



**Graduate Students' Association –
University of Saskatchewan
Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 - Zoom
17:00 – 19:00**

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

#	Item	Page	Action
1	Call to Order		
2	Approval of the Agenda	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
3	Approval of Council Meeting Minutes - January 18, 2022	3-9	<i>Decision</i>
4	Guest Speaker: A. Robyn Paches, Program Manager, Studentcare		<i>Information</i>
5	Update: By-Election VP Indigenous Engagement		<i>Information</i>
6	Update: Upcoming Executives' Election		<i>Information</i>
7	Standing Committees Membership A. Status of Standing Committee Membership B. Appoint Council Member to Election & Referenda Committee		<i>Information Decision</i>
8	Information to be received Executive Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2022	10-14	<i>Decision</i>
9	Motion to approve auto-enrolment of graduate students in Winter term GSA Health and Dental		<i>Decision</i>

	Plan		
10	Motion to approve Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) fees increase by \$0.34 (from \$12.88 to \$13.22) according to Consumer Price Index (CPI)		<i>Decision</i>
11	Motion to approve U-Pass fees increase between \$1.68 - \$3.37 (from \$115.38 to between \$118.06 - \$119.31) according to Saskatchewan January 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI)		<i>Decision</i>
12	Executive Reports C. Report of the President D. Report of the VP Finance & Operations E. Report of the VP Academic & Student Affairs F. Report of the VP External Affairs	15-23	<i>Information</i> <i>Information</i> <i>Information</i> <i>Information</i>
13	Other Business/Announcements		<i>Information</i>
14	Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>

Next Meeting: March 15, 2022.



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 18, 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 January 18, 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: Hema Sandeep Navara
Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski

The Chair indicated his acknowledgement of his place zooming in from Treaty 4 land, home of the Cree, Saulteaux bands of the Ojibwa peoples and the Assiniboine, as he is situated/zooming in from Regina.

The Chair also welcomed anyone else joining from other traditional Treaty lands to share their Land Acknowledgement as a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

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 1705 CST. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Recording Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

Approval of the Agenda

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

The President noted four (4) changes within the agenda. The Chair and Recording Secretary noted the changes.

Motion to approve the amendments. (Dube/Cherneski)

Carried

Motion to approve the amended agenda. (Gerbrandt/Kamal)

Carried

2. 2020-21 Council Funding Cheques

Reminder for Council representatives to contact GSA office manager to pick up funding cheques.

3. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2021

The Chair asked if there were any suggested changes before the minutes were called for approval. There were none.

Motion to approve the December 14, 2021, meeting minutes. (Dube/Zahan)

Carried

4. GSA Graduate Student Research Conference

The Chair handed the floor to the GSA President who spoke about the upcoming conference for graduate students to share their work. Abstracts can now be submitted, and there is information on the GSA website. The President welcomes any questions and to reach out via email.

5. Information to be Received

Executive Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2021

Motion to approve the December 9, 2021, Executive Meeting Minutes. (Ezechukwu/Cherneski)

Carried

6. Information to be Received

Executive Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2022

Motion to approve the January 7, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes. (Cherneski/Boyes)

Carried

7. Update: By-Election VP Indigenous Engagement

The President provided the update for the By-Election of VP Indigenous Engagement. Until now there was no interest in the position for this term. There now remains only 3 (three) months left in the tenure for the GSA Executives tenure, so an election is not required, rather, if there is interest, someone can be appointed. There was an interested individual,

Susan Shacter, present at the meeting who expressed interest in the position and was invited to speak at this time on what would make her a good fit for the position. Susan spoke of her history and experience on what she would bring the council and position. After she spoke, the Chair invited attendees to ask questions at this time. There was one question for Susan from the President, which Susan responded to.

*Motion to appoint Susan Shacter to the position of VP Indigenous Engagement.
(Zahan/Kamal)*

Carried

8. Executive Reports

A. President's Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were numerous questions to the president about bus pass inclusion in tuition fees. These questions were jointly addressed by the President and the VP Academic & Student Affairs. The Chair indicated that since so many attendees were interested in this agenda item, individuals should email him prior to the next meeting so an item can be added to the next Council meeting, allowing for adequate time to discuss.

B. Vice President Finance & Operations Report:

The VP Finance & Operations was not in attendance at this meeting. The Chair indicated that any questions regarding his report from the prior month should be emailed to him.

C. Vice President Academic & Students Affairs Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. Questions for VP Academic & Student Affairs for this month should be emailed to the VP.

