



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025; 17:00-18:30

Meeting Location: Online (ZOOM)

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	ACTION	PAGE
1	Call to order		
2	Approval of agenda	Decision	1
3	Motion to receive GSA council meeting minutes	Action	3-21
4	Motion to receive GSA executive meeting minutes ➤ January 3rd, 10th, & 28th, 2025	Action	22-25
5	Motion to receive first awards committee meeting minutes	Action	26
6	Motion to remove Stella Aluko from the Awards 2025 Committee due to lack of participation	Decision	26-27
7	Motion: Approval of Amendments to the GSA Policy	Action	27
8	Motion to receive Governance committee meeting minutes	Action	27-28
9	GSA Policy revision 2025	Information	29-36

10	GSA executive reports a. President's b. Vice President Finance and Operation c. Vice President Academic and Student Affairs d. Vice President External Affairs e. Vice President Indigenous Engagement Report	Information	37-44
11	Adjournment		



University of Saskatchewan-Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Wednesday, November 27th, 2024; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Online

“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: Devopriya Tirtho

Recording Secretary: Arman Heydari

- **Call to Order**

The Chair, Devopriya Tirtho, welcomed everyone to the Graduate Students Association meeting for November 2024. He emphasized the importance of collaboration and thanked all attendees for their dedication to improving the graduate student experience.

He acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis, paying respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirming relationships with one another.

The Chair concluded with a quote by Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is progress, and working together is success."

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM after the quorum was met. The GSA recording secretary was unable to attend due to urgent work commitments, and the meeting minutes were written by the next recording secretary.

- **Rules and Regulation**

Before proceeding with the agenda, the Chair explained the rules and regulations governing the meeting:

The GSA follows Robert's Rules of Order.

For a motion to be passed, a mover and a seconder are required.

Only voting members will vote by raising their voting cards; online participants will vote in the chat box.

Each agenda item is addressed within a specified time frame. Extended discussions are postponed to the next meeting.

Each council member has three minutes to speak, with notifications at one minute and 30 seconds remaining. Speakers will be muted after their time expires.

Respect and decorum are mandatory, with the Chair and Secretary authorized to intervene if necessary.

While members are encouraged to have their video on while speaking, flexibility is allowed.

- **Introduction of Council Members**

The Chair invited all council members to introduce themselves by stating their names and the councils they represent. Some members introduced themselves verbally, while others used the chat function.

Notable introductions included:

Opara Jethro (School of Environment and Sustainability Students Association, CENSA)

Sana Nasser (Graduate Student in Public Administration, University of Saskatchewan)

The Chair acknowledged all introductions and moved forward with the agenda.

- **Agenda: Approval of Agenda**

The chair stated that today's agenda was emailed to all council members and posted on the GSA website as well. The chair then asked if there were any amendments to the agenda package.

Hearing none, he called for a mover and a seconder to approve the agenda.

As the majority of the council voted in favor, the motion was approved.

- **Agenda: Approval of Executive Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of October 9th and 28th 2024, Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked about the approval of the minute from GSA council meeting from October 9 and October 28, 2024.

The motion to approve the October 9 and October 28 minutes was approved by the majority of the council members.

- **Agenda: Election of the GSA council chair**

The Chair introduced the next agenda item: the election of the GSA Council Chair.

David Ohene-Amoako, leading this part of the meeting, read out the election rules. He noted that the Council Chair must be a regular member of the association and cannot be a member of the Council Executive or Association Staff. Additionally, the Chair should be familiar with all governing documents, including the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Corporation Act, 1995, and Robert's Rules of Order.

Two candidates had submitted nominations for the position:

1. Devopriya Tirtho
2. Kimia Khavaninzadeh

the President called upon each candidate to present their statements. Each candidate was given one and a half minutes to speak, followed by an opportunity for council members to ask questions.

