



**Graduate Students' Association –  
University of Saskatchewan  
Council Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, January 18, 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	<b>Call to Order</b> <b>Approval of the Agenda</b>	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
2	<b>2020-21 Council Funding Cheques</b>		<i>Information</i>
3	<b>Approval of Council Meeting Minutes - December 14, 2021</b>	3-11	<i>Decision</i>
4	<b>GSA Graduate Student Research Conference</b>		<i>Information</i>
5	<b>Information to be received</b> Executive Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2021	12-14	<i>Decision</i>
6	<b>Information to be received</b> Executive Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2022	15-17	<i>Decision</i>
7	<b>Update: By-Election VP Indigenous Engagement</b>		<i>Decision</i>
8	<b>Executive Reports</b>	18-25	
	A. Report of the President		<i>Information</i>
	B. Report of the VP Finance & Operations		<i>Information</i>
	C. Report of the VP Academic & Student Affairs		<i>Information</i>
	D. Report of the VP External Affairs		<i>Information</i>

**9 Other Business/Announcements**

- A. Summary of a meeting about Tuition
- B. Issues of Distance and Remote Learning Education

*Information*

*Information*

**10 Adjournment**

*Decision*

*Next Meeting: February 15, 2022.*



**University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 14, 2021. 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*

*Dr. Burshtyn presentation Appendix B*

*\*Zoom Meeting: The December 14, 2021 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 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.*

*Attendee Dias shared via chat: "In the spirit of reconciliation, I am grateful to be living and working on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Lekwungen peoples, today the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, and the Metis Chartered Community of Victoria."*

### **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 of GSA noted a minor friendly amendment to remove the word "Verbal" from Item# 5.

- The VP Academic and Student Affairs noted two minor friendly amendment of wording within his report within Lines 16 and 18. The Chair noted the changes as below.
  - Line 16: Please replace Graduate Program Committee with Academic Program Committee
  - Line 18: Please replace Graduate student admission discussion and approval of the degree-level certificate with Residence service issues including RCC balance, rent payment notification

*Motion to approve the amendment. (Zahan/Proulx-Cullen)*

**Carried**

*Motion to approve the amended agenda. (Zahan/Proulx-Cullen)*

**Carried**

## **2. Guest from CGPS: Dean, Dr. Debby Burshtyn**

Dr. Burshtyn thanked the council for having her at the meeting and spoke at length about changes that are planned mainly around funding for graduate students. She spoke about funding incentives for attracting students to the U of S, as well as changes to guaranteed funding over a set amount of student study time. Dr. Burshtyn's report was presented to council members and is included as Appendix B.

*Question: What does "embedding tuition in scholarships mean?"*

*Debby: This will mostly affect Dean's Scholarships and basically just makes managing the scholarship funds easier from an administrative point of view.*

*Follow-up: will be revisiting part-time PhD availability after the 4th year of a PhD?*

*Debby: the idea is for full time students to have these guaranteed funding and not part-time PhDs so CGPS doesn't have that modeled yet. There could be professional exceptions, but she doesn't know yet.*

Dr. Burshtyn thanked the council for their time and indicated anyone is welcome to come speak with her at any time if they wish.

## **3. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – November 23, 2021**

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

*Motion to approve the November 23, 2021, meeting minutes. (Zahan/Suchak)*

*Abstain – Simi Keykhosravi*

**Carried**

#### **4. Approval of the following budget codes for Holiday Hangout and Winter Orientation Expenses**

The Chair handed the floor to the President who spoke, with detail, to each of the asks for budget approval from the council (codes indicated).

- 52920 (Executive Travel: \$2000),
- 52903 (Academic Council Foods and Beverage: \$3000),
- 52904 (GSA Committees Food and Beverage: \$1000), and
- 52321 (Coffee/Tea Bar Supplies and Expenses: \$1500)

*The Chair made a motion for budget approval for the aforementioned amounts. (Dubé/Carruthers)*

**Carried**

#### **5. Information to be Received**

*Executive Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2021*

*The President asked that the description of the item be changed to remove the word verbal.*

*Motion to approve the November 19, 2021, Executive Meeting Minutes. (Zahan/Gannon)*

**Carried**

#### **6. Update: By-Election VP Indigenous Engagement**

The Chair shared that no nominations have been received and so the Executives will meet with Elections and Referenda committee in January.

#### **7. Executive Reports**

##### **A. President's Report:**

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for the President.

##### **B. Vice President Finance & Operations Report:**

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for VP Finance & Operations.