D. Vice President External Affairs Report:

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. Questions for VP External Affairs for this month should be emailed to the VP.

8. Other Business/Announcements

This conversation was preceded by many of the questions that were asked of the President following the report presented by the President. The other item was related to issues of distance and remote learning education. Questions and concerns regarding this should be sent to the President. In the interest of time, this item will be added to the agenda at the next Council meeting.

There was also a brief recap of the tuition meeting that took place earlier during the day of January 18, 2022. As well as the pursuance of a seat with the Board of Governors within the University. This item will also be included in the next Council meeting. Questions and concerns can be sent to the President or appropriate VP

before the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn at 1820 CST. *(Gannon/Cherneski)*

Carried

Next Meeting: February 15, 2022.

DRAFT

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 21, 2021	Oct. 26, 2021	Nov. 23, 2021	Dec. 14, 20 21	Jan. 18, 2022	Feb. 15, 2022	Mar. 15, 2022	Apr. 13, 2022 (AGM)	Jun. 2022	Aug. 2022
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Amy Carruthers – Councillor Michelle Ross-Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Animal and Poultry Science	Rachel Carey – Councillor Megan Wasden - Alternate			P	P	P					
ARCHAIA	Angela Burant - Councillor Bailey Pelletier - Alternate	N/A		P	P	A					
Biology Graduate Student Association	Jory Litt-Jukes – Councillor Mercy Harris – Alternate		P	P	P	P					
Chemistry Course Council	Iyanu Kumayon - Councillor Srikant Singh - Alternate	N/A	P		P	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kundanika Mukherjee – Councillor Arshdeep Jagait – Alternate	N/A		P	A	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Maddie Stewart – Councillor Rachel Harris- Alternate	N/A	P	P	A	A					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon – Councillor Emilia Gillies - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councillor Fabrice N. Njotu – Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	A					
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji – Councillor Naz Zarreen Oishie – Councillor Keyhan Najafian – Alternate		P	P	P	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Ninu Kallingal Mohandas – Councillor	N/A	P		P	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Abbas Fazel - Councillor Tochukwu Ezechukwu - Alternate	N/A	P		A	P					

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 21, 2021	Oct. 26, 2021	Nov. 23, 2021	Dec. 14, 20 21	Jan. 18, 2022	Feb. 15, 2022	Mar. 15, 2022	Apr. 13, 2022 (AGM)	Jun. 2022	Aug. 2022
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Shahab Minaei – Councillor Khaled Zoroufchi Benis - Alternate	N/A	P	P	A	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Fatima Abed Al Sater – Councillor Behdad Saed - Alternate	N/A			A	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Simin Keykhosravi – Councillor Sandhya Chandran - Alternate	N/A			P	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Justin Tricsli – Councillor Tonye Jack – Alternate	N/A		P	P	P					
English Course Council	Dara Gerbrandt –Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Amanda Burrows - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Fati Zahra Mubarak – Councillor Shehreen Fatima - Alternate	N/A	P		A	A					
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Natasha Boyes Mostat – Councillor Kelly Corrine Hall – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P					
Physical and Engineering Physics -PEGASUS	Kimberlee Dube – Councillor Nicholas Simonson - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Jennifer Chami - Councillor Asiyah Suchak - Alternate	N/A			P	P					
Plant Science	Sandesh Neupane – Councillor Adam Carter - Alternate	N/A		P	P	P					
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Michael Tweten - Councillor Devin Wittow – Alternate	N/A	P		P	P					
SENSA	Tatiana Corello - Councillor Jaclyn Porter - Councillor Rory Wheat - Alternate	N/A	P		A	A					
SPHSA	Samin Shirzadi – Councillor Richa Tikoo – Councillor Barsa Saha – Alternate Jasmin Ogren – Alternate	N/A			P	P					

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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					
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo - Councillor Eric Neil – Alternate	N/A	P		P	P					
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Jensen Cherewyk – Councillor Hannah Mahoney - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P					
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	N/A			P	A					

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



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

Jan 25, 2022

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

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests: Abbas Fazel and Das Divyapratim from the Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC).

Chair: Rifat Zahan (President)

Note Taker: Devin Cherneski (Vice-President External Affairs)

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 PM by GSA *President Zahan*.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

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

3. Approval of the last Executive Meeting Minutes

President Zahan asked whether there were any amendments to the last executive meeting minutes as circulated. VP External Affairs indicated draft minutes were circulated to executive for proof reading. Minutes from the December 9th, 2021, and January 7th, 2022.

