



**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 March 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.*

**Interim Chair: Jovita Dias**  
**Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski**

**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 1701 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 added two items to be discussed following her Presidential report. They were 1) Health and Dental plan and 2) GSA Membership fees. The Chair and Recording Secretary noted the change.

The VP Academic and Student Affairs also mentioned that he submitted a written report, which he requested to include in the agenda package.

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

**Carried**

**Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2022**

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

*Motion to approve the February 15, 2022, meeting minutes. (Cherneski/Kamal)*

**Carried**

## **2. Information to be Received**

### **Approval of Executive Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2022**

The Chair asked if there were any amendments or questions before the minutes were called for approval.

*Motion to approve the February 15, 2022, executive meeting minutes. (Carey/Gannon)*

**Carried**

### **Approval of Executive Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2022**

The Chair asked if there were any amendments or questions before the minutes were called for approval.

*Motion to approve the March 1, 2022, executive meeting minutes. (Zahan/Kamal)*

**Carried**

### **Approval of Awards committee meeting minutes Jan 28, 2022**

The Chair asked if there were any amendments or questions before the minutes were called for approval.

*Motion to approve the January 28, 2022, Awards committee meeting minutes.  
(Cherneski/Carey)*

**Carried**

## **3. 2021-2022 Standing Committee Members (approval via email)**

A survey was sent out via Survey Monkey and closed on March 11, 2022. The following new councillors were ratified by council through a majority vote to the following committees:

- Awards Selection Committee – Khaled Zoroufchi Benis
- Diversity Committee – Richa Tikoo
- Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee – Keyhan Najafian

*Motion to approve the ratification of the new councillors. (Gannon/Minaei)*

**Carried**

## **4. Amendment: U-Pass Motion (Approval via email)**

Amendment of motion (i.e., the previous motion that was approved in the February council meeting):

*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)*

As per GSA's contract with the Saskatoon Transit, the U-Pass fee increases every year using the Saskatoon CPI from January 2022. As mentioned in our previous meeting, we have

approved the increase of this fee, pending the release of this information. The CPI for Saskatoon is 3.8% as of January 2022, which increases the fee from \$115.38 to \$119.65.

Here is the explanation:

$115.38$  (current fee) -  $3$  (admin fee) =  $112.38$

$112.38 \times (3.8/100)$  =  $116.65$

$116.65 + 3$  (admin fee) =  $119.65$

The new amount for the next year will be: \$119.65

Therefore, the GSA Board of Directors ask the following motion to be amended:

*Motion to approve of the U-Pass fee increase from 115.38 to 119.65 to be effective on the 2022-2023 Academic year, according to Saskatoon January 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 3.8%. (Moradi/Zahan)*

**Carried**

The vote was carried out via email and was passed, the numbers are as follows:

**Total number of votes: 32**

- In Favor - 20
- Opposing - 8
- Abstaining - 4

## **5. Update: VP – Indigenous Engagement**

The VP Indigenous Engagement has stepped down from their position after the selection process by the Councillors but before signing their confidential agreement with GSA.

## **6. GSA Executive Elections**

There will be information regarding upcoming elections for the new Executive term coming soon.

## **7. Executive Reports**

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

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. The President also addressed the two amendments to the agenda and indicated that the difference in the increase in fees for both 1) Health and Dental plan for GSA students and 2) the GSA membership fees would be covered by the GSA funds.

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

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package.

*Question: Is the GSA Research conference cancelled?*

*Answer VP: No. Abstracts and the video presentation submitted by the students will be published on the GSA website.*

**C. Vice President Academic & Students Affairs Report:**

The report was presented to council members and will be circulated via email. There were no questions for the VP at that time.

**D. Vice President External Affairs Report:**

The report was presented to council members and was available in the agenda package. There were no questions for the VP at that time.

**8. Election of GSA Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer**

There was one candidate present who expressed interest in the position: Sadia Afrin Lema.

She spoke of her studies and experience at GSA, as well as why she is interested in the position and were asked several questions, after which she was asked to exit the meeting for a vote to appoint her to the position by Councillors.

*Motion to appoint Sadia Afrin Lema to the position of GSA Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer. (Gannon/Dubé).*

**Carried**

The candidate was asked to return and was congratulated on her appointment to her new position at GSA.

**9. Other Business/ Announcements**

There was no other business at that time.

**10. Adjournment**

The Chair moved to adjourn at 1802 CST. *(Gerbrandt/Kamal)*

**Carried**

***Next Meeting (Annual General Meeting): April 13, 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			

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep. 2021	Oct.26 2021	Nov.23 2021	Dec.14 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2022	Jun. 2022	Aug. 2022
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	A	A	P	P					
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	R	P	P	P			
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Tina Alexis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			