Devopriya Tirtho introduced himself as a master's student in computer science. He shared his experience with the GSA, having initially joined as a Vice Chair before stepping into the role of Chair after the previous Chair's resignation. He spoke about his contributions to the GSA, including volunteering efforts and designing the GSA T-shirt for 2023. Devopriya expressed his commitment to continuing his work in ensuring the smooth operation of the GSA, fostering collaboration between executives and graduate students, and representing students' voices effectively. He requested support from the council members for his candidacy.

the President then attempted to call on Kimia Khavaninzadeh, but there was no immediate response. After a brief delay, Kimia was able to join the discussion, explaining that she had technical issues with her microphone. She introduced herself as a graduate student in the music department and highlighted her active participation in various GSA meetings. She expressed her interest in playing a role in the council, emphasizing her enthusiasm for decision-making that benefits all students.

Following the candidates' presentations, the President posted the voting link in the Zoom chat. Council members were given time to cast their votes. An inquiry was raised about whether executives were allowed to vote, to which David confirmed that all members, including executives, were eligible to participate in the election. Once voting was completed, David proceeded to check the results while the meeting continued with other agenda items.

- **Agenda: Election of the GSA council vice-chair**

The Chair introduced the next agenda item: the election of the GSA Council Vice-Chair. As per GSA bylaws, this is a voluntary position open to regular members of the Association who are not part of the Council Executive or Association staff. The Vice-Chair is responsible for presiding over council and general meetings in the absence of the Council Chair and is encouraged to attend at least one council and general meeting even when the Chair is present. The Vice-Chair must also be familiar with all governing documents, including the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Corporation Act, 1995, Robert's Rules of Order, and the Association's constitution, bylaws, and policies.

The Chair then initiated the election process, inviting each candidate to introduce themselves.

- Doreen Mora Ozoro introduced herself as a new student in the School of Public Health, eager to contribute to graduate student learning activities and gain leadership skills.
- Muhammad Ismail Jobiullah, a second-year MPA student at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, highlighted his prior experience as a student organization president in Bangladesh and his desire to support graduate students.
- Sana Nasr, a first-year MPA student, emphasized her six years of relevant experience and her commitment to contributing valuable insights to the GSA.
- Shaily Tandekar, a second-year graduate student from the Plant Sciences Department, acknowledged her limited prior involvement but expressed a strong desire to step up and dedicate time and energy to the role.

Following the introductions, voting happened. The Chair confirmed that candidates were not allowed to vote. The voting link was shared, and participants were asked to confirm access. After votes were counted, a tie was identified between Shaily Tandekar and Doreen Mora Ozoro. In response, a motion was proposed by Luke Dojack to hold a second round of voting with only the tied candidates. The motion was seconded and approved.

Upon further verification, the Chair identified two duplicate votes for Doreen Mora Ozoro, which were removed. The corrected final vote count resulted in Shaily Tandekar being elected as the GSA Vice-Chair. The Chair announced the results and congratulated Shaily on her election.

Shaily thanked everyone for their support and expressed her enthusiasm for the role.

- **Agenda: Election of the GSA Council Recording Secretary**

The Chair introduced the next agenda item: the election of the GSA Recording Secretary. As outlined in the Bylaws, the Recording Secretary must be a regular member of the Association and cannot hold the positions of Council Chair, Vice Chair, Council Executive member, or Association staff. The Recording Secretary is responsible for closely working with the Council Chair (or Vice Chair in their absence), recording and preparing minutes for council and general meetings upon request, and receiving a fee equivalent to the graduate student hourly rate for each hour of work. The Secretary may claim a maximum of four hours per meeting, though this does not reflect the actual hours worked.

The Chair then proceeded with the election process, inviting each candidate to unmute and introduce themselves before the Council.

The first candidate called was Atifa Amin Sadehi, but there was no response. The Chair then moved to the next candidate, Arman Heydari.