Motion: To approve executive meeting minutes from December 9th, 2021, and Jan 7th, 2022.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

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

4. Items for discussion

4.1 Black History Month

VP External Affairs attended a Black History Month (BHM) on Jan 20, 2022, with representation from the USSU and other stakeholders. Lots of excitement and energy for the upcoming month which opens up February 2, 2022. Some activities include discussion panel, coffee house, guest speakers, BHM website, and ongoing social media communication to help with the promotions.

The VP External Affairs is representing the GSA and asked for any suggestions and ideas from the executive team. More details to follow in the next couple weeks.

4.2 U-Pass

The GSA executives have had numerous discussions with many university stakeholders including the city of Saskatoon bus transit group discussing the current and upcoming summer contract negotiations. Discussions have also surrounded defining terms ‘remote’ and ‘distance-based’ student and online education. Executive’s next steps include sending a survey to all graduate students for important U-Pass feedback and continuing to advocate for the next incoming GSA executive team so that they hit the ground running with Saskatoon Transit for the improvement of the service.

4.3 International tuition fee’s (including calculation methodology)

The VP of Academic and Student Affairs discussed the concerns with the recent Zoom tuition town hall meeting as only four questions were answered during the question period. The executive team found this unacceptable as there were numerous questions and concerns that were unanswered including how the tuition fees are calculated. VP Kamal presented an oral proposal that he would like to lead the executive committee to advocate and meet with the Provincial government Advanced Education Minister this Spring to discuss some of the concerns with the tuition fees and how they are calculated. The next step(s) will be for the VP of Academic and Student Affairs to draft a letter for the executive team to review to send to the Advanced Education Minister.

4.4 Health & Dental Plan – Student Care

The President and the VP of Academic and Student Affairs discussed some of the current issues with the GSA Health and Dental plan and next step(s) which will include consultations with Studentcare to come up with a fair proposal to help enhance the coverage for students.

5. Items for Decision

5.1 Guests from the Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) proposal

Abbas Fazel and Divyapratim Das met with GSA executives to discuss their upcoming 3MT Engineering event with prizes, awards, and entertainment on their agenda. Last year's event had approximately 30 students as they are hoping to get approximately 50 or more for this year's event (in person/zoom). Registration has started with deadline dates of February 11 and 22nd respectively. They were looking for \$2,500.00 from the GSA as the executives' asked questions about the event and previous years' sponsorship from GSA. In 2021, the GSA gave the maximum amount of \$500, and explained to the group that the GSA could not sponsor more than that for their event. They needed the funding for refreshments, prizes, swag bags, and gifts. After the discussion Abbas and Divyapratim indicated although they would like more money, they understood our policy and are happy to accept whatever amount we approve.

Motion: Executive to approve \$500.00 for the EGCC event.

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

5.2 GSA Annual Gala

VP External Affairs discussed the implications of having the event with the high amount of omicron cases and a recommendation was made at the executive meeting to cancel the in-person

GALA event for 2022. The President and executive team agreed with the recommendation, stating that the new executives can decide in 2023 if it is safe enough to have the in-person GALA event.

Motion: To cancel 2022 GALA ball due to the high cases of the omicron variant.

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

6. Closed Session

7 Adjournment of Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM

Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

President's Report - GSA Council Meeting, February 2022

Dear Members of Council,

In this report we will present some initiatives that the Executives have been working on and some updates from the Executive team, which includes:

1. Celebrating Black History Month

Along with the university, the GSA is celebrating the Black History Month by honouring the accomplishments made by the graduate students and faculty members coming from the Black Community. Students interested to take part in this event are requested to contact the Vice-President External Affairs.

2. GSA Winter Orientation: Curbside Pickup of Swag Bags

The GSA is organizing a curb-side pickup of swag bags for all graduate students. Please join us in front of the GSA Commons on February 18, 2022 between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (Saskatchewan Time). *Note: Swag bags will be provided on a first come first-serve basis, until quantity lasts.*

3. GSA Need-Based Winter Bursary

Applications for the GSA 2022 Winter Term Bursaries are closed now. Recipients of the bursaries will be contacted from GSA shortly. For more information, graduate students are requested to contact VP Finance and Operations.

