



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 10th, 2022; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: GSA Commons and Online

AGENDA

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 Agenda	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes		
3.1 Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes October 13, 2022,	3-10	<i>Decision</i>
3.2 Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022,	11-18	<i>Decision</i>
4. GSA Executives Reports	19-22	
4.1 President's Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>
4.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>
4.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
4.4 Vice President External Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
4.5 Questions & Answers		
5. Ratification of GSA Standing Committees		
5.1 Budget and Finance Committee		
5.2 Bursary Selection Committee		

- 5.3 Elections and Referenda Committee
- 5.4 Governance Committee
- 5.5 Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee
- 5.6 Awards Selection Committee
- 5.7 Sustainability Committee
- 5.8 Diversity Committee

6. Other Business

Information

7. Adjournment

Decision



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 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: Harini Aiyer

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package. The Chair of the Council officially welcomed Members of the Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Harini Aiyer, the Secretary of the Council compiled the meeting minutes.

*Motion to approve Harini Aiyer as the Recording Secretary for this meeting
(Gladman/Gannon)*

Carried

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Proposal to add amended agenda, item #6: Challen Gladman (English Course Council) wanted to present about having a hybrid option for the monthly council meeting.

Approval of amended agenda

(Sumana Nath/ Kevin Mageto)

Carried

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

3.1 Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022

Concern raised by Gannon & Proulx-Cullen, CMGSS

Their council was not ratified at the last meeting, so they only attended as non-voting members.

However, some non-voting members were marked absent. Proposed that attendance read 'N/A' instead of 'absent' for non-voting members at the Sept 2022 meeting.

The president requested councils to submit an updated list of executives with the ratification package. A list of past council members will not be acceptable instead. If in case, they elect the

same council as the previous year, this needs to be clarified in the package submitted. Councils are required to complete an election process and provide an updated list that reflects the current council with the ratification package.

Approval of Sept meeting minutes will be tabled to the next meeting

Tabled

Student Question: The time doesn't make sense to ratify in August as new students start in September. The deadlines should then be shifted at least to the end of Sept to allow new students a chance to participate.

Another student echoed this concern saying several students would have not arrived on campus as of August.

The President addressed the concern by saying that the current bylaws do not have this provision but said that there was a need to address this problem and find ways to incorporate new student voices. This would require a change in the bylaws for deadlines to be extended till October or November.

1. GSA Executives Report

1.1 GSA President's Report

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 be incorporated into 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 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 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 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. Election of GSA Council Recording Secretary

One candidate had previously expressed interest in the position: MD. Abrar Jahin. No other candidates from the floor expressed interest in the position.

MD. Abrar Jahin addressed the council and introduced himself. He is also the VP of Finance of the Bangladeshi Student Association at the University of Saskatchewan. He spoke of his experience and interest in future opportunities in other roles with the GSA as well. Following that, he was asked to exit the meeting for a vote to appoint him to the position.

Votes:

Yes: 22

No: 0

Abstain: 0

*Motion to appoint MD. Abrar Jahin as GSA Council Recording Secretary
(Moradi/Kamal)*

Carried

3. Other Business

Challen Gladman, English Course Council advocated on behalf of a hybrid format to attend monthly council meetings. They argued on the basis of Section 3.3 of the GSA policies which state that all meetings should be made considering the needs of people in attendance. They voiced concerns around the constantly evolving nature of the Covid-19 pandemic and the threat to immune-compromised individuals, and also how a hybrid model for the meetings would better accommodate neurodivergent individuals from the student community.

The president responded by acknowledging and sharing the concerns raised. 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 were not given voting rights. However, the policies are evolving, and we hope to be online by December 2022.

The Vice President of 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 6:06 pm.
(Sumana Nath /Kamal)*

