



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 13th, 2022; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: GSA Commons

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	<i>Decision</i>
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes		
3.1 Approval of the GSA Council Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022		
	2-9	<i>Decision</i>
4. GSA Executives Reports	10-19	
4.1 President's Report		<i>Information</i>
4.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report		<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. Election of GSA Council Recording Secretary		<i>Decision</i>
6. Other Business		<i>Information</i>
7. Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>



**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 Afrin 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

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								
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	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P



GSA President's Report (September-October 2022) to GSA Council Members

Dear GSA Council Members,

Please find the GSA President's monthly activity summary from September 9, 2022, to October 11, 2022, as listed below in order of importance of the activities.

1. GSA Executive's monthly meeting with University President and his team, September 20, 2022

The GSA executives meet with the University of Saskatchewan President Professor Peter Stoicheff and his leadership team, including various university provosts, vice presidents, and deans. The GSA president and vice-president of finance presented the current GSA executive committee's advocacy priorities and service improvements. Followed by the meeting, the GSA president submitted a list of the Advocacy Works and Priorities of the 2022-2023 GSA Executive Committee to the University President as listed below.

Advocacy Priorities of 2022-2023 GSA Executive Committee

- I. To advocate for a minimum guaranteed funding for all thesis-based graduate students not less than the equivalent amount of Saskatchewan's minimum wage salary.
- II. To advocate to ensure a university-wide minimum guaranteed scholarship/stipend for thesis-based graduate students for a duration that is compatible with the median degree completion time of the University of Saskatchewan graduates.
- III. Work with various colleges to help bring down the University of Saskatchewan's median graduation timeline under the U15 median.
- IV. Advocacy for the introduction of part-time study opportunities coupled with part-time tuition fee options for part-time students.

- V. Advocacy for the reduction/removal of international tuition differential for master's students.
- VI. A mandatory graduate evaluation committee report following each meeting for all thesis-based programs.
- VII. Advocacy for service improvement at the Student Wellness Centre, including an introduction of walk-in clinic service for all University of Saskatchewan students.
- VIII. Advocacy for broader and faster adoption of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principle across the university. Expanding the anti-racism and anti-oppression training beyond top-level university leaders, especially for faculty members, managers, and directors of different university services.
- IX. Advocacy for the introduction of paid maternity leave for graduate students (currently, a limited number of colleges offer such benefits at USASK).
- X. Advocacy for the introduction of a university-wide emergency graduate childcare bursary.
- XI. Advocacy for a seat on the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors.

2. Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting, September 14, 2022

The GSA president attended the university's Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting, where the provost and vice-president academic, Professor Airini, presented the University of Saskatchewan's goals and visions for 2025. The GSA president advocated taking measures to help the University of Saskatchewan improve its world ranking and global recognition.

3. CGPS Executive & Coordinating Committee Meeting, September 15, 2022

The GSA president attended the CGPS Executive & Coordinating Committee Meeting chaired by the dean of CGPS, Professor Debby Burshtyn. It is a meeting where the chair of different academic committees of the university update about their ongoing work. The GSA president also needs to update GSA's ongoing activities.

4. GSA Executive Monthly Meeting, September 19, 2022

The GSA executives met for the monthly meeting on September 19, 2022. Issues discussed at the meeting include the hybrid format GSA council meeting, review of the GSA fall

orientation event, upcoming Canadian Federation of National Graduate Caucus meeting in November 2022 at Ottawa. The detailed meeting minutes will be made available in the next council meeting.

5. Fee Review Committee - Orientation Meeting, September 20, 2022

The GSA president attended the University's Fee Review Committee. It was an orientation meeting for this committee where the working procedure for this committee was discussed.

6. University Council Orientation Meeting, September 27, 2022

The GSA president and VP of Academic and Student Affairs attended the university council orientation meeting, where new members were introduced to the university council's terms of reference and working procedure.

7. University Council Meeting September 29, 2022

The GSA president attended the introductory CGPS Executive & Coordinating Committee Meeting. The GSA president has updated the council members about GSA activities since the current executive committee started its term. The GSA president emphasized the prioritized advocacy works of the current executive committee.

8. Governance Committee Meeting, October 4, 2022

The GSA president attended University's Governance Committee meeting and provided constructive feedback about various policies under review. Because of the confidentiality agreement, meeting details cannot be shared.

9. CGPS Faculty Council (GPSFC) Meeting, October 6, 2022

The GSA presidents and other executives attended the CGPS Faculty Council (GPSFC) Meeting. The GSA president updated the faculty council members about GSA activities since the current executive committee's priorities and advocacy works. The dean of CGPS presented her proposal for future graduate funding and scholarship for a thesis-based program. It was a great pleasure to see that the dean of CGPS proposed graduate funding and scholarship policies that the GSA has been advocating since last year. The dean of CGPS proposed some policies which were the top three election platforms of the current

GSA president, including a university-wide minimum guaranteed funding for all thesis-based graduate students, four years of guaranteed funding for Ph.D. students, and paid parental leave for graduate students.