4. GSA Annual Awards

The GSA has been organizing Annual Awards that are intended to celebrate graduate students, as well as honor faculty members that have generously supported graduate students in research, scholarly and artistic pursuits. We would like to request all graduate students and faculty members to consider nominating well-deserving individuals for the awards. Applications opened Monday, January 17, 2022, at 9:00 AM. Deadline for submission is Saturday, February 26, 2022, at 11:59 PM. For more information, graduate students are requested to contact VP External Affairs.

5. Delay in Graduate Studies and Option for Part-Time Studies

We requested the university to provide us some statistics on what is the median average time students spend in their MSc and PhD program. According to the meeting discussions

from College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), the duration is much higher than many other U15 universities in Canada. The GSA recognizes that such prolonged time spent in the degree programs adds financial and mental stress and delays students to join the workforce. Therefore, GSA is strongly advocating for a significant reduction in degree delay and requested the university to investigate further to see what would be the most optimum strategy for students to finish their MSc studies within two years and PhD studies within four years (except for the students with accommodation). There have been active discussions going on with CGPS and the President's Executive Committee on behalf of GSA for this matter. GSA is also requesting universities to explore options to allow students to complete their degrees as part-time students, after fulfilling certain degree requirements. More updates will follow in the subsequent meetings. For more information, graduate students are requested to contact VP Academic and Student Affairs.

6. Minimum Guaranteed Funding for Graduate Students

As outlined in the previous items that students spend longer than usual time in their degree programs, and that adds financial and mental stress in the students' lives, GSA has initiated conversation with the university leaders and faculty members to improve funding package so that it covers at least the median number of years students spend on their degree programs. GSA is also advocating for an enhanced funding package for all graduate students so that it meets the minimum wage levels for a full-time job in the province of Saskatchewan. For more information, graduate students are requested to contact VP Academic and Student Affairs.

7. Service Enhancement from Consumer Service Division

The consumer service division has agreed to all the requests made by GSA Executives, where graduate students living in the university residence will enjoy enhanced parking facilities, will have flexibility in their contract with university residence, when it comes to pregnancy and graduation before the contract ends. More details will be provided to students living in the university residence by the consumer service division. The GSA Executives are grateful for such successful negotiations, and will continue its effort to improve services provided by the consumer service division. For more information, graduate students are requested to contact VP Academic and Student Affairs.

I look forward to working with all of you to better serve our graduate students community, so that students have a very harmonious experience while studying at the University of Saskatchewan.

Rifat Zahan
President, Graduate Students' Association



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

VP Finance and Operations report - GSA Council Meeting, February 2022

Dear GSA Councilors,

Please, find below the main area I together with the other GSA executives worked and working on during the Fall term:

1. GSA Winter Bursary

We received 145 applications, 109 of them are complete. 25 applicants will be selected by Tuesday 15th.

2. Promoting GSA services and Responding Student concerns

- Last month, we were planning the winter orientation. We prepared list items for the swag bag.
- As VP of Finance and Operations, I joined several meetings with university senior leaders and different service providers to enhance their quality and decrease the cost:
 - Negotiating with StudentCare
 - Tried to decrease the cost and enhance the quality of the services
 - UPass
 - Tried to prepare the OPT-Out option for students
 - Parking and Transportation Services
 - Reduce the parking cost for UofS residence.
 - Tuition discussions
 - Tried to negotiate the tuition

- I worked on GSA financial documents to prepare the GSA 2022-23 budget information.
 - Budget updating and preparing official documents
- I also organized tax information sessions with CRA agents so students can have interactive sessions in March since university publishes T4 by end of February.

I look forward to working with each one of you and making your voices heard as far as my role allows me to. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at gsa.fin@usask.ca

Thank you,

Ehsan Moradi

VP Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association



Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

From January 12, 2022, to February 11, 2022, the VP of Academic and Student Affairs attended 19 meetings with other GSA executives. The VP Academic and Student Affairs contributed in various ways, as listed below, and maintained regular business duties.

GSA and Saskatoon Transit Meeting: (January 21, 2022):

All GSA executives meet with the Saskatoon Transit to discuss the U-PASS opt-out issue considering too many students' requests to get a U-PASS waiver for the Winter 2022 term. Unfortunately, the Saskatoon Transit authority came to the discussion table with no power to decide upon the GSA request. The Saskatoon Transit informed the GSA executives to re-negotiate the existing contract between the GSA and Saskatoon Transit. Further, they hinted at a potential increase in U-PASS fees as the last contract took place in 2013.

