



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 15, 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 February 15, 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: Rifat Zahan**

Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski

***The previous Chair stepped down from their position two days prior to this Council meeting taking place and the Vice-Chair, who is supposed to serve as the Interim Council Chair was away. There was no name put forward from the council members to serve as the temporary Council Chair. Therefore, In accordance with GSA bylaw 1.9.9. the meeting was temporarily chaired by the President of the GSA.*

1. Call to Order/Opening remarks

The agenda package was emailed with the Zoom meeting link for online participation. The temporary Chair, Zahan welcomed members of council and called the meeting to order at 1701 CST. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Recording Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

The President noted a change to the item#4, that the guest speaker sent his regret. The temporary Chair and Recording Secretary noted the change.

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

Carried

3. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2022

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

Motion to approve the January 18, 2022, meeting minutes. (Kamal/Chandran)

Carried

4. Guest Speaker

The guest speaker, Robyn Paches, Program Manager; Studentcare was not able to join the council meeting but sent their presentation to the executives to be circulated among the council members.

5. Update: By-Election VP Indigenous Engagement

This falls under the portfolio of the Council Chair/Vice-Chair, which we do not have at the time of the meeting. The President (i.e., temporary Chair) asked if there is anyone from Elections and Referenda Committee who can speak to this. There was no one present.

6. Update: Upcoming Executives' Election

This falls under the portfolio of the Council Chair/Vice-Chair, which we do not have at the time of the meeting. The President (i.e., temporary Chair) asked if there is anyone from Elections and Referenda Committee who can speak to this. There was no one present.

7. A. Standing Committees Membership

This falls under the portfolio of the Council Chair/Vice-Chair, which we do not have at the time of the meeting. The President (i.e., temporary Chair) mentioned to table this discussion until a new Chair or Vice-Chair is available.

B. Appoint Council Member to Election and Referenda Committee

There were two names put forward to the outgoing Chair to serve in the Election and Referenda Committee: Fabrice Njotu and Khaled Zoroufchi Benis.

Motion to appoint Fabrice Njotu and Khaled Zoroufchi Benis to the Election and Referenda

Committee. (Moradi/Kamal)

Carried

8. Information to be Received

Executive Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2022

The council members were asked if there was any question about the Executive meeting minutes as circulated. There was none.

Motion to approve the January 25, 2022, Executive Meeting Minutes. (Moradi/Gannon)

Carried

9. Motion to Approve Auto-enrolment of Graduate students in winter term GSA Health and Dental Plan

The VP Finance & Operations and the VP Academic and Student Affairs explained the details of this motion. Many students are not auto enrolled in GSA Health and Dental Plan in the Winter term. As a result, those students do not start getting service right away and sometimes miss the deadlines for self-enrolment. There were several questions involving specifics of opting-out and whether an announcement is forthcoming. There will be an announcement and reminders when cut-off days for opting out of Health and Dental plans are approaching.

Motion to approve the auto-enrolment of graduate students in GSA Health and Dental Plan. (Moradi/Cherewyk)

Carried

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)

The full details of this item were circulated. According to the bylaws of CFS, every year, they change the student fees based on the CPI for the previous year. The VP Finance & Operations and the VP Academic and Student Affairs addressed questions related to the necessity of belonging to the CFS and how the service helps graduate students at federal-level advocacy.

Motion to approve the fee increase. (Gerbrandt/Proulx-Cullen)

Carried

11. Motion to Approve U-Pass fees increase between \$1.68 - \$3.37 (from \$115.38 to \$118.06-\$119.31) according to Saskatchewan January 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

According to the contract that we have with Saskatoon Transit, the U-Pass fees change annually based on the CPI of Saskatchewan in January of the current year. This year, the CPI of January 2022 has not been released yet. Based on the percentage increase, the exact amount will be calculated.

There were questions about the U-Pass and fees, which were answered by the Executives who directed Council Members to the most recent Executive meeting minutes: item 4.2, where there is a summary of what is planned for Graduate students and the U-Pass, including an upcoming survey for recommendations to the incoming Executives.

Motion to approve the fee increase. (Sands/Moradi)

Noted Abstentions: Rachel Carey, Amy Jimmo, Sandhya Chandran, Natasha Boyes

Carried

12. Executive Reports

A. President's Report:

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

B. Vice President Finance & Operations Report:

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

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.

13. Other Business/Announcements

Question: The Councillor from Soil Science GSA asked when the survey regarding the U-Pass should be expected.

Answer VP Finance & Operations: The survey should be approved by the Executives and deployed after the approval.

Reminder: Although on-campus activity is almost at full capacity, the GSA commons remains closed.

14. Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn at 1809 CST. (*Gerbrandt/Suchak*)

Carried

Next Meeting: March 15, 2022.

Appendix A

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

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Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Ninu Kallingal Mohandas – Councillor	N / A	P	A	P	P	P	P			
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Abbas Fazel - Councillor Tochukwu Ezechukwu - Alternate	N / A	P	A	A	P	P				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Shahab Minaei – Councillor Khaled Zoroufchi Benis - Alternate	N / A	P	P	A	P	P				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Fatima Abed Al Sater – Councillor Behdad Saed - Alternate	N / A	A	A	A	P	P				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Simin Keykhosravi – Councillor Sandhya Chandran - Alternate	N / A	A	A	P	P	P				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Justin Tricsli – Councillor Tonye Jack – Alternate	N / A	A	P	P	P	P	P			
English Course Council	Dara Gerbrandt – Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Amanda Burrows - Alternate	N/A	P	P	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	A	A				
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Natasha Boyes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			

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Physical and Engineering Physics -PEGASUS	Kimberlee Dube – Councillor Nicholas Simonson - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Jennifer Chami - Councillor Asiyah Suchak - Alternate	N/A	A	A	P	A	P	P			
Plant Science	Sandesh Neupane – Councillor Adam Carter - Alternate	N/A		P	P	P	A				
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Michael Tweten - Councillor Devin Wittow – Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P			
SENSA	Tatiana Corello - Councillor Jaclyn Porter - Councillor Rory Wheat - Alternate	N/A	P	A	A	A	P	P			
SPHSA		N / A	N / A	N / A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman – Councillor Ayla Zehtab-Jadid – Councillor Shayla Batty – Councillor Iyesogie Iyiewuare – Alternate Grace Rath - Alternate Kamal Abu-Hena – Alternate	N / A	P	P	A	A	P	P			
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo Councillor Eric Neil – Alternate	N/A	P	A	P	P	P				
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Jensen Cherewyk – Councillor Hannah Mahoney - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	N/A	A	A	P	A	P	P			

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Exec. President	Rifat Zahan	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P	P	A	P	P			
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mostafa Kamal	R	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Exec. VP External Affairs	Devin Cherneski	P	P	P	A	P	P	P			
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Tina Alexis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	N/A			