



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 8th, 2022; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: GSA Commons and Online

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. Guest Speaker: presentation by the Science Librarian		<i>Information</i>
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes	2-36	
4.1 GSA Executive Meeting Minutes May 8, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
4.2 GSA Executive Meeting Minutes June 2, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
4.3 GSA Executive Meeting Minutes July 7, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
4.4 GSA Executive Meeting Minutes August 04, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
4.5 GSA Executive Meeting Minute September 19, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
4.6 GSA Executive Meeting Minutes October 9, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
4.7 GSA Executive Meeting Minutes October 24, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
4.8 GSA Council Meeting Minutes November 10, 2022,		<i>Decision</i>
5. GSA Executives Reports	37-46	
5.1 President's Report		<i>Information</i>
5.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report		<i>Information</i>
5.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
5.4 Vice President External Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
5.5 Questions & Answers		
6. Other Business		<i>Information</i>
7. Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

GSA Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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 - 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 GSA president, Mostofa Kamal, at 7:23 pm and moved by VP Finance and Operation.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association
Executive Meeting Agenda
Aug 04th, 2022
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), Sristry Sumana Nath (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Ozra Mohammadi (Vice-President External Affairs).

Guest: Huzzatul Khan

Regrets: None

Absent: N/a

Land Acknowledgement: The GSA president started the meeting with land acknowledgement.

5. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by GSA President Mostofa Kamal.

6. Approval of July 7, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes

President Kamal asked whether the meeting minutes of July 7, 2022 is approved as circulated.

Motion: To approve the July 7, 2022, Executives meeting minutes

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP of students' affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

7. Items for Information / Discussion

7.1 Bangladeshi Students' Association request for budget:

President Kamal started to explain the founding support to each association and academic council. Each group could request a maximum of 500\$ per year. Also, declare the conflict of interest of Mostafa and Sristy as they are from Bangladesh. So, they couldn't vote for the decision. But they could ask questions.

Then, the Bangladeshi Students' association president explained the event to the education team. the program started at five o'clock and we started late 60 people in there and then some people were coming in and out some people, so we can say around 70 people. more than 70% of the member is graduate students. We also invited our alumni and also undergrad students who are also a member of our association, so you those like 70 or 80 people.

As the number and the final ceremony around 9:30 pm on the same day followed by a dinner, it was like dinners and cold drinks and supplies.

He was asked to provide the total expenses including their receipts which he mentioned were 900\$ in total spent for food and gym rental.

Funding request received: July 18, 2022

Motion: The founding of 500\$ for the Bangladeshi students' association

Moved: Ehsan
Second: Ozra

7.2 Meeting with residence manager and his team (for info)

Mostafa mentioned since the September University of Saskatchewan will return to totally in person. So, all the rooms are booked in campus buildings. The office for each building is required to be opened and offer whole services and communicate with students about their issues. All executives need to attend the first meeting but for the next meetings, Sristy and Mostafa will attend.

7.3 Meeting with Student wellness center coordinator (for info)

President Kamal mentioned issues related to the Wellness Center including the Number of employees which is not as the number of pre-pandemics.

7.4 GSA council in-person meeting at GSA commons (discussion)

From September all council meetings will be in-person at the same time as scheduled. For attendees, food and drinks will be served before the meeting. The meeting is open to all general students.

7.5 Call for Fall orientation volunteer (discussion)

5 volunteers are needed for the fall orientation event. Mostafa will email the student on the volunteer list about the volunteer positions. It will be shared on social media as well.

7.6 Identifying issues to take to the Canadian Federation of Students CFS (discussion)

VP external affairs will attend the CFS meetings.

Issues:

- Increase scholarships: increase the amount and number of scholarships. The number of graduate students increased from ... to 44000, but scholarships haven't changed yet.
- Differential tuition for international master's students. Make a policy to usask can't increase tuition more than 1.5 times for international students.; it will affect the number of students coming to usask.

7.7 GSA executive required in-person meeting attendance to various university communities starting from Fall (discussion)

All meetings will be in-person. If any executive couldn't attend let the others know to attend on behalf of them. Accept meeting invitations to have it on your calendar.