- C. Vice President Academic & Students Affairs Report:  
The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for VP Academic & Student Affairs.
- D. Vice President External Affairs Report:  
The VP External Affairs sent his regrets. His report is included in the package, and any questions can be directed to him via his email, also included in the package.

### **8. Other Business/Announcements**

Counsellor Gladman from the English Course Council had questions about COVID safety in the Winter term and enforcing safety protocols.

The President responded that we don't have any more information on their questions but information can be found on the University's COVID website, as well there are individuals to contact on there if need be.

### **9. 9. Adjournment**

The Chair moved to adjourn at 1811 CST. *(Suchak/Dube)*.

***Next Meeting: January 18, 2022.***

## 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						
Animal and Poultry Science	Rachel Carey – Councillor Megan Wasden - Alternate			P	P						
ARCHAIA	Angela Burant - Councillor Bailey Pelletier - Alternate	N/A		P	P						
Biology Graduate Student Association	Jory Litt-Jukes – Councillor Mercy Harris – Alternate		P	P	P						
Chemistry Course Council	Iyanu Kumayon - Councillor Srikant Singh - Alternate	N/A	P		P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kundanika Mukherjee – Councillor Arshdeep Jagait – Alternate	N/A		P	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Maddie Stewart – Councillor Rachel Harris- Alternate	N/A	P	P	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon – Councillor Emilia Gillies - Alternate	N/A	P	P	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councillor Fabrice N. Njotu – Alternate	N/A	P	P	P						
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji – Councillor Naz Zarreen Oishie – Councillor Keyhan Najafian – Alternate		P	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Ninu Kallingal Mohandas – Councillor	N/A	P		P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Abbas Fazel - Councillor Tochukwu Ezechukwu - Alternate	N/A	P		A						

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



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

<b>GSA Executives</b>	<b>Name of GSA Executives</b>	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						
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mostafa Kamal	N/A	P	P	P						
Exec. VP External Affairs	Devin Cherneski	N/A	P	P	A						
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						

## Appendix B

### University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association 2021-22 Standing Committees Update - November 2021

Dear Members of Council,

The below is the list of ratified members of the 2021-22 Standing Committees.

#### 2021-22 Budget and Finance Committee

Members include:

- **VP Finance and Operations as Chair - Ehsan Moradi**
- President - Rifat Zahan
- Council Member - Zahra Mubarak
- Regular/general Member – Soheila Ahmadi
- Regular/general Member - Sristy Sumana Nath
- Regular/general Member - Ozra Mohammadi
- Regular/general Member- Sourabh Kumar

#### 2021-22 Bursary Committee

Members include:

- **VP Finance and Operations as Chair - Ehsan Moradi**
- VP Academic and Student Affairs - Mostofa Kamal
- Council Member - Iyanu Kumayon
- Council Member - Shahab Minaei
- Council Member - Khaled B Zoroufchi
- Regular/general Member - Cody Malone
- Regular/general Member - Melissa Onwuliri
- Regular/general Member - Ozra Mohammadi
- Regular/general Member - Joshua Shitta

#### 2021-22 Election & Referenda Committee

Members include:

- **Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer – Hema Sandeep Narava (Elected during Council Meeting of November 23, 2021)**
- Council Member - Naz Zareen Oishie
- Regular/general Member - Shamse Tasnim Cynthia
- Regular/general Member - John Malyk
- Regular/general Member - Rosemary Martinez
- Regular/general Member - Daniel Nyarko-Afriyie
- Regular/general Member- Nabeela Kanwal

#### 2021-22 Governance Committee

Members include:

- President - Rifat Zahan
- VP Academic and Student Affairs - Mostofa Kamal
- Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer (Ex-Officio) – Hema Sandeep Narava
- Council Member - Elyse Proulx-Cullen
- Regular/general Member - William Davis
- Regular/general Member - Eronmwon Joyce Iroque

- Regular/general Member - Nabeela Kanwal
- Regular/general Member - Ankita Srivastava

### **2021-22 Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee**

Members include:

- Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer – Hema Sandeep Narava
- Council Member - Naz Zareen Oishie
- Regular/general Member - Shamse Tasnim Cynthia
- Regular/general Member - Gurinder Dhanju
- Regular/general Member - Sourabh Kumar
- Regular/general Member - Nabeela Kanwal
- Regular/general Member - Sristy Sumana Nath

### **2021-22 Awards Selection Committee**

Members include:

