the existing health and dental coverage for graduate students and advocate for broadening of the health practitioners' network. Thus, the proposed meeting is very important where the presence of all executives is required so that detailed discussion can be done with the Studentcare representative. There will be two meetings with the Studentcare representative: the first meeting will be attended by all GSA executives, and the second meeting will be attended by the GSA President and the VP Finance and Operations. The GSA executives mentioned they are available for the meeting on June 20, 22, and 23, 2022. The GSA President will finalize the meeting date upon consulting with the Studentcare representative and will notify the final date and time to the GSA executives.

5. Items for Decision

5.1. Approval of the May 8 GSA executive monthly meeting minutes:

President Mostofa asked, if there were any amendments in the executive meeting minutes as circulated. There were none.

Mover: Sristy

Secunder: Ehsan

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

5.2. Approval of the GSA executive committee 2022-4-20 retreat meeting minutes:

President Mostofa asked, if there were any amendments in the executive meeting minutes as circulated. There were none.

Mover: Mostofa

Secunder: Sristy

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

6. Adjournment of Meeting – President Mostofa motioned to adjourn the executive meeting in June 2022.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

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



**University of Saskatchewan
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Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 14, 2022. 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 Thursday July 14, 2022, 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 place to curb the spread of the virus.*

Chair: Sadia Afrin Lema

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 1703 CST. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Recording Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Quorum was not reached and there was a brief discussion of items that would need to be left until approval could be achieved with a majority vote.

3. Approval of meeting minutes

3.1 GSA Annual General Meeting Minutes 2022 – April 19th, 2022

3.2 GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2022

3.3 GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2022

Item 3 could not be completed since it requires a decision and quorum was not reached.

4. Executive Reports

4.1 President's Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for the President at this time. Any questions may be directed to the President's email address at any time at gsa.pres@usask.ca

4.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for the VP at this time. Any questions for the VP may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.fin@usask.ca

4.3 Vice President Academic & Students Affairs Report:

The report was presented to council members and will be circulated via email.

Question: Have students volunteered to stand up and be advocates for other students when they must attend an academic misconduct hearing?

Answer: So far it has just been the President and the VP Academic and Student Affairs. The GSA representative advocating for the student at such hearings is required to do prep work and needs to be a strong voice for the student.

Follow-up question: Do we want to put out a call for students to sit on a Hearing Committee? It would be helpful to have more volunteers and also if that was done: the amount of work included in standing up for a student at a hearing should be included so individuals know what they are signing up for.

Answer: We could put out an email and see if there are individuals interested, yes. Any questions for the VP may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.sa@usask.ca

4.4 Vice President External Affairs Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for the VP at this time. Any questions for the VP may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.external@usask.ca

4.5 Additional Q&A

There were no additional questions at this time.

5. Election of GSA Council Vice Chair

This item could not be completed since it requires a decision and quorum was not reached.

This item has been sent out in the GSA newsletter and there have not yet been any nominations.

The Chair asked for nominations to be put forward from the floor.

Tasbeen Akhtar Sheekha said they would like to put their name forward.

The Chair went through the bylaws governing the position of the Vice-Chair of the GSA and asked for the nominee to speak briefly on why they would like to be elected to this position. Sheekha spoke about their experience and why they would like to be involved. Sheekha was asked a couple of questions that were answered in turn.

Since quorum was not reached, there was discussion of a vote for the position of Vice Chair and whether it could be completed via email.

6. Election of GSA Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee

This item could not be completed since it requires a decision and quorum was not reached.

7. Other Business

Question: Is it possible to send out items for approval so they may be approved via email instead of carried over to the next meeting?

Answer: Yes, it is allowed to do that for approval of minutes but not for the election/appointment of the Vice Chair.

Follow-up comment from the floor: information on nominations for the Vice Chair position should be emailed out to all graduate students, not just to the council members.

8. Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn at 1751 CST. *(Proulx-Cullen/Gannon)*

Carried

Next Meeting: August 11, 2022.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 2021	Oct.26 2021	Nov.23 2021	Dec.14 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2022	Jun. 2022	Jul. 2022
Physical and Engineering Physics - PEGASUS	Kimberlee Dube – Councillor Nicholas Simonson - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	A
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Jennifer Chami - Councillor Asiyah Suchak - Alternate	N/A	A	A	P	A	P	P	A	N/A	A
Plant Science	Sandesh Neupane – Councillor Adam Carter - Alternate	N/A		P	P	P	A	A	A	N/A	A
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Michael Tweten - Councillor Devin Wittow – Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	A
SENSA	Tatiana Corello - Councillor Jaclyn Porter - Councillor Rory Wheat - Alternate	N/A	P	A	A	A	P	P	A	N/A	A
SPHSA	Richa Tikoo - Cousellor	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	P
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	A	A	P	P	P	N/A	A
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo Councillor Eric Neil – Alternate	N/A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	A
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Jensen Cherewyk – Councillor Hannah Mahoney - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	A
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	N/A	A	A	P	A	P	P	A	N/A	A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 2021	Oct.26 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2022	Jun. 2022	Jul. 2022
Exec. President	Rifat Zahan	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	N/A	P
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mostafa Kamal	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Exec. VP External Affairs	Devin Cherneski	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Tina Alexis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2022, via Zoom

5:00 PM – 7:25 PM

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

Present: Mostofa Kamal (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Sristy Sumana Nath (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Ozra Mohammadi (Vice-President External Affairs).

Regrets: None

Absent: N/a

1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5 PM by GSA President Mostofa. Mostofa mentioned that VP External Affairs will serve as the recording secretary of meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of the June 2, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes

President Kamal asked whether the meeting minutes of June 2 is approved as circulated.

Motion: To approve the June 2 Executives meeting minutes

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP of Academic and Students Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

4. Items for Information / Discussion

4.1 Data collection about doctor's appointments cancelation or appointment timeline:

Mostofa mentioned: Unfortunately, at the University of Saskatchewan, there are no walking clinic opportunities compared to other Canadian universities. Thus, graduate students can not visit doctors at the university wellness center without prior appointments. No Walking clinic is available within walking distance from the University. More frustratingly, the waiting time for a doctor appointment is, on average, 4 to 6 weeks; thus, most of the time, students need to visit a doctor outside of the University, which is time-consuming and uncomfortable during the harsh winter conditions. The GSA president discussed this issue at the University Council meeting on June 16, 2022. Professor Jay Wilson, Interim Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, agreed to work with GSA about this issue in the coming days. The GSA President will raise this issue again at the university council in Fall if no measure is taken to improve the conditions. VP Academic and Student Affairs, Sristy stated that in winter, many students face serious challenges who don't have a car to visit the walking clinic. Even during school days, a student cannot go to the wellness center for medical urgency. Sristy proposed a student survey to know the graduate students' difficulties with student wellness center facilities. VP external affairs Ozra Mohammadi also emphasized the need for a student survey to identify students' issues at the university wellness center. She also cautioned that a lack of health care professionals is known provincially. Thus, she emphasized the need for solid advocacy work so that the GSA voice can reach the university administration. VP Finance, Ehsan Moradi, said that irrespective of the fear of failure, the GSA team needs to advocate, and GSA shouldn't care about the results at the beginning. The GSA must try and work hard to do their best.