7.8 Approval of July executive meeting minutes

Motion: Approval of July executive meeting minutes

Moved: Ehsan

Seconder: Sristy

7.9 Schedule discussion for Fall'22 Orientation

- Sristy will provide program details,
- Orientation just for fall coming students (100 grad students are allowed due to GSA Commons Space limit)
- Swag bag for total 250 grad students (new and current students)

Registration page for orientation and swag bag items will be announced in the August newsletter.

7.10 One-hour GSA session in the JumpStart program about

- Aug 19, 2022
- Sristy will make a presentation; all executives are welcome to attend

Adjournment of Meeting

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

Move: Ehsan

Seconder: Sristy



I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Bi-weekly Meeting Sep 19, 2022

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Ozra Mohammadi, Sristy Sumana Nath, Ehsan Moradi

The meeting started at 8:40 am

Land Acknowledgement: The GSA president started the meeting with land acknowledgement. The agenda of the meeting is approved.

Moved: Sristy

Secunder: Ehsan

Items for Action/Discussion:

1. Tuition fee installation process re-starting

Sristy Sumana: The University is open fully. But still, the tuition fee isn't possible to pay in installing process.

Ehsan Moradi: They will pay only twenty-five dollars as a penalty at the end of the semester for paying the tuition late. before they had to pay fifty dollars for having that installment as a So basically, it's the same.

The only difference between these two plans is that people will face luck on their accounts.

Mostofa: If they don't pay their whole tuition, by the end of the semester they must pay like one hundred dollars for interest.

The reason for this, the university says that we need to hire a few employees to do the installment process while only less than 20% of students would like to use this service. So, the plan was canceled and students can do it y themselves by paying an interest rate instead of the service fee.

2. Bus route for 81 and 82 no. bus

Buses number 81 and 82 used to come to place real on campus. after covid 19 they changed the route and just stop at the college dr bus station. Now, students in residence in Cumberland are complaining about paying the u-pass fee while they couldn't use a bus to commute to the university.

3. TA hiring process

Sristy: Students are complaining about the TA hiring process that the TA positions are given to

students that have experience and there are some students that have not been successful to take any TA.

Mostofa: this issue will be discussed with Debby, CGPS dean first.

4. Residents office services

5. Two graduate students nominated for the College of Agriculture and Bioresources Faculty Council for 2022-23

6. GSA Executive Monthly report (re-visit) to GSA Chair and President

Mostofa asked executives to CC him while sending their monthly reports to the GSA chair as the president should include all executives' activities in his report to CGPS.

7. VP Indigenous and Engagement Election

There is someone new volunteer for VP Indigenous and Engagement position in GSA executives. As it is more than 4 months, we have to follow the exact traditional election process. The election process must be done by a new election committee which will be ready probably late October.

8. GSA Research Symposium advertisement (want to move to Oct-November from February-March)

9. Research Communication Workshop February 2023

10. 3MT March

11. GSA bursary

The GSA bursary application will be open on Oct 3rd and it will be closed in 2 weeks. But for the election process, it will be done in the new bursary committee in probably late October.

12. Approval of August 4, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes

President Kamal asked whether the meeting minutes of August 4,2022 is approved as circulated.

Motion: To approve the August 4,2022, Executives meeting minutes

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP of students' affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

Adjournment of Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am and moved by VP Finance and Operation.



I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Bi-weekly Meeting Oct 9, 2022

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Ozra Mohammadi, Sristy Sumana Nath, Ehsan Moradi

The meeting started at 9:10 am

Land Acknowledgement: The GSA president started the meeting with land acknowledgement. The agenda of the meeting is approved.

Moved: Sristy

Secunder: Ehsan

Items for Action/Discussion:

- **Grad Students' (Ph.D.) funding amount is decreasing because the university reduced tuition fees**

Sristy Sumana:

I received some emails from students (PhD students) that they are facing challenges with their funding amount, because university decrease their tuition fees for that reason their professors also decrease their funding amount.

Mostofa Kamal: I am planning to discuss this matter with CGPS Dean Debby in the upcoming meeting with the President. if the professor cuts the funding, because now international students are paying the same tuition as domestic, but at the end of the day, they have a different amount of money in their hands, so it is not fair. I will emphasize the need for the fact that all faculty member goes through the enter the system for their efficient training.