Arman Heydari introduced himself, stating that he is a second-year master's student in computer science. He expressed confidence in handling secretarial duties, mentioning his experience with

weekly Zoom meetings and previous volunteering work with the GSA, particularly during orientation sessions. He stated that he found the GSA environment engaging and was enthusiastic about taking on the role of Recording Secretary.

The Chair then called for Christy Donco, but there was no response. Similarly, there was no response from when called. The Chair made a final call for Atifa Amin Sadehi, Christy Donco, and Parnia Nikkhah, but none of them responded.

Following this, the Chair provided the voting link in the chat and requested all council members to cast their votes. He waited for two minutes to allow members to complete their voting and then confirmed that voting had concluded.

The Chair shared the voting results in the chat, announcing that the majority of votes were cast in favor of Arman Heydari, who was thereby elected as the new Recording Secretary of the GSA.

The Chair congratulated Arman Heydari on his election.

Arman Heydari expressed his gratitude, thanking the council members for their votes and support.

- **Agenda: GSA Executive Reports**

- **President**

The President, David Ohene-Amoako, provided an update on recent activities and initiatives.

The GSA is working on developing a strategic plan to guide its long-term direction. The plan will be presented to the council for discussion and approval, ensuring continuity in GSA's goals and activities. Similar plans exist in other institutions, and the GSA aims to adapt best practices to benefit graduate students.

The President attended the recent CFS conference, representing the University of Saskatchewan and, in part, the province. As the Deputy National Chair, he emphasized the importance of student advocacy and thanked the council for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Planning is underway for Black History Month in February 2025. The President is part of the organizing committee and invited all students to participate. Events will include a screening of the film Ubuntu, which highlights the theme of community and shared identity.

The GSA is also collaborating with Career Services to organize a career readiness event specifically for graduate students. The event will focus on employer expectations and how graduate students can better prepare for the job market. The goal is to improve employment outcomes for students completing their master's and PhD programs.

The annual warm clothing drive, which started recently, is ongoing and will conclude on December 6. Donations have been coming in steadily, with efforts now extending to collecting toys and children's clothing as well.

Concerns about changing immigration policies and tuition costs have been brought to the GSA's attention. Some students have expressed worries about fee increases and the uncertainty surrounding immigration rules. These issues were also discussed at the University Council meeting, where university leadership acknowledged the challenges and indicated they are working on solutions. The GSA executive team will review these concerns and explore ways to support students.

The President concluded by noting that he has attended over 10 meetings this month, with more to come, and remains committed to addressing student concerns and strengthening the GSA's impact.

➤ **VP Finance and Operations**

Lindsay Carlson provided a detailed update on several key issues. One major concern raised in early November was the reduction in OneDrive storage, which posed challenges for students with data-intensive research. Lindsay worked with the other GSA executives to write and present a letter to the President's executive committee, advocating against the change. While initial pushback was received, the committee ultimately reversed the decision after realizing the impact on graduate students' ability to store necessary data. Lindsay also encouraged students to check their OneDrive storage, as it appears some users have been arbitrarily affected by storage reductions, and students requiring more storage are advised to contact IT.

Additionally, Lindsay announced that the Fall needs-based bursary, which was initially set to close on October 31, 2024, will have its deadline extended to November 8, 2024. This extension was necessary due to scheduling conflicts for the bursary selection committee, which will allow for more applicants. The bursaries will be distributed electronically for the first time in collaboration with CGPS and are expected to be sent out before the holidays to support students facing financial hardship during the holiday season.

Finally, Lindsay highlighted the successful approval of the operating budget for the 2024-2025 year. She thanked everyone involved for their efforts in ensuring the budget was approved before the year's end, making it officially part of the upcoming fiscal year. Lindsay concluded by inviting any questions and passing the floor to the next speaker.

➤ **VP Academic and Student Affairs**

Nickson Joseph provided a report highlighting his recent activities. Over the past month, he focused primarily on the ratification of academic councils and social groups. As outlined in the GSA's Bylaws and Policies, the annual ratification process is essential for the proper functioning of the Council, ensuring that ratified councils and groups receive funding and other benefits. This year, with coordination from the other executives and office staff, Nickson was able to complete

the ratifications on time, achieving better success compared to previous years. Currently, 18 academic councils and 6 social groups have been ratified.