4.2 Meeting update with the dean of CGPS

The GSA president mentioned that the GSA has been receiving too many academic misconduct issues recently. The GSA is working CGPS in finding ways to minimize academic misconduct issues faced by graduate students. Currently, the ethics course is not mandatory to the graduate program; thus, many international students are falling to academic misconduct issues during course

work. Mostafa suggested that plagiarism training should be mandatory for all regular students, and they should complete it within two weeks after starting their program and stepping on within their start the Program. President Mostofa and VP Academic and Student Affairs Sristy will work toward drafting a motion and present that motion at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting in September 2022. VP Academic and Student Affairs, Sristy, will give a brief presentation about the importance of the ethics course in the fall orientation event to remind students to complete the course as soon as possible. During President Mostofa's meeting with the dean of CGPS also discussed mandatory parental leave (who decided to become a parent during their history, they will get parental benefits, right now, they got nothing) and minimum guaranteed funding (at least the minimum wage salary of Saskatchewan which is approximately \$22,500) for thesis-based graduate programs.

4.3 Potential meeting with VP of University Relation

GSA Executive will meet and greet with VP of University Relation on August **26, 2022**. All GSA executives will attend the meeting.

4.4 Executive meeting minute submission timeline

As per the GSA By-laws, the VP of external affairs will serve as record secretary in executives' meetings. The record secretary will send meeting minutes within 4 days after the executive meeting date to all GSA executives. The VP Finance and Operations and VP Academic and student affairs will receive one day each for reviewing the meeting minutes. The GSA president will review meeting minutes after all executives complete their review. The GSA president will ensure that a draft copy of the executive meeting minutes is uploaded following GSA By-laws.

4.5 GSA executive monthly report submitted to the president

Monthly report that summarizes the overall work of the GSA and all the attended meetings should be submitted to the GSA chair 7 days before the GSA council meeting. And the president should be CCed to the email.

4.6 Meeting with new CGPS Indigenous Graduate Student Coordinator

President Mostofa informed the executives that the CGPS has recently appointed a new Indigenous Graduate Student Coordinator who expressed her interest to meet and greet GSA executives. Thus,

Mostofa requested all executives to mention a suitable time for a meeting. Then GSA President will fix a date for meeting with CGPS Indigenous Graduate Student Coordinator and notify all executives in the coming weeks.

4.7 A New Rotary Club on Campus

Prior to the closing of the campus following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a club started by a group of graduate students – the Satellite Club of Rotary Club of Saskatoon-Nutana. This was registered as an organization with GSA and met at the GSA Commons. However, the pandemic forced it to cease all of its activities. If there is sufficient interest now, it can be revived.

4.8 Attending GSA commons events

The GSA common events should be covered by all executives. The list of booking events would be available for executives to attend their available date.

4.9 GSA Bursary Spring/Summer

Ehsan Moradi: this year GSA received more than 150 need-based bursary applications. The bursary committee hope to publish the results by Monday, July 11, 2022 after the final bursary committee meeting. Mostofa Kamal mentioned that sometime bursary committee fail to follow bursary schedule due to many reasons. Thus, upon discussion the GSA executives agreed that VP of finance and operations, as the bursary chair, can extend the bursary schedule one more week if needed provided that Ehsan will immediately notify his extension decision to the GSA President and GSA office manager so that this information can be updated on the GSA website.

4.10 Swag bag items finalize for Fall orientation 2022

VP Academic and Student Affairs, Sristy had provided a document to executives with some sorted items and their total price. Then, all executives finalized few items for swag bag including water bottle, stress reliever, bag. To ensure better quality swag bag items with limited orientation budge, a limited number if items will be included in the fall 2022 orientation. and finally, we decided to provide less items with high quality. Sristy will contact our brand partner to order those items for orientation.

Sristy will finalized the color and size of t-shirts for volunteers and executives following the meeting week.

4.11 Handbook template and contents

1. Footer:

“UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN GRADUATE STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION”-
“www.gsa.usask.ca” instead of date and time- every other page.

2. On page 2: GSA EXECUTIVES COMMITTEE,

The executives agreed to include pictures of the GSA executives in the first two rows and GSA office manager in the 3rd row.

3. Page 10-12: GSA SERVICES, it’s suggested to have all the services as bullets on page 10 and their description on the following pages.

Adjournment of Meeting

Meeting was adjourned by Mostofa Kamal at 7:23 pm.