- **Gala 2023 date**

The date to hold the Gala event is decided to be after the university final exam, because all university and supervisors will be busy, on April 22nd -29th, 2023.

- **GSA Council Meeting type (hybrid)**

After the last council meeting, lots of emails are received regarding hybrid option of meeting. The problem to hold the meeting in a hybrid mood we don't have the facility like a camera and microphone for those attendees via zoom to recognize who is speaking. So, we need to buy some instrument which will take time to buy and install. So, maybe until November we couldn't provide the option to join via zoom.

Motion: purchasing special Camera for GSA common for Hybrid meetings

Move: Ehsan

Secunder: Mostofa

Approved.

- **Fall Convocation Attendance by GSA executives (November 1st week)**

The plan for the event will be sent to executives once the president received the full schedule. Each executive should select their available time to attend one session of the event.

12. Approval of September 19, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes

President Kamal asked whether the meeting minutes of September 19,2022 is approved as circulated.

Motion: To approve the September 19,2022, Executives meeting minutes

Moved: VP of students' affairs

Secundered: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favor,

Motion Carried.

Adjournment of Meeting: Meeting was adjourned by GSA president, Mostofa Kamal, at 10 am and moved by VP of students' affairs.



I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Bi-weekly Meeting Oct 24, 2022

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Ozra Mohammadi, Sristy Sumana Nath, Ehsan Moradi,

Guests: Mahesh Rachehel , shugi Ren, Priyanka

The meeting started at 5:00 pm

Land Acknowledgement: The GSA president started the meeting with land acknowledgement.

1. Approval of CSGC's GSA commons booking fees waiver

Mostofa: Mostofa described the CSGC's condition. This academic council was not ratified when they organized the research fest. And also, they were failed to form the new executive members (2022-23) on time.

Move: Mostofa

Secunder: Ozra

2. Finding request approval: EGCC

Priyanka: I'm Priyanka and I'm. Recently elected as the Vice President. Finance of Uh: engineering graduate Community Council. Actually, the previous Vice President of Finance has to discuss all the details about the recent conference that has happened. But, he went to a chemical engineering conference in Vancouver. So, I am presenting the details on behalf of him. I am not present uh present while organizing this conference, but he just shared the details with me, and I want to share the proposal with you.

Priyanka, VP of finance, proposed the funding request with the expense details and event details. All documents were shared with the GSA VP finance.

31 attendees.

Mostofa: Was this conference open to all engineering students?

Priyanka: Yes, open for engineering grad students. However, the participants percentage was very low of Electrical and computer science engineering. Because that department grad students required almost 2-2.5 years to develop a mature project, comparatively easy for chemical engineering students.

Approval to give 500\$ funding:

Move: Ozra

Secunder: Ehsan

Approved.

3. BGC funding request approval

Shuqi Ren: I will give a brief proposal for the BGC Barbecue social we held last month. So it is a barbecue social event for all biology graduate students, and it was held on Thursday, September 29, from four to seven Pm. At the GSA Commons there were roughly thirty graduate students who attended the event, and what we did is we hoped to connect students from the Biology Department by floating this event, and we provided food and drinks and made a barbecue on spot for all attending students. The attendees socialized and ate with each other, and we also have some activities while listening to music and play, some trivia games the total cost for this event including the food, water, plates, utensils, et cetera. added up together is 315.06\$ three hundred and fifteen point zero, six dollars.

The event news was circulated to all grad students in the department via email and poster.

Attendees were PhD and Master students.

They will provide receipts for the costs.

Mostofa Kamal: Do you organize this event every year?

Shuqi Ren: Good question. I believe we hope to do it every year.

Ozra Mohammadi: Do you have another source of funding?

Mahesh Rachamalla: for now, Only GSA. We don't have any funding, and we are trying to get something from the professors if we do some events in the future.

Ehsan Moradi: please send all your receipt with an explanation of which each receipt belongs to what expense and everything to me.

Mostofa proposed to give entire funding from GSA.