Nickson also took the opportunity to apologize for any miscommunication that may have occurred between the office and council members during this process. In addition, he mentioned that the GSA was a silver sponsor for the One Health Symposium hosted by the University of Saskatchewan on November 23, 2024, which was a successful event. Nickson concluded by noting that the list of meetings he attended is available in the shared agenda package and invited members to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding his report.

➤ **VP External Affairs**

Reza Golpayegani, the VP External, provided updates on key initiatives undertaken over the past months. The new GSA logo has been successfully implemented across physical spaces in the GSA Commons building, as well as on the GSA's website and social media platforms. Additionally, a GSA Volunteers group has been created, now consisting of 26 members. Graduate students interested in joining and contributing to GSA activities are encouraged to reach out via email. Lastly, the VP External reminded members to attend the next Council meeting, where important details regarding Gala 2025 will be discussed.

➤ **VP Indigenous Engagement**

The VP Indigenous Engagement provided a brief report on ongoing initiatives. Work continues on establishing a daycare to support graduate students, though progress remains slow due to significant challenges in securing both space and funding. Currently, the efforts involve the VP Indigenous Engagement, the President, a professor, and a representative from the CDPS office. There is also interest from the Indigenous Students' Union, with four students expressing support for the initiative, along with some members of the GSA Council. However, resource limitations remain a key obstacle, as finding both space and financial support requires substantial time and effort.

Additionally, the VP Indigenous Engagement attended several meetings throughout the month, including representing the GSA at the 2024 Opahatan Ball Symposium on November 8 and the Louis Riel Day Métis flag-raising ceremony at Nobel Plaza on November 15. She noted that as of last Friday, the Métis flag was still flying and encouraged members to visit the site.

During the meeting, a member asked about a previously mentioned discussion with USSU regarding anti-racism initiatives. The VP Indigenous Engagement clarified that while a meeting with USSU and the President did not take place as initially expected, discussions about the 3rd Pass initiative are ongoing. Currently, students experiencing racism have only two formal options: filing a complaint through Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Services, which has a high standard of proof, or attempting to resolve the issue independently. The VP Indigenous Engagement noted that there is growing interest from the Indigenous Students' Union to address this issue, and discussions continue on potential improvements.

The President added that while no formal anti-racism system exists at the university, USSU has expressed willingness to collaborate on the issue. A meeting took place earlier in the day to discuss next steps, and the GSA will remain involved in the process. Updates will be provided as progress is made.

Agenda: Other Business

➤ Announcements:

David Ohene-Amoako, GSA President

David announced the upcoming GSA hangout events, tentatively scheduled for December 27th, 28th, and 30th. He emphasized that these dates are subject to final confirmation in the upcoming GSA Newsletter and encouraged council members to participate as the organization prepares for the new year. Any changes will be communicated in due course.

Lindsay Carlson, VP Finance

Lindsay reminded academic councils that their annual funding has been processed and should have been received. She urged council representatives to check with their treasurers and reach out to either her or Nixon if there were any issues. Additionally, she highlighted that academic councils are eligible to apply for up to \$750 per year in event funding, which could be useful for upcoming holiday events.

Lindsay also announced that the Canadian Federation of Students has been invited to present at the next meeting on December 18th. The presentation will cover the benefits of CFS membership, as all graduate students pay a related fee through their tuition.

Lastly, Lindsay initiated a discussion on whether the December 18th meeting should be held in person or online, considering many members may be traveling for the holidays.

David Ohene-Amoako, GSA President:

David added that Dean Debbie from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) may attend the December 18th meeting to discuss an important decision affecting graduate students. He encouraged an in-person meeting to allow for direct engagement with the Dean. However, if the majority of members preferred an online format, alternative arrangements would be considered.

