



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, 202

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

Carried

1. GSA Executives Report

1.1 GSA President's Report

The President starts his report by apologizing that he could not submit written report. He reassured them 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 at least \$2000 till \$10,000. CFS at least advocate for the graduation – and some will get good jobs. Disabled students will also pay less debts – certain number of disabled students will be compensated even up to 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

1.2 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

1.3 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

1.4 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

1.5 Questions & Answers

There were no additional questions at this time.

2. 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.

2.1 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.

2.2 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

2.3 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

2.4 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

2.5 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

2.6 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

2.7 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

2.8 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

3. 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.

4. 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						