Move: Ehsan

Secunder: Sristy

Approved.

4. Convocation ceremony attendance

Ehsan will attend the morning session on the first day and Mostofa the afternoon session on November 9, 2022.

5. Waiver of GSA commons renting fees for TEDx Women watching party

Mostofa:

Mover: Ehsan

Secunder: Sristy

Approved.

6. approval camera purchase.

Ehsan: I purchased a conference camera with too many X optical zoom, because this is big, so I need a twenty X. At least we can see the main person who's talking. Let's hope that it's working because I. It's just a middle-range camera. Not very good, not very bad. Now, it ended with 582.75\$ this is an automatic camera that moves and tracks the sound of the person who is speaking, and we can connect it to zoom to do the hybrid meeting.

7. Approval of October 9, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes

President Kamal asked whether the meeting minutes of October 9,2022 is approved as circulated.

Motion: To approve the October 9,2022, Executives meeting minutes

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP of students' affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

Adjournment of Meeting: Meeting was adjourned by GSA president, Mostofa Kamal, at 5:43 pm and moved by VP of students' affairs.



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 10, 2022. GSA Commons

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

Chair: Sadia Afrin Lema

Recording Secretary: MD. Abrar Jahin

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package and posted on GSA website as well. The Chair of Council officially welcomed Members of Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM after quorum for the meeting had been met. MD. Abrar Jahin, the Recording Secretary compiled the meeting minutes.

*Motion to approve agenda without any amendment(s)
(Mostafa Kamal/Ayat Zagzoog)*

2. Approval of Agenda

*Motion to approve agenda without any amendment(s)
(Gwen Rose / Ehsan Moradi)
All in support – 9 in person, 6 online*

Carried

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

3.1 Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes October 13, 2022

Approval of amended agenda
*(Mostafa/ Sumana Nath)
All in support – 7 in person, 5 online*

Carried

3.2 Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022

Approval of amended agenda
*(Mostafa/ Sumana Nath)
All in support – 6 in person, 4 online*

Carried

4. GSA Executives Report

4.1 GSA President's Report

The President starts his report by apologizing that he could not submit written report. He reassured that they will try to start these meetings in hybrid form, however some equipment / instruments just arrived this week. Unfortunately, because of malfunction they needed to return the equipments. He also mentioned that the current committee is trying to speak to University senate. Members are strongly supporting GSA advocacy work. This is a big support from the senate members. He also stated that he attended Canadian Association Federation Meeting – where he is trying to increase the scholarship funding. He advocated for people with disabilities – proposing that disability grant starts from atleast \$2000 till \$10,000. CFS will advocate after the graduation – and some will get good jobs. Disabled students will also pay less debts – certain number of disabled students will be compensated even upto full amount. The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. The president requested councillors to read the agenda package with advocacy items to improve service and suggest issues of priority concern of students to be incorporated in the list. There were no questions for the President at this time.

Any questions for the President may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.pres@usask.ca

4.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report

The VP Finance & Operation started his report by mentioning that they started working on Fall bursary – where 85 students had eligible applications. They will start working as soon possible and hopefully receive money from CGPS. They purchased security camera and technologies for hybrid meeting for GSA common, however the microphone isn't working currently. He hopes that there will be a good one for the next meeting. 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 additional questions for the VP Finance may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.fin@usask.ca

4.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report

The VP Academic and Student Affairs started her report that as her portfolio she had gone several meeting with students , however those wouldn't be disclosed for confidentiality. They have discussed to open lounge and other facilities. They discussed about residency, maternity leave, etc. In January they will organise a winter orientation program for the students.

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 Academic and Student Affairs may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.sa@usask.ca

4.4 Vice President External Affairs Report

The VP External Affairs started her report by stating that she had discussion with Minister of Education, Saskatchewan. She worked on bus pricing issues and bus numbers. She mentioned that a specific route discontinued in service, which created problems for students for Cumberland, so she is requesting Transit to change it to a favourable route. 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 External Affairs may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.external@usask.ca

4.5 Questions & Answers

There were no additional questions at this time.