10. GSA Executive Monthly Meeting, October 9, 2022

The GSA executives met for the monthly meeting on October 9, 2022. Issues discussed at the meeting include advocacy work about the university-wide introduction of equity, diversity, and inclusion principles; configuring GSA commons with facilities that will enable council members to join future council meetings in hybrid formats. The meeting minutes will be made available in the next council meeting.

11. Representing GSA as the Vice President of the Student and Learning Search Committee (September 9 to October 11, 2022)

The GSA president attended more than ten search committee meetings for the Vice President of Student and Learning at the University of Saskatchewan. Because of the confidentiality agreement, meeting details cannot be shared.

12. Representing GSA at the dean of the College of Arts and Science Search Committee (September 9 to October 11, 2022)

The GSA president attended six search committee meetings for the dean of the College of Arts and Science of the University of Saskatchewan. Because of the confidentiality agreement, meeting details cannot be shared.

Regards,

Mostofa Kamal

President

University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK, CANADA

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I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.



Report from the VP Finance and Operations (September 2022)

Hello GSA Councilors,

I am pleased to provide you an update on my activities as the current Vice-President Finance and Operations.

1. GSA Summer Bursary Update

Fall 2022 GSA bursary will be open next week on October 12 and the results will be announced on November first.

2. GSA Commons and GSA operations

GSA has been working fully functional with serving graduate students. The GSA commons has been open to students as an amazing study space. We also accommodate events as a source of income for the GSA.

GSA recently released ratified clubs founds. We will serve other clubs as soon as they finish their ratification process.

As VP of Finance and Operations, I prepared the GSA coordinators contract and hired three coordinators from graduate students. The GSA coordinator will serve GSA from 4.30 until 7.30, Monday to Friday. Coordinators will give more hours to the student for using GSA common space. We also had a very constructive meeting with PEC and had a long conversation with University senior leader regarding master's and part-time graduate students' funding and tuition. We also keep asking the CGPS leader to provide us with more support through the GSA bursary.

GSA Events
As VP of Finance and Operations, I have been working with other executives to be prepared for the GSA Fall and Winter events like the orientations.

Additionally, I continue to sit on various committees to improve the graduate students' experiences both on and off campus. Some of the meetings that I attended as part of my responsibilities are listed below:

Meetings

Executive Retreat Meeting

PRT/PEC/USSU/GSA Meeting

Studentcare

GSA-PSAC

Student Affairs and Services

ISSAC-GSA

Mental Health First Aid

Meeting with the City of Saskatoon

GSA Executive Meeting

Multiple meetings with outgoing VP Finance

Please feel free to contact me at gsa.fin@usask.ca should you have any questions or need any further clarification.

Sincerely,

Ehsan Moradi

Vice-President Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association

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Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from September 01, 2022, to October 05, 2022, as listed below:

1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: September 2 & 15

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

2. Attending orientation of Department of Music: September 16, 2022

I attended the orientation of the MPT department on behalf of GSA and presented slides. I discussed the GSA services and upcoming events.

3. Attended regular meetings of my portfolio:

- a. *Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee*: September 13, 2022
- b. *GAAC Meeting*: September 14, 2022
We discussed with Dean, CGPS about regarding improving the use of candidate's advisory committees form – to better support communication of progress and deficiencies with students.
- c. *Academic Program Committee*: September 14, 2022
- d. *Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee*: September 15, 2022
The chair started with stating the nature and purpose of the committee, asked committee to dream big and plan. Also, encouraged the group to put forward inspirational items ensuring each letter at RSAW is equally supported. Also, the chair pointed to terms of reference and membership list and talked about several priorities from previous years.
- e. *GSA Council Meeting*: September 15, 2022
I presented my monthly activities in previous months.
- f. *PEC/Student Executives monthly meeting*: September 20, 2022
The GSA discussed with university's senior leaders some first priorities of our election platforms to support the graduate students' academic and non-academic issues.
- g. *Council Orientation*: September 27, 2022
That was orientation program the chair of university council presented the outline of who are university council, how does council work and operation.
- h. *Council Meeting*: September 29, 2022

4. Student advocacy related academic issues:

- a.** One student is facing challenges regarding research communication issues with the supervisor and co-supervisor: September 9, 2022
- b.** One student is facing challenges regarding funding problems: September 27, 2022

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Graduate Students' Association
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Sep 2022

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my report to the Council for Sep 2022:

1) 2023 GSA Gala

We have started communicating the date and theme of GSA annual Gala event with Remai modern organizer and event planner.

2) Meetings/Events

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

Date	Meetings/Events
Sep 8, 2022	Swag bag preparation for GSA Fall orientation
Sep 9, 2022	GSA fall orientation
Sep 20, 2022	PEC/ Students Executives monthly meeting
Sep 8, 2022	GSA Executives by-weekly meeting
Sep 15, 2022	GSA council meeting
Sep 19, 2022	GSA Executives by-weekly meeting

Regards,

Ozra Mohammadi.

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

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