Carried

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							
Animal and Poultry Science		P	N/A	P							
ARCHAIA		A	N/A	P							
Biology Graduate Student Association	Shuqi Ren – Councillor Kayla Caruso – Alternate	A	P	P							
Chemistry Course Council		P	N/A	N/A							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Arshdeep Jagait – Councillor Kundanika Mukherjee (Alternate)	A	R	P							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society –Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Maddie Stewart – Councillor Rachel Harris- Alternate	A	R	P							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon – Councillor Emilia Gillies - Alternate	P	N/A	P							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councillor Fabrice N. Njotu – Alternate	P	N/A	P							
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji – Councillor Naz Zarreen Oishie – Councillor Pujitha Macha – Alternate	A	N/A	N/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
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological		A	N/A	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical		A	N/A	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical		A	N/A	A							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental		P	N/A	N/A							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer		P	N/A	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical		A	N/A	P							
English Course Council	Dara Gerbrandt – Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Amanda Burrows - Alternate	P	P	P							
Geography & Planning Graduate Council		A	N/A	N/A							
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association		A	N/A	N/A							
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Danielle Cormier Kevin Mageto (Alternate)	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
Physical and Engineering Physics - PEGASUS	Nicholas Simonson – Councillor Yasaman Yousefi - Alternate	P	P	P							
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council		P	N/A	P							
Plant Science	Brianna Senetza – Councillor Kaylie Krys - Alternate	A	P	P							
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Joanna Lavoie - Councillor Henry Francisco – Alternate	A	P	P							
SENSSA		A	N/A	N/A							
SPHSA		A	N/A	N/A							
Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman - Councillor Grace Rath -Alternate Leah Houseman – Alternate Devin Prachler – Alternate Sara Leavin - Alternate	A	P	P							
Soil Science Graduate Student Association		regrets	N/A	P							
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Hannah Mahoney – Councillor Emily Kennedy - Alternate	A	P	A							
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	P	N/A	N/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							
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P	P							
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P	P	P							
Exec. VP External Affairs	Ozra Mohammadi	P	P	P							
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A							



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 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 Afrim Lema

Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski

1. Call to Order/Opening remarks

The agenda package was emailed to Council members. The Chair welcomed members of council and called the meeting to order at 1721 CST. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Recording Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

The Chair reminded Council members of the protocol and Robert's Rules of Order. The Recording Secretary asked individuals to be sure to identify themselves when addressing the council so as to be recorded properly.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair asked about any amendments to the agenda as circulated via email. There were no amendments brought forward.

Motion to approve the amendments and agenda. (Moradi/Mohammadi)

Carried

3. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2022

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

Motion to approve the August 11, 2022 meeting minutes. (Moradi/Sumana Nath)

Carried

4. Executive Reports

4.1 GSA President:

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

4.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report:

The report was presented to council members.

Question: Challan Gladman (ECC) asked if there had been a vote to move to fully in-person meetings and voiced the opinion that a hybrid meeting model would be preferable in regard to COVID-19 numbers.

Answer: In keeping with university protocols, we have decided to move to an in-person meeting model.

Comment: Elyse Proulx-Cullen added to Challan's question saying a hybrid model makes sense and in a previous meeting there was discussion of keeping meetings hybrid from now on.

Answer: We hear what you are saying and we can make a hybrid model happen.

Any additional questions for the VP may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.fin@usask.ca

4.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report:

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 may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.sa@usask.ca

4.4 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 this time. Any questions for the VP may be directed to their email address any time at gsa.external@usask.ca

4.5 Questions and answers

There were no additional questions at this time.

5. Election of GSA Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer

Control of the meeting was handed over to former Chair Devin Cherneski since the current Chair was up for re-election.

Since the term is up for the existing GSA Council Chair and Chief Electoral Officer there was a call sent out for candidates for the new term. In accordance with the bylaws, the Chair is required to ask 3 times if there were any nominations from the floor, nominations were open to all present. There were no candidates from the floor. There was one candidate present who expressed interest in the position: Sadia Afrin Lema. They spoke of their studies and experience, as well as why they are interested in the position, after which they were asked to exit the meeting for a vote to appoint them to the position.

Votes:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to appoint Sadia Afrin Lema to position of GSA Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer. (Chavez/Mahoney).

Carried

6. Election of GSA Council Vice Chair

The Chair addressed the requirements and responsibilities for holding the position of Council Vice Chair. In accordance with the bylaws, the Chair is required to ask 3 times if there were any nominations from the floor, nominations were open to all present. There was one interested candidate who expressed interest via email.

Tasbeen Sheeka – expressed a passion for the well-being of all people. Works in health education. Identified herself as responsible and knows that she can engage further with the GSA and for graduate students here at Usask. Sees the holding of this position as an opportunity.

Votes:

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstain: 0

As there was a majority vote, Tasbeen Sheeka was appointed to the position of GSA Council Vice Chair.

7. Election of GSA Council Recording Secretary

The Chair addressed the requirements and responsibilities for holding the position of Council Recording Secretary. In accordance with the bylaws, the Chair is required to ask 3

times if there were any nominations from the floor, nominations were open to all present. There was no interest from the floor at this time.