- **VP External Affairs as Chair – Devin Cherneski**
- President - Rifat Zahan
- Council member – Shahab Minaei
- Regular/general Member – Sourabh Kumar
- Regular/general Member - Pezhman Zolfaghari Didani
- Regular/general Member - Sristy Sumana Nath
- Regular/general Member - Leonie Bettin
- Regular/general Member - Ozra Mohammadi
- Regular/general Member - Arash Mollahosseini

### **2021-22 Sustainability Committee**

Members include:

- VP External Affairs - Devin Cherneski
- VP Indigenous Engagement - vacant
- Council Member - Shahab Minaei
- Council Member - Khaled B Zoroufchi
- Regular/general Member - Xingyu Zhou
- Regular/general Member - Ahmad Reza Salehi
- Regular/general Member - Sukhwinder Singh
- Regular/general Member – Anel Dannhauser
- Regular/general Member – Anupriya Senthilkumaran

### **2021-22 Diversity Committee**

Members include:

- VP External Affairs - Devin Cherneski
- VP Indigenous Engagement - vacant
- Council Member – Naz Zareen Oishie
- Council Member - Elyse Proulx-Cullen
- Regular/general Member - Zhang Yongsheng
- Regular/general Member - Rita Idowu
- Regular/general Member - Martyne Farris
- Regular/general Member - Anupriya Senthilkumaran
- Regular/general Member – Josie Conacher



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Dec 9, 2021**

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

**1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by 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 agenda as circulated.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Students Affair*

*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 meeting minutes as circulated. There was no amendment.

*Motion: To approve the agenda as circulated.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Students Affair*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

### **4. Items for decision**

#### ***4.1 Cheque remittance***

VP Finance and Operations mentioned that we have a cheque with the amount of \$340,519.53 CAD for Studentcare.

*Motion: To approve remittance of the Studentcare cheque.*

*Moved: VP Finance and Operations*

*Seconded: VP External Affairs*

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

### **5. Items for Discussion/Information**

#### ***5.1 Holiday Hangout***

The President explained that we are currently looking for sponsors. We already received quotes from the restaurant for the food. She said the current budget is not much for the event so she and VP Academic and Student Affairs had a meeting and prepared a proposal for using budget amounts from other budget codes (with approval from GSA councillors) that will not be used in this round, for example executive's travel. She also indicated that we have already received money from ISAAC, CGPS, and some other personal donations. Additionally, we are still waiting for Faith Leaders, as well. The President added that she will send a reminder note to possible sponsors. The President asked executives to discuss their thoughts about using other budget codes for the Holiday Hangout and Winter orientation. The VP Academic and Student Affairs explained that the allotted money for Winter orientation and social events are not enough even for 200 students, and we need to support more graduate students and we should go forward with the President's plan and try to find money from other budget codes which will not be used this budget-year. The President

mentioned that if everyone agrees she will add the two motions for using budget lines for the Holiday Hangout and Winter orientation. VP Finance and Operations mentioned that this is a great plan, and he has full support for the President's proposal.

The President mentioned that the deadline for sign-up for the holiday hangout is December 12.

### ***5.2 Winter Orientation***

The President mentioned that we want to order more handbooks, bags, and bottles for Winter Orientation. If Council members allow, then the money from other unused budget codes can be used to provide at least 500 swag bags to graduate students.

### ***5.4. GSA Graduate Student Research Conference***

VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the poster for Graduate Student Research Conference is ready to publish and we can have the research conference in the mid of February. He continued that the event is only about graduate students' research, not an actual conference so students will only present their work using a prerecorded video.

### ***5.4. GSA Annual Awards Gala***

The President asked VP External Affairs about updates. VP External Affairs explained that he already prepared theme materials and everything going forward. He mentioned as far as the theme, we're looking at, you know, Diverse by Nature to celebrate the graduate students, diverse cultures, research, scholarly and artistic successes, and achievements at the University of Saskatchewan. VP Student Affairs mentioned that we may need recurrent advertisement for the award selection process because if we receive less number of applications (for example, no application under some categories) based on last years' experience.

## **6. Closed Session**

### **7 Adjournment of Meeting**

*Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:0 PM*

*Moved: VP Finance and Operations*

*Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM



**University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Jan 7, 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:** N/A

**1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by GSA President Zahan. The President appointed the VP External Affairs to be recording secretary for this meeting – accepted.

**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 meeting minutes as circulated. VP Finance and Operations indicated draft minutes were circulated to executive for proof reading. Will defer until minutes reviewed and submitted to President for motion to be approved by email.

