



Graduate Students' Association

January Council Meeting Minutes

University of Saskatchewan-Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Wednesday, January 28th, 2026; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Hybrid (In-person & Online-Zoom)

"As Council gathers, we acknowledge that we are on Treaty C 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

Council Chair: Clement Abdallah

Vice-Council Chair: Shamsuddeen Ma'aruf

Recording Secretary: Aiminayanate Pepple

a. Call to Order

- The chair, Clement Abdallah, welcomed every council member. The meeting was called to order at 5:09 PM.
- A land acknowledgment was observed, recognizing Treaty 6 territory and the Métis homeland.

b. Rules and Regulation

Clement Abdallah briefed council members of the:

- Use of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Requirement of mover and seconder for motions.
- Voting procedures (chat or a raise of hands).
- Time allocations: 3 minutes per speaker, with reminders.
- Emphasis on professionalism and respect.

c. Approval of Agenda

The chair asked for the approval of the meeting agenda.

Mover: Palash Roy

Seconded by: Luke Dojack

Yes: 14

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

d. Approval of GSA Council Meeting Minutes

✓ **December 17th, 2025, Council Meeting**

Mover: Luke Dojack

Seconded by: Laila Valila

Yes: 13

No: 1

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

e. Motion 1: To approve a 5% increase to both the Health and Dental Plan Fees for the 2026/2027 academic year

- The proposed health and dental plan fee for 2026/2027 academic session is \$712.77 with \$237.58 to be paid in fall semester (4 months) and \$475.18 to be paid in winter semester (8 months).
- Voting was inclusive due to the inability to achieve a quorum (two-third of the total council).
 - ❖ VP finance suggested that an email be sent to all council members to vote before the 2nd of February 2026.

f. Motion 2: To approve a 5% increase to GSA Fee for the 2026/2027 academic year

- The GSA annual fee is proposed to increase from \$77.80 to \$81.68 for efficient service delivery.
- An email was agreed to be sent to all council members to vote before the 2nd of February 2026.

g. GSA Executives Reports

➤ **President – Palash Roy**

- A welcome session was held in collaboration with OPUS for new and current graduate students.
- GSA is currently working to invest its funds in low-risk investment options.
- The GSA was given the sum of CAD 1,000 by the CGPS towards the development of the childcare proposal.
- The GSA team is working on informing the provincial Education Minister, Everett Hindle, of the challenges faced by graduate students.
- The president informed the council of the
 - ❖ Proposed 5% increase in the health & dental fees for the next academic session.
 - ❖ The GSA increased fee is expected to include and provide optimized services for graduate students.
- The USSU has agreed to manage the spring-summer transit pass for graduate students on behalf of the GSA with provided option to opt-out.
 - ❖ In view of this, the GSA hopes to communicate to graduate students in due time about the cost and duration of the transit pass.
- In discussion with the University President's Executive Committee (PEC), the president advocated for the retention of the USask email addresses by alumni.
 - ❖ A discounted fee option will be available for alumni willing to retain their email address.
 - ❖ Alumni will be informed a year in advance before the closure of the email address.
- The GSA is in communication with the Deputy Provost's office, the Language Centre, and CGPS for the introduction of International Mother Language Day on campus.
- The GSA team sympathizes with Iranian students and is willing to provide additional support to alleviate difficulties.

➤ **Vice-President Finance and Operations – Lindsay Carlson**

- In communication with Studentcare regarding the need for renewal costs, the GSA executives have proposed a 5% increase in health & dental fees for the next academic session.
- VP Finance plans to host two financial literacy events on saving and investment for the winter term. Graduate students are encouraged to attend.
 - ❖ An in-person information session on tax-filing will be held this winter term for graduate students.
- The application for the Winter 2026 GSA-CGPS need-based bursary will begin on the 2nd of February 2026 and end on the 20th of February 2026. Recipients will be notified by March 6th, 2026.

➤ **Vice-President Student and Academic Affairs - Mandela Alema**

- The annual Holiday Hangout held in December 2025 for students by the GSA in collaboration with the USSU, ISSAC, Office of Sustainability and Student Wellness Centre was successful.
- New graduate students were welcomed on January 5th at the Kick-Off Social of the 2026 USask Winter Orientation.
- The GSA has launched its first-ever intramural sports teams in the 2026 winter term with two teams called co-ed futsal and one co-ed volleyball.