5. Ratification of GSA Standing Committee

The chair stated that they needed few more council members for some of the committees. A single committee could consist of maximum of 9 members – including one executive member, for all committees. A question was asked whether the positions are supposed to be online or in person? It was answered that it depends on the work of the committee and will be determined by the chair of the committee.

5.1 Budget and Finance Committee

The committee consisted of 1 council member (Loza Taghavi) and 4 general members (Derek Cameron, Arunav Nayak, Kapil Khandelwal, Mahzad Pourmand). No one else was called for any additional position in this committee.

5.2 Bursary Committee

The committee initially consisted of 1 council member (Fazel Anvari Yazdi, Abbas) and 3 general members (Lecia Ellis, Himen Salimizzand & Rachel Bello). The chair called for one more council member to join this committee. Ayat Zagzoog volunteered to join the committee.

(Gwen

Rose/Mostafa)

Votes : Yes = 7 (In-person) + 5 (Online) & No = 0

5.3 Election and referenda Committee

The committee initially consisted of no council member and 6 general members (Adam George, Kaneta Eya Lam Lam, Md Sabbir Ahmed, John Malyk, Samira Poorsadeghi and Sandhya Chandran). The chair called for one council member to join this committee. Nicholas Simonson volunteered to join the committee. One more additional general member position could be filled.

Votes : Yes = 7 (In-person) + 5 (Online) & No = 0

5.4 Governance Committee

The committee initially consisted of no council member and 5 general members (Khaled Zoroufchi Benis, Sajjad Esmaeili Aghdam, Avery Kewistep, Adam George and Hussein Khachab). The chair called for one council member to join this committee. However no one volunteered to join this committee.

Votes : Yes = 7 (In-person) + 5 (Online) & No = 0

5.5 Code of Ethics Committee

The committee consisted of one council member (Elyse Proulx-Cullen) and 7 general members (Leslie Macas, Emmanuel Aniagbaoso, Kaneta Eya Lam Lam, Meaghan Boily, John Malyk, Leah Brown and Nahin Shakurun). There was no position left to be filled in this committee.

Votes : Yes = 5 (In-person) + 5 (Online) & No = 0

5.6 Awards Selection Committee

The committee consisted of one council member (Fazel Anvari Yazdi, Abbas) and 5 general members (Md. Akhtarul Islam, Summer Selinger, Samuel Agyekum, Lauren Aubrey and Jessica Lam). There was no position left to be filled in this committee.

Votes : Yes = 7 (In-person) + 5 (Online) & No = 0

Awards Selection Committee

Yes: 7 (In-person) + 5 (Online)

No: 0

5.7 Sustainability Committee

The committee initially consisted of no council member and 6 general members (Teresa Aguiar, Shahab Minaei, Immanuela O. Ezugba, Mahesh Rachamalla, Gopesh Patel and Michelle Vargas Fernandez). The chair called for one council member to join this committee. However no one volunteered to join this committee.

Votes : Yes = 7 (In-person) + 5 (Online) & No = 0

5.8 Diversity Committee

The committee initially consisted of no council member and 6 general members (Monidipa Saha, Chinenye Nnajide, Josephine Rybchuk, Avery Kewistep, Kaneta Eya Lam Lam and Meaghan Boily). The chair called for one council member to join this committee. Daniel Cormier (attending the session online) volunteered to join this committee.

Votes : Yes = 7 (In-person) + 5 (Online) & No = 0

Carried

6. Other Business

The president responded by acknowledging and sharing the concerns raised. He also mentioned that some of those have applied for multiple committees – only one position is guaranteed – for other committees it will be secondary. GSA always try to give chances to every members – this is one of the reason for getting one position. Whoever has sent email, no one is left out, which is a good news. Starting from tomorrow, list of committee will be shared. He also thanked everyone for volunteering for different positions in committees.

He reassured council members that the GSA is making arrangements to conduct a hybrid council meeting; they have ordered the appropriate equipment needed to do so. He also added that according to university policies, members who attended the meeting online will not be given voting rights. However, the policies are evolving and they hope to be online by December 2023.

The Vice President Finance & Operations also reminded the council members to offer feedback in a constructive manner. He apologized for last month's meeting getting delayed by twenty minutes and thanked council members for their patience.