Academic & Student Life Technology Committee: January 17, 2022

The Committee has discussed the potential guidelines for IT Investigations into student academic misconduct. The key objective was to determine under what circumstances and to what extent students' online presence and university resource access history will be investigated. The Committee discussed both the ethical and legal points of view. The Committee also discussed continuing education and renewal policies. Lastly, the Committee was informed that starting from May, the University of Saskatchewan will terminate its contract with the Webex teleconferencing system and conduct its business using Zoom and Microsoft Team platforms.

GSA Executive Committee Meeting: January 25, 2022

The Committee meets and discusses the pros and cons of the existing contract between the GSA and the Saskatoon Transit. Further, the Committee discussed the potential risk of opening the re-negotiation discussion with the Saskatoon Transit (student's U-PASS fees will increase). The Committee decided to send a letter to the City of Saskatoon Transportation Committee to discuss the potential risk of increasing U-PASS fees following a limited student interest.

The Committee also discussed meeting the provincial education minister to discuss the university's ongoing tuition rate increase and the potential negative consequence to the provincial socio-economic culture.

Meeting with Parking Manager: January 26, 2022

I am pleased to inform the council members that the GSA has convinced the parking authority to implement parking policies that will benefit the graduate students enormously. The parking authority will announce the new guidelines in the coming months (the GSA cannot disclose the new procedures before the official announcement by the parking authority).

Meeting with Student care representative: (February 4, 2022)

All GSA executives meet with the student care representative to discuss a potential increase of the existing health and dental coverage and the potential cost. The GSA executives also pressed the need to bring more service providers under the student care networks.

CGPS Council Meeting (February 8, 2022)

In the council meeting, the dean of CGPS presented data about the graduation timeline of the University of Saskatchewan students. Unfortunately, on average, the average Ph.D. degree completion requires between 6 to 7 years and a master's degree requires 3 to 4 years which is higher than the U15 average degree completion timeline. The CGPS council will bring this concern into the Graduate Program Committee's discussion table.

Despite the fact that less than 1% of students completed their Ph.D. degree in three years, most of the departments at the University of Saskatchewan offer 3-year guaranteed funding for Ph.D. students. In 2020, only three students completed their Ph.D. within three years (approximately 1% of the total completed Ph.D. students). The same is true for MSc students. Despite the three and half years of completion time, MSc students are funded for two years. Thus, the GSA strongly advocates for a minimum of 4 years of guaranteed funding for the Ph.D. students and a thorough discussion about degree completion time.

Confidential Meeting (minutes do not share with council member):

The VP Academic and Student Affairs attended the Academic Program Committee Meeting, Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee, Graduate Program Committee, Meeting the Associated Dean of CGPS, and Covid Management (PRT) Committee but can not disclose the Meeting minutes because of the confidentiality agreement.

Regards,

Mostofa Kamal

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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February 2022

RE: Vice President's External Affairs Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Attached is my February report for council:

1) **GSA Executive meetings**

I am currently attending executive meetings regularly where we discuss various topics and events for the upcoming winter term.

2) **Black History Month**

The GSA is working in collaboration with the USSU and other stakeholders. So far there have been approximately over 40 registrants for Robyn's talk. Please visit [Black History Month - University Library | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#) for more dates, times, and ongoing activities during February.

3) **Gala 2022 update**

I am working on the 2022 GALA with the collaboration of present and past GSA executives. Our executive committee felt it would be in the best interests to cancel the 2022 GALA due to the high cases of omicron in Saskatoon and throughout Saskatchewan. The 2022 Annual Awards

planning is continuing as usual with the deadline to submit nominations Saturday, February 26 at 11:59 pm.

4) **Meetings/Events**

The following is a list of meetings I have attended.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meetings/Events</u>
January 11, 2022	PEC/Student Council Executives monthly meeting (Zoom)
January 11, 2022	CGPS Council Meeting (Zoom)
January 14, 2022	President/PRT/USSU/GSA (Zoom)
January 20, 2022	Jay Wilson & GSA Executive (Zoom)
January 20, 2022	Black History Month Planning (Zoom)
January 21, 2022	Saskatoon Transit & GSA Update Meeting (Teams)
January 24, 2022	Rec Athletics Advisory Council (RAAC) (Zoom)
January 25, 2022	GSA Executive team meeting (WebEx)
January 27, 2022	Usask-Executive Council Meeting
	Student Care/Health and Dental benefits meeting (Teams)

February 4, 2022

President Executive Council/Student Council
CGPS Inter-disciplinary meeting

February 8, 2022

Best Regards,

Devin Cherneski

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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