*Motion: To approve December 9, 2021, Executive meeting minutes as circulated by email.*

*Moved: VP External Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

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

### **4. Items for Discussion/Decision**

#### ***4.1 Cheque Remittance***

The President indicated that our executive committee would need to approve any food invoices greater than \$500.00. We have two food invoices in this category Biryani Box Restaurant for two days of meals (\$3,030.90) and gluten free cupcakes (\$812).

*Motion: Executive to approve food invoices greater than \$500.00 for Holiday Hangout.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

#### ***4.2 Winter Orientation***

The President discussed the upcoming 2022 Winter Orientation activities as the GSA each term hands out swag items to registered graduate students. With the current outbreak of the omicron variant in Saskatchewan, the executive team unanimously approved deferring the swag pick up



until further notice. Also, the cold weather and semester delay of two weeks factored into the overall decision of the executive committee.

*Motion: Swag bag pick up of Winter orientation to be postponed until further notice.*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

## **5. Items for Discussion/Information**

### ***5.1 GSA Annual Awards Gala Update***

The President asked VP External Affairs and the executive committee their opinion regarding the GSA Annual Awards Gala. At this moment all Executive members are in agreement to hold off any ballroom Gala planning until January 31 due to the omicron virus.

### ***5.2 Graduate Student Research Conference (GSRC)***

President Zahan requested an update from VP Finance and Operations about the GSRC, which falls under VP Finance and Operations' portfolio. At this time, there are no applications received. The VP Finance and Operations requested an extension of deadline by one month into the second week of February. Overall, the executive committee felt the conference needs some additional promotions through GSA newsletter, and social media.

### ***5.3 U-Pass***

The President discussed an upcoming U-Pass zoom call scheduled with Saskatoon Transit and asked the executive committee for feedback. The President indicated that students have been forwarding frequent questions to the GSA Office Manager and GSA President about the U-Pass and overall bus services. The President in the meantime is thinking about best solutions/practices available for all students. One of the scenarios was students who live in Saskatoon and do not need to be on campus because of remote learning. More will be discussed during January with involved stakeholders, and an update at our next executive meeting before bringing this to the GSA Council meeting.

## **6. Closed Session**

### **7 Adjournment of Meeting**

*Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM*

*Moved: VP Academic and Student Affairs*

*Seconded: VP Finance and Operations*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM



## University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

### President's Report - GSA Council Meeting, January 202

Dear Members of Council,

I would like to welcome all of you to the first council meeting of the winter term.

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. GSA Holiday Hangout 2021**

The Graduate Students' Association Executive team hosted a very successful holiday hangout. We had a dedicated group of volunteers, who served about 390 students during the December holiday hangout, when the weather was a bit extreme. We thank all those students, who signed up, and showed up to receive their meals. We also extend our gratitude to the sponsors, who willingly donated towards this event.

#### **2. GSA Winter Orientation 2022**

The Graduate Students' Association Executive team will be hosting a virtual orientation event on January 12, 2022, at 1:00 PM (Saskatchewan Time) via Zoom, where we have invited Studentcare to welcome our new incoming graduate students and provide information on the Health & Dental Plan.

Following extended discussions, the GSA Executives decided to postpone Swag Bag Pickup for winter orientation due to the rising cases of COVID-19 within this province.

#### **3. GSA Need-Based Winter Bursary**

Applications for the GSA 2022 Winter Term Bursaries are being accepted from Saturday, January 1, 2022, at 8:00 AM until Saturday, January 22, 2022, at 5:00 PM. Please see our website and newsletter for further details.

#### **4. Ongoing Discussion around Student Fees for Remote/Online Students**

The Graduate Students' Association Executive team is having discussions with university senior leaders, and different stakeholders, to consider waiving student fees for remote/online students. The remote/online students are not able to access campus due to university closure, and with several date changes, it is very unpredictable whether students will access campus during the winter term.

## **5. Support Students' Health and Well-Being**

The GSA is working closely with Studentcare with discussion to enhance the existing services for all graduate students, as many students are impacted by COVID-19 situation and may need to access enhanced services to cope with this difficult time.

## **6. Advocating for Students Services Provided by Consumer Service Division**

The Graduate Students' Association initiated regular conversations with the Consumer Service Division. The GSA is strongly advocating for students living in the university residence to get enhanced support, have a more inclusive environment, and having policies catered for graduate students. The GSA was able to have a positive communication with the Parking authority to provide reduced parking passes to students living in university residence during summer.