The President reminded the council of the need for regular and council members for the Bursary Standing Committee. Applications cannot be reviewed until a standing committee is formed. Expressions of Interest (EOI) may be submitted to the Chair mentioning which committee the member wants to sit on.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 5:59 pm.

(Nicholas Simonson)

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Aug. 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	Jun 2023
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association		P	N/A	N/A	A						
Animal and Poultry Science		P	N/A	P	P						
ARCHAIA		A	N/A	P	P						
Biology Graduate Student Association	Shuqi Ren – Councillor Kayla Caruso – Alternate	A	P	P	P						
Chemistry Course Council		P	N/A	N/A	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Arshdeep Jagait – Councillor Kundanika Mukherjee (Alternate)	A	R	P	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society –Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Maddie Stewart – Councillor Rachel Harris- Alternate	A	R	P	Regrets						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon – Councillor Emilia Gillies - Alternate	P	N/A	P	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councillor Fabrice N. Njotu – Alternate	P	N/A	P	P						
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji – Councillor Naz Zarreen Oishie – Councillor Pujitha Macha – Alternate	A	N/A	N/A	P						

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	Jun 2023
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological		A	N/A	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical		A	N/A	P	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical		A	N/A	A	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental		P	N/A	N/A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer		P	N/A	P	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical		A	N/A	P	A						
English Course Council	Dara Gerbrandt – Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Amanda Burrows - Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Geography & Planning Graduate Council		A	N/A	N/A	A						
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association		A	N/A	N/A	A						
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Danielle Cormier Kevin Mageto (Alternate)	A	N/A	P	P						

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	Jun 2023
Physical and Engineering Physics - PEGASUS	Nicholas Simonson – Councillor Yasaman Yousefi - Alternate	P	P	P	P						
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Sarah Crawford Ayat Zagzoog	P	N/A	P	P						
Plant Science	Brianna Senetza – Councillor Kaylie Krys - Alternate	A	P	P	Regrets						
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Joanna Lavoie - Councillor Henry Francisco – Alternate	A	P	P	A						
SENSSA		A	N/A	N/A	A						
SPHSA		A	N/A	N/A	A						
Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman - Councillor Grace Rath -Alternate Leah Houseman – Alternate Devin Prachler – Alternate Sara Leavin - Alternate	A	P	P	P						
Soil Science Graduate Student Association		regrets	N/A	P	A						
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Hannah Mahoney – Councillor Emily Kennedy - Alternate	A	P	A	P						
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	P	N/A	N/A	A						

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	Jun 2023
Exec. President	Mostafa Kamal	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP External Affairs	Ozra Mohammadi	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						



GSA President's Report (November-December 2022) to GSA Council Members

Dear GSA Council Members,

Please find the GSA President's monthly activity summary from November 11, 2022, to December 2, 2022, as listed below in order of importance of the activities.

1. Internet Disruption at McEown park residence building

Graduate students living at the University of Saskatchewan McEown Park Residences building faced severe internet disruption in the first two weeks of November, negatively affecting graduate students' lives and well-being, including studies and research activities, as many graduate students are still doing their work from home. The Internet disruption started when the residents introduced a new internet service for the residential buildings. Students were not notified about this internet service change on time, nor were they consulted. Many graduate students informed the GSA that they had to contact the residence office liaison upon failure to connect to the internet to know about the issue. After reaching the residence office, they learned about the new internet network and password, which is unacceptable. The GSA firmly believes that all students should have communicated in advance about the internet network change and the potential disruption that results from the change. The GSA president worked with top-level university administration to resolve the internet issues, but there are outstanding issues. The GSA will discuss the outstanding issues in the upcoming President's Executive Council Meeting scheduled on December 8, 2022.

2. Meeting with the dean of CGPS about GSA's 2022-2023 funding proposal.

The GSA president met the dean of CGPS to discuss GSA's 2022-2023 fiscal year funding proposals. The dean agreed to fund GSA's research conference, Annual GALA events, and funding for the need-based bursary. The dean reminded me that the graduate studies office organizes the

three-minute thesis competition (3MT) at other universities; thus, the CGPS wants to take the lead in organizing the event at the University of Saskatchewan. Considering the logistical issues and financial uncertainty, the GSA agreed to hand over the responsibility of managing the 3MT event from GSA to CGPS in 2023. The GSA will remain a partner with the CGPS to organize the event.

