



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							