➤ **Vice-President Indigenous - Laila Valila**

- The indigenous Resource Fair and Intercultural Exchange held was a success. The VP indigenous hopes to continuously organize these programs.
- The VP raised concerns about the roles of the office of the indigenous affairs and hopes to make adequate changes for clarification purposes.

➤ **Vice-President External Affairs – Sunny Bui**

- The VP hopes to meet with the provincial Education Minister, Everett Hindle and Hon. Buckley Belanger to discuss the childcare initiative.
- The application for nominee for the GSA Awards and GSA Gala is currently open and will end on the 13th of March 2026.
 - ❖ The Award Gala is set to be held in TCU place, Saturday the 25th of April 2026

h. Any other Business of the Day (A.O.B)

➤ **Sustainability Committee Attendance**

- The chair of the committee, Laila Valila urged members to respond to meeting invitations.

i. Adjournment

Mover: Palash Roy

Seconded by: Angelica Caresse Uy

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm by Clement Abdallah.



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Appendix A

	Academic Council	Councillor	January 2026
1	Agricultural and Resource Economics Graduate Students' Society	Councilor – Aminata Ba Alternate – Cornelius Mensah	P
2	Animal and Poultry Science Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Megan Dubois Alternate - Beatriz Montenegro	P
3	Biology Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Portia Mohrbutter Alternate - Laura Dyson	P
4	Chemistry Course Council	Councilor - Shreya Tiwary Alternate - Segun Liyansan	A
5	College of Medicine Graduate Student Society (CMGSS)	Councilor 1 - Griffin Lehnert Alternate 1 - Christopher Chivers	A
		Councilor 2 - Amber Jurke Alternate 2 - Hetvi Darji	A
6	College of Kinesiology Graduate Society	Councilor - Sunny Bui Alternate - Karissa Johnson	A
7	Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Councilor - Mary-fidelma Chioma Ndupu Alternate - Md Shamimur Rahman	A
8	Education Graduate Students Association (EGSA)	Councilor - Kiegan Lloyd Alternate – Rumpa Banik	P
9	Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC)	Councilor 1 - Farzana Haque Reeti Alternate 1 - Binod Sapkota	P
		Councilor 2 - Adit Raj Chalise Alternate 1 - Corwyn Shomachuk	P
10	English Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Hamid Yari Alternate - Jasmine Redford	A
11	Geography and Planning Graduate Student Council (GEPL)	Councilor - Emily Ireland Alternate - Prakash Sapkota	P
12	History Graduate Student Association	Councilor - Jessy Lee Saas Alternate - Julia-Rose Miller	P
13	Nursing Graduate Students Association	Councilor - Kirsten Witter Councilor - Aja Tost	A
14	Physics and Engineering Physics Graduate Association of Students at University of Saskatchewan (PEGASUS)	Councilor - Jeisson Vanegas Alternate - Mona Zolghadrshojaee	P
15	Plant Science Graduate Students' Association (PSGSA)	Councilor 1 - Luke Dojack Alternate 1 - Makenna Mitchell	P

		Councilor 2 - Giri Raj Paudel Alternate 2 - Sachintha Attanayake	P
16	School of environment and Sustainability Student Association	Councilor 1 - Nelly Ataawomba Afuubi Alternate 1 - Jethro Opara	A
		Councilor 2 - Javed Chowdhury Alternate 2 - Anas Ansari	A
17	Sociology Graduate Students Association	Councilor – Meaghan Boily Alternate - Leah Houseman	A
18	Soil Science Graduate Students Association	Councilor - Nemat Dindarloo Alternate - Levi Lundell	A
19	The School of Public Health Students' Association (SPHSA)	Councilor 1 - Motajo Modupeoluwa Olakunle	P
		Councilor 2 - Angelica Caresse Uy Alternate - Sun Thai	P
20	Toxicology Graduate Student Association	Councilor - Chantel De Lange Alternate - Catherine Roberts	A

Executive member	Name	January 2026
Executive President	Palash Roy	P
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Lindsay Carlson	P
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mandela Alema	P
Exec. VP External Affairs	Sunny Bui	P
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Laila Valila	P

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