3. Monthly meeting of GSA President and Dean of CGPS (November 29, 2022)

The GSA president met the dean of CGPS and discussed the following items:

- a. Funding for a research communication workshop
- b. Graduate housing issues
- c. Holiday hangout event
- d. Food security faced by graduate students
- e. Service improvement at the Student Wellness Centre

4. Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting. November 23, 2022

The GSA president attended the university's Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting, where a report was presented about the University of Saskatchewan's world ranking measured by different assessment agencies, including the Time Higher Education Ranking, QS worlds university ranking, and the Time Higher Education Sustainability Ranking. The GSA president conveyed concern about the University of Saskatchewan's continuous decline among the world universities and urged to identify areas for improvement and take necessary steps for ranking improvement.

5. CGPS Executive & Coordinating Committee Meeting, November 10, 2022

The GSA president attended the CGPS Executive & Coordinating Committee Meeting chaired by the dean of CGPS, Professor Debby Burshtyn. It is a meeting where the chair of different academic committees of the university update about their ongoing activities. The GSA president updated the monthly activities of the GSA. The GSA president requested the dean to propose the duration of maternity leave for the graduate students and the number of bursaries during the maternity leave period in a future meeting.

6. USFA External Committee/GSA/PSAC (November 15, 2022)

The GSA president attended a meeting hosted by the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) along with a representative from the Public Service Association of Canada. One of the key topics of discussion was the existing hourly rate of Teaching Assistant Payment. The GSA president strongly advocated increasing the rate of current TA rate, considering the recent increase in tuition fees and the skyrocketing inflation rate of living cost. Another topic of discussion was the introduction of paid maternity leave for graduate students. The USFA members strongly supported GSA's ongoing advocacy work about this issue and expressed their support to any policy forums of the university of Saskatchewan.

7. Bi-Weekly Mistatimōk Committee Meeting, November 15, 2022

The GSA president attended the 12. Bi-Weekly Mistatimōk Committee Meeting and the committee discussed program details about celebrating Luis Real Day on November 16, 2022. The GSA president emphasized the need to make University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students about the brave history of the Metis leader and the founding father of Manitoba, Luis Real. Professor Angela Jaime, Vice-Provost of Indigenous Engagement, complied with the GSA president's request and provided advertising material for the Luis Real day, which the GSA circulated across different GSA social media.

8. University Council Meeting November 17, 2022

The GSA president and VP of Academic and Student Affairs attended the monthly council meeting and conveyed concern about the internet disruption issue at the McEown park residence buildings. The GSA president also updated the council members about the Canadian Federation of Students' Annual general meeting activities, including advocacy for an increased federal grant for the disabled graduate student and debt pardon after graduation.

9. CGPS Faculty Council (GPSFC) Meeting, November 24, 2022

The GSA presidents and other executives attended the CGPS Faculty Council (GPSFC) Meeting. The associated dean of CGPS presented revised policies for graduate program completion. According to the revised policy, “time in the program for master's degrees change from five years to four years, unless otherwise stated for the specific program in University Catalogue (doctoral

programs remain unchanged at six years)." The GSA president asked for clarification about program completion time for the part-time and full-time graduate students. Currently, the University of Saskatchewan does not have any part-time graduate study opportunities; thus, the proposed policy will be universal for both part-time and full-time graduate students, provided that students with special issues will get an extension based on their needs. Dr. Nancy Turner gave a presentation about the University of Saskatchewan's current and future policies and priorities regarding Micro-Credential.

10. GSA Executive By-weekly Meeting, November 27 and December 1, 2022

- a) GSA Research Conference
- b) Fall bursary
- c) Holiday Hangout Event
- d) Winter Orientation
- e) GSA Gala
- f) Meeting update with Faculty council and PISAC
- g) World Cup Football Watch Party, December 18, 2022 (GSA will serve breakfast)
- h) Employment of international graduate students
- i) Residence Internet Issue

The detailed meeting minutes will be made available in the next council meeting.