Monthly Activity Report of GSA President, August 2022

Dear Council Members,

Please find the President's monthly activity summary from July 7, 2022, to August 07, 2022, as listed below.

1. Consultation meeting with a graduate student regarding conflict with Ph.D. supervisor.

A Ph.D. student asked for consultation help from the GSA when the student was asked to convert Ph.D. into an MSc program. The GSA executive met the graduate student and provided detailed consultation help to that graduate student. Because of the confidentiality agreement, the GSA president can not discuss further details.

2. Representing GSA at the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board

The GSA president attended an academic misconduct hearing board to ensure that the accused student did not find himself/herself isolated at the hearing board.

3. GSA Executive Monthly Meeting, July 7, 2022

The GSA executives met for the monthly meeting on July 7, 2022. Please find attached July monthly meeting minutes in the GSA council agenda package.

Regards,

Mostofa Kamal

President

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Report from the VP Finance and Operations (July 2022)

Hello GSA Councilors,

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

1. GSA Summer Bursary Update

We started working on the GSA Spring/Summer bursary application. We received more than 150 applications. This year after many discussions and communications, we selected 25 applicants, which is a 40% increase compared to last year. We tried to select applications that are in most financial need, which that proved by the support of the amazing feedback.

2. GSA Commons and GSA operations

GSA has been working fully functional with serving graduate students. The GSA commons has been open to students as an amazing study space. We also accommodate events as a source of income for the GSA. We had constructive meetings with StudentCare and were able to increase the quality of the health and dental care quality of service.

3. GSA Events

As VP of Finance and Operations, I have been working with other executives to be prepared for the GSA Fall and Winter events like the orientations.

Additionally, I continue to sit on various committees to improve the graduate students' experiences both on and off campus. Some of the meetings that I attended as part of my responsibilities are listed below:

Meetings

Executive Retreat Meeting

PRT/PEC/USSU/GSA Meeting

Studentcare

GSA-PSAC

Student Affairs and Services

ISSAC-GSA

Mental Health First Aid

Meeting with the City of Saskatoon

GSA Executive Meeting

Multiple meetings with outgoing VP Finance

Please feel free to contact me at gsa.fin@usask.ca should you have any questions or need any further clarification.

Sincerely,

Ehsan Moradi

Vice-President Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association

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Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from July 04, 2022, to July 31, 2022, as listed below:

1. Advocacy to one student for Academic misconduct allegation: July 6, 2022

I discussed with the student about the allegation in-person and suggested some information on how to face the hearing board. Our GSA president was the student volunteer in this allegation hearing board. The hearing board was on 26 July 2022.

2. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: July 7, 2022

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

3. Order swag bag items for Fall orientation 2022:

We ordered swag bags and gifts for new students. And we discussed in our executive meeting how we promote our orientation day to the new grad students.

4. Application evaluation for Summer/Spring 2022 Bursary: July 6-10, 2022

I evaluated some applications for GSA Summer/Spring 2022 Bursary.

5. Meeting with Usask Fall Welcome Team: July 28, 2022

We discussed all the events about Fall Welcome. We requested to add our GSA orientation program in the university calendar.

6. Preparing presentation for Jumpstart:

We will arrange a 'Meet your GSA' session in JumpStart event on August 19, 2022. This will be one-hour online session to meet new grad students.

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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July 2022

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my first report to Council:

1) 2022-23 Student Handbook

The 2022-23 Student Handbook for GSA orientation is completed for printing and will be ready for delivery at the end of August.

2) Recording meetings

The meeting minutes of GSA executive by-weekly meetings of July 7, 2022, was prepared.

3) Meetings/Events

The following is a list of meetings I have attended since I have elected:

Date	Meetings/Events
July 7, 2022	GSA Executives by-weekly Meeting
July 14, 2022	GSA Council Meeting

Regards,

Ozra Mohammadi.

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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