Members were asked to submit their meeting format preferences in the chat, and a final decision will be communicated later.

➤ discussion on the amendment of the SSA to include 3 weeks of vacation

Matthew Chapelski provided a report summarizing his recent activities and key discussions. One of the main issues raised was the vacation entitlement for international students. A concern was brought forward that the current two-week vacation period is insufficient for international students

who need to travel long distances to visit their home countries. To address this, Matthew suggested negotiating an amendment to the Student-Supervisor Agreement to include a mandatory three-week vacation entitlement. This change would ensure fairness and consistency, preventing disparities where some students receive more vacation time than others.

Additionally, Matthew discussed the upcoming GSA election process. He proposed an improvement to how candidate information is presented during voting. Currently, students only see candidates' names on the ballot, which can make it difficult to recall their platforms. To enhance voter awareness, he suggested including a short statement—around 30 words—summarizing each candidate's key priorities or campaign slogan. This would provide students with a clearer understanding of candidates' positions at the time of voting, making the election process more accessible and equitable, especially for those who may not have had the opportunity to engage with campaign materials beforehand.

Matthew concluded by encouraging further discussions on these topics and welcomed any feedback from council members.

Lindsay Carlson, VP Finance, responded to Matthew's points by clarifying that election posters are a reimbursable expense, with candidates eligible for up to \$50 in reimbursement. She acknowledged that many students do not utilize posters, making Matthew's suggestion even more relevant. Lindsay also expressed interest in improving the election timeline, noting that her own nomination process had only allowed for a two-day window. Extending this period would give candidates more time to prepare and participate effectively.

David Ohene-Amoako, President, echoed the importance of the vacation policy discussion, stating that this concern had been raised previously by other students. He acknowledged the challenges international students face in making travel arrangements within the current two-week limit and supported the proposal to extend vacation time.

➤ **Updates on GSA daycare:**

David Ohene-Amoako provided an update on the ongoing efforts to establish a GSA daycare. He reiterated that the daycare project remains a priority and is being integrated into the strategic plan. While the current executive team may not be able to complete the initiative during their term, efforts are being made to ensure continuity. The plan is structured so that future executives can pick up the project where it is left off and continue working towards its completion.

➤ **Discussion on GSA Election:**

The Council discussed ways to enhance the accessibility and transparency of the GSA election process. Currently, candidates upload campaign videos to YouTube; however, concerns were raised that not all students engage with these materials before voting. Suggestions were made to explore additional communication strategies to ensure that students are well-informed before casting their votes.

Additionally, Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko provided insight into the amendment process for the Student-Supervisor Agreement (SSA). She clarified that any changes must go through multiple bureaucratic layers, including the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) Executive Coordinating Committee and the CGPS Faculty Council. Despite the complexity of the process, it was agreed that advocating for necessary amendments is worthwhile.

Agenda: Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by the majority of the council members.

Information regarding the next Council meeting will be updated on the GSA website, with the next session tentatively scheduled for December 18.



Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025
Biology Graduate Student Association	Portia Mohrbutter Ayicia Nabigon (Alternate)	P	P						
Chemistry Course Council	Marco Justino Loza Taghavi (Alternate)	P	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, microbiology & Immunology	Andy Kim - Councilor Shirley Yu - Councilor Samiul Chowdhury - Councilor Sara Dalkilic - Councilor Rylan Bahrey (Alternate) Adrielle Souza (Alternate)	P	P						
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Thulani Hewavithana Norah Ridley Mumtahina Ahmed (Alternate)	P	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Sumana Majumder Emmanuel Ezechinyelu (Alternate)	A	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Danyil Dmytriiev Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	A	P						

Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Parvaneh Koranian Sara Nath (Alternate)	A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Anukul Basnet Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Deepa Upadhyaya Subedi Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Kiranbir Kaur Faizan Ansari (Alternate)	A	A						
English Course Council	Lydie Hua Gwen Rose (Alternate)	P	A						
Geography & Planning Graduate Council	Emily Ireland Prakash Sapkota (Alternate)	A	A						
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Matthew Chapelski Karissa Johnson (Alternate)	P	P						
Nursing Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	Jordan Sherstobitoff Ewurabena Sacky-Forsen Hayen Chei Luri (Alternate) Stella Aluko (Alternate) Kristen Witter (Alternate)	P	P						
Plant Science	Luke Dojack	P	P						

Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Patrick Janzen-Brown Taya Stang (Alternate)	P	A						
SENSSA	Jethro Opara Chelsea Ohenewaa Nyarko (Alternate)	P	P						
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Wasim Al-Khanati Omar Bardouh Theresa Agbeyei Isfar Chowdhry (Alternate)	A	P						
Sociology GSA	Meaghan Boily Leah Houseman (Alternate)	P	P						
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Andrea Cline Chloe Canning (Alternate)	P	P						
Animal and Poultry Science GSA	Megan Dubois Gus Halibert (Alternate)	P	A						
Toxicology Graduate Student Association (TGSA) Academic Councilor	Chantel De Lange Summer Selinger (Alternate)	A	P						
History Graduate Student Association	Kiegan Lloyd Catlin M. Woloschuk	P	A						
Physics & Engineering Physics (PEGASUS)	Jeisson A. Vanegas Carranza Nicholas Simonson	P	A						

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Student Association	Harjot Tur-harjot Bazal Khalid (Alternate)	A	A						
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Executive member	Name of executive member	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Exec. President	David Ohene-Amoako	P	P			
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Lindsay Carlson	P	P			
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Nickson Joseph	P	P			
Exec. VP External Affairs	Reza Golpayegani	P	P			
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko	P	P			

University of Saskatchewan-Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Wednesday, December 18th, 2024; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Hybrid

“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: Devopriya Tirtho

Recording Secretary: Arman Heydari

- **Call to Order**

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He acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis, paying respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirming relationships with one another.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM after the quorum was met. The GSA recording secretary was unable to attend due to urgent work commitments, and the meeting minutes were written by the next recording secretary.

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The Chair acknowledged all introductions and moved forward with the agenda.

- **Agenda: Approval of Agenda**

The chair stated that today's agenda was emailed to all council members and posted on the GSA website as well. The chair then asked if there were any amendments to the agenda package.

Hearing none, he called for a mover and a seconder to approve the agenda.

As the majority of the council voted in favor, the motion was approved.

- **Agenda: Welcoming the Dean of CGPS**

Dr. Debby Burshtyn, Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the council, acknowledging the leadership of graduate student representatives in fostering a strong sense of community. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between CGPS and the GSA to enhance the student experience and provided an overview of key initiatives and priorities for the year.

Key points from Dr. Burshtyn's lecture included:

Recruitment and Student Funding: Ongoing efforts to increase graduate student funding, including engagement with university leadership and government to secure additional financial support.

International Students & Immigration Changes: Updates on new federal immigration policies requiring provincial attestation letters and potential impacts on graduate student enrollment. She reassured council members of the university's commitment to maintaining a diverse student body.

Post-Graduation Work Permits: Recent changes do not affect graduate students in degree programs.

Decolonization and Reconciliation Efforts: Introduction of Aurora Wolf as the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator and initiatives to support Indigenous students and incorporate decolonization perspectives in curricula.

Interdisciplinary Programs: Development of new programs aligned with the university's research signature areas to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Competency Framework & Professional Skills Development: Efforts to integrate skill-building opportunities, such as leadership and project management training, into graduate programs.

Following her presentation, Dr. Burshtyn invited questions from council members.

Daycare Support for Graduate Student Parents: She confirmed that CGPS supports the GSA's initiative to expand daycare services and is exploring potential funding sources, including philanthropic contributions. She also advocated for including postdoctoral scholars in these plans.