## **7. Advocacy for Investigation on Degree Delay**

The GSA is also advocating for students getting delayed on their degree programs and requested the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, College of Arts and Science, and University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association to investigate at department-level the reasons behind such delay, except for the students having proper accommodation.

We look forward to working with the graduate students and academic councillors to continue our effort to support our graduate students during their academic journey at the USask.

Rifat Zahan  
President, Graduate Students' Association



**University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association**  
**VP Finance and Operations report - GSA Council Meeting, December 2021**

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**

Last month, we prepared the details for the GSA Winter bursary which we opened the application in January first will be closed on January 22.

**2. Promoting GSA services and Responding Student concerns**

Last month, we have been planning the holiday hangout and winter orientation details and ordering and stocking items for these events. We have been negotiating tuition increase and Saskatoon transit services to advocate students. As VP Finance and Operations I joined number of meetings with University senior leaders, City of Saskatoon and private companies to create a better space for our graduate students.

**3. Closing GSA 2021 financial documents**

By ending the 2021 year we updated the budget and planned for next events resources by asking GSA Council.

**4. Holiday hangout**

We tried to hold a holiday hangout event during new year holidays for international students and prepared a curbside food pickup those graduate students who were in city during holidays to have a lunch with their friends. With request from VP Students affair and approval of the council we used some other budget lines to cover more students in this event.

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](mailto: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 December 8 2021 to January 11, 2022, the VP of Academic and Student Affairs attended 19 meetings along with other GSA executives. The VP Academic and Student Affairs contributed in various ways, as listed below, and maintained regular business duties.

	Meeting Name	Meeting Date	
1	GSA Executives Meeting	December 9, 2021	Please see GSA executive meeting minutes
2	GSA Council Meeting	December 14, 2021	Please see meeting minutes
3	Academic Program Committee Meeting	December 15, 2021	Course, Degree, Certificate approval
4	CGPS Council Meeting	December 16, 2021	
5	Tuition Discussion with Dean of CGPS	December 17, 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Potential tuition increase</li> <li>2. Tuition adjustment for PhD and MSc student</li> </ol>
6	Meeting with Residence Manager	December 17, 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rental payment notification</li> <li>2. Post-graduation rental contract completion</li> <li>3. Rent auto withdrawal option</li> <li>4. No ROAF for existing tenant</li> <li>5. New parent's residence interchange</li> </ol>
7	Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee	December 21, 2021	Mental Health Issue
8	Student Academic Misconduct Hearing Committee	December 21, 2021	Hearing about graduate student's academic misconduct

9	GSA Holiday Hangout	December 27 and 28, 2021	Holiday Hangout Management and Volunteer Coordination
10	Graduate Program Committee	January 5, 2022	Course, Degree, Certificate approval
11	GSA Executive Committee Meeting	January 6, 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Holiday Hangout Review</li> <li>2. Winter Orientation Discussion</li> <li>3. GSA Gala Discussion</li> </ol>
12	Meeting about UPASS Opt-out option	January 7, 2022	UPASS Opt-out
13	PEC/Student Council meeting	January 11, 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. UPASS Opt-out</li> <li>2. Holiday Hangout Event Update</li> </ol>
14	Meeting with Associate Dean Ryan Walker	January 11, 2022	We discussed residence services, pressing issues, and proposed policy change
15	Graduate Program Committee	January 11, 2022	New Graduate Certificate/Diploma Approval, Admission Conditions Ratification
16	CGPS Council Meeting	January 11, 2022	New Graduate Certificate/Diploma Approval, Admission Conditions Ratification

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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January 2022

**RE: VP External's Affairs Report to Council**

Dear Council Members,

Attached is my January 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) **GSA Student Orientation – Winter semester**

Executive organizing this years GSA Winter orientation event on January 12, 2022.

3) **Gala 2022 update**

I am working on the 2022 GALA with the collaboration of present and past executives. Our executive committee felt it would be in the best interests to defer any Gala ball planning until January 31<sup>st</sup> because of the high rate of omicron variant currently in Saskatchewan. Annual Awards planning continuing as per usual.



#### 4) **Meetings/Events**

The following are a list of meetings I have attended. Our university school break was extended an additional week to January 10, 2022.

<u><b>Date</b></u>	<u><b>Meetings/Events</b></u>
December 9, 2021	GSA executive meeting
December 21, 2021	PEC/Student Executives
December 27, 2021	Holiday Hangout – GSA Building
December 27, 2021	Holiday Hangout – GSA Building
January 6, 2022	GSA executive meeting

Best Regards,

**Devin Cherneski**

**Vice-President External Affairs**

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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