The president encouraged council members to pass along information about the need for a Recording Secretary to other graduate students who may be interested.

8. Ratification of Student Groups and Clubs

The Chair asked for representatives of those student clubs seeking ratification to come forward to speak about their groups' mandates to the council members.

Mahesh Rachamalla – Let's Talk Science

Hannah Mahoney – Tox on Tap

Aishwarya Gurung – Nepalese Students' Association

Sahrma Jannat Oishwee – Bangladesh Students' Association

The president asked that anyone interested in ratifying a social group email him and encouraged members to get involved in social clubs on campus.

9. Other Business/ Announcements

The president encouraged council members to get involved in student groups and encouraged them to invite others as well.

10. Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn at 1847 CST. (*Moradi/Kamal*)

Carried

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Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman - Councillor Grace Rath -Alternate Leah Houseman – Alternate Devin Prachler – Alternate Sara Leavin - Alternate	A	P								
Soil Science Graduate Student Association		regrets	N/A								
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Hannah Mahoney – Councillor Emily Kennedy - Alternate	A	P								
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Exec. President	Mostafa Kamal	P	P								
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ehsan Moradi	P	P								
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P	P								
Exec. VP External Affairs	Ozra Mohammadi	P	P								
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Vacant	N/A	N/A								



Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from October 06, 2022, to November 02, 2022, as listed below:

1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: October 09 & 24 and November 02, 2022

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

2. Meeting with Ted^x organization team of University of Saskatchewan: October 19, 2022

Ted^x organization team of University of Saskatchewan is planning to organize a watching event for Ted^x University of Saskatchewan Women on November 02. GSA President and I met with team, and they are requested to sponsor the event's location. Therefore, we, GSA executives, discussed this matter in the bi-weekly executive meeting and all executives agreed to sponsor this event.

3. Lunch with the Candidates Vice-Provost Students & Learning:

- a. **Nancy Turner: October 12, 2022**
- b. **Jerome Cranston: October 17, 2022**

The GSA executives discussed the most important issues of our election platform, e.g., funding amount, maternity leave and equity issues, with both candidates.

4. Meeting with Residence team: October 17, 2022

GSA President and I discussed some issues with residence team of University of Saskatchewan.

- a. Reopening Souris playroom and lounge of other residence buildings for social events.
- b. Request to replace or fix old laundry equipment. Old machines make too much noise, and some parts are broken that are harmful for kids.
- c. Also, we discussed the elevator issues, the residents have been facing this issue for a long time (from Spring 2022)

5. Attended Ted^x University of Saskatchewan Women: November 02, 2022

It was a watching event, there were playing the video of three interviews and then the invited people discussed their opinion after every session.

6. Attended regular meetings of my portfolio:

- a. *Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee*: October 12, 2022
- b. *Academic Program Committee*: October 11, 2022
- c. *Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee*: October 06, 2022
- d. *GSA Council Meeting*: October 13, 2022
I presented my monthly activities in previous months.
- e. *PEC/Student Executives monthly meeting*: October 18, 2022

The GSA executives discussed with the senior leaders of our university to increase the minimum guaranteed funding amount. The minimum funding for grad students is 18,000 CAD and it is not enough. The dean of CGPS informed us that they provided different bursaries and scholarships for grad students. However, we find that grad students who have funding less than 16,000 CAD, only they are eligible to apply. Therefore, the dean of CGPS will work on it.

7. Student advocacy related academic and non-academic issues:

For confidentiality, I could not disclose these situations. I have done four meetings with two grad students in the last month to advocate their academic and non-academic situations. As an experienced member, GSA President helped me a lot with advocacy.

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Oct 2022

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,
 Please find below my report to the Council for Oct 2022:

1) Meeting minutes

I have written meeting minutes for Oct 24, Oct 9, Sep 1, and Sep 19 executives' bi-weekly meetings.

2) Meetings/Events

The following is a list of meetings I attended in Oct 2022:

Date	Meetings/Events
Oct 9, 2022	GSA Executives by-weekly meeting
Oct 6, 2022	CGPS faculty council meeting
Oct 12, 2022	GSA Exec - Candidate #1 Vice-Provost Students & Learning (Nancy Turner)
Oct 13, 2022	GSA council meeting
Oct 17, 2022	GSA Exec - Candidate #2 Vice-Provost Students & Learning
Oct 18, 2022	PEC/ Students Executives monthly meeting
Oct 24, 2022	GSA Executives' bi-weekly meeting

Regards,

Ozra Mohammadi.

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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