Regards,

Mostofa Kamal

President

Mostofa Kamal

President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, SK, CANADA

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

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

I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.



Report from the VP Finance and Operations (November 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

GSA bursary committee is in the processing of the applications. The committee will finish the reviews by early next week.

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.

GSA recently released ratified clubs founds. We will serve other clubs as soon as they finish their ratification process.

As VP of Finance and Operations, I prepared the GSA coordinators contract and hired three coordinators from graduate students. The GSA coordinator will serve GSA from 4.30 until 7.30, Monday to Friday. Coordinators will give more hours to the student for using GSA common space. We also had a very constructive meeting with PEC and had a long conversation with University senior leader regarding master's and part-time graduate students' funding and tuition. We also keep asking the CGPS leader to provide us with more support through the GSA bursary. **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

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

Facebook: UsaskGSA | Twitter: GSA_USask | Instagram: GSA_Usask

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



Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from November 02, 2022, to November 30, 2022, as listed below:

1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: November 02 and 27, 2022

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

2. Meeting with Faculty Association: November 15, 2022

The GSA President and I met with Faculty Association members, **Lénaïc Couëdel**, Professor, Graduate Chair, Faculty Member in Physics & Engineering Physics, **Susan Fowler-Kerry**, Professor, College of Nursing, **Julita Vassileva**, Professor, Faculty Member in Computer Science, and Jesse Todd, Regional Representative Local 40004. We discussed about minimum funding issues, tuition fees hiking and maternity leave those are our priority advocacy awards.

3. Working on the residences' internet issues:

We received so many complaints about the introduction of the new internet service in McEown Park location. Students are not able to connect smart devices and desktop computers. The residence coordinator suggests using wired connection and purchasing the wifi devices. The GSA presented this issue in the university council meeting. We will try to set up a meeting with the residence team very soon.

4. Planning to organize Winter'23 orientation program:

The GSA executives fixed 12 January 2023 for organizing orientation program.

5. Meeting with CGPS Executive Officer: November 22, 2022

We discussed the organization plan for the 3MT competition. This year CGPS will take the lead in organizing it and the GSA will help them. Mostafa will share the previous year's 3MT plan. Also, we discussed the GSA holiday hangout event and Lori said she was able to manage some funding for this event.

6. Attended regular meetings of my portfolio:

- a. *Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee: November 06, 2022*
- b. *GSA Council Meeting: November 10, 2022*
- c. *Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee: November 15, 2022*
- d. *Academic Program Committee: November 16 & 29, 2022*
- e. *University council meeting: November 17, 2022*
- f. *CGPS Faculty Council (GPSFC) Meeting: November 24, 2022*
- g. *Graduate Programs Committee: November 29, 2022*
- h. *Graduate Academic Affairs Committee: November 30, 2022*

In this meeting, committee members discussed maternity benefits that are not provided by the university. Some colleges provide maternity benefits, but every graduate student should have the right to get this benefit for their hard time. The Dean of CGPS started planning and discussed with the higher authority about this matter.

7. Student advocacy related academic and non-academic issues:

- a. Academic issues with supervisor: **21 November 2022**
- b. Meeting about international grad students' employment issues: **15 November 2022**

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Nov 2022

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my report to the Council for Nov 2022:

1) **Gala event**

Preparing contracts for the Gala event, sponsorship emails, and invitation emails.

2) **Meeting minutes**

I have written meeting minutes for Nov 2, 2022 executives' bi-weekly meetings.

3) **Meetings/Events**

The following is a list of meetings I attended in Oct 2022:

Date	Meetings/Events
Nov 2, 2022	GSA Executives by-weekly meeting
Nov 10, 2022	GSA council meeting
Nov 24, 2022	CGPS Faculty Council (GPSFC) Meeting
Nov 24, 2022	Gala event planner (confirming new contract for Gala 2023)
Nov 27, 2022	GSA Executives' bi-weekly meeting
Dec 1, 2022	GSA Executives' bi-weekly meeting

Regards,

Ozra Mohammadi.

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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