International Student Representation: While a designated representative has not been established, she noted that many GSA executives have been international students, ensuring their concerns are heard. She emphasized ongoing efforts to enhance intercultural competency training and student support services.

International Student Enrollment Trends: In response to a question from Danyil Dmytriiev (Biomedical College Representative), Dr. Burshtyn stated that international graduate student numbers have remained stable, though new student enrollment fluctuates due to faculty capacity and external factors. She expressed concern over declining study permit approval rates and the potential impact on future admissions.

The Chair thanked Dr. Burshtyn for her insights and ongoing collaboration with the GSA. The meeting proceeded with the next agenda items.

- **Agenda: CFS Membership Benefits Presentation**

The meeting commenced with an invitation to Mr. Jawad Chowdhury, Deputy Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), to present on the services and supports CFS provides to graduate students.

CFS Presentation by Jawad Chowdhury:

Introduction:

Jawad Chowdhury (he/him) introduced himself as the National Deputy Chairperson of CFS.

He highlighted CFS's status as the oldest and largest student organization in Canada, representing over 530,000 students across 64 member locals.

CFS operates on a bottom-up structure, with members setting the directives at the National General Meeting (NGM).

Federation Structure:

Explained the structure including local student unions, provincial general meetings (e.g., SKSGM), and the national NGM.

Introduced key figures like Holly Star Tate (Chairperson) and Lena Comey Gigi (Executive).

CFS has staff that support research, government relations, services, and campaigns.

CFS Pillars and Services:

CFS functions on three pillars: campaigns, services, research, and government relations.

Services include government relations support, campaign assistance, event support, member benefits (e.g., free sexual health products, ISIC discount card), ethically sourced products, digital services, tax filing assistance (UFile), and training.

The ISIC card provides discounts in 130 countries.

CFS provides student associations support with campaign development, anti-harassment training, and access to exclusive events and conferences.

Events include policy forums, the NGM, caucus standalones, and the Racialized and Indigenous Students Experience (RISE) Summit.

Campaigns:

Highlighted key campaigns: "Fight the Fees," "Education for All," "Fairness for International Students," and "No Means No."

Emphasized advocacy for affordable education, regulation of international student tuition, and combating sexual and gender-based violence.

Government Relations:

CFS engages with federal and provincial governments, advocating for student interests.

Recent advocacy included pre-budget submissions for housing and mental health funding, and advocating for international student work permit extensions.

Wins include reinvestment in post-secondary education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Research and Community Engagement:

CFS conducts research on relevant issues, including the next federal election.

Constituency groups and caucuses include international students, francophone students, mature and part-time students, 2SLGBTQ+ students, racialized students, students with disabilities, women students, Indigenous students, graduate students, and Black students.

The national graduate caucus lobbied for graduate student funding.

Engagement Rationale:

CFS is the largest student organization, providing a national platform for student voices.

It offers support, expertise, and opportunities for student engagement.

Q&A Session:

Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko questioned the lack of published governing documents and budgets.

Mary Ojewole (CFS Director of Membership) responded that 2023 documents were recently passed and will be published, and that internal meeting minutes would be addressed.

VP Finance and VP Student Affairs (Nixon) inquired about CFS's support for international graduate students, particularly regarding visa regulations.

Jawad Chowdhury and Mary Ojewole discussed CFS's advocacy for grandfathering existing international student regulations, pathways to PR, dedicated fellowships, and amplifying international student needs through the national graduate caucus.

Luke Dojack questioned the effectiveness of CFS's advocacy in combating funding cuts and the financial exploitation of international students.

Jawad Chowdhury, Rukky Erifeta, and Mary Ojewole then continued to discuss the difficulties of lobbying the provincial government, and the importance of a united student voice. Rukky mentioned the fund the fees rally at the University of Regina, that included support from other Saskatchewan institutions. Mary Ojewole discussed the blame game that the universities and governments play with funding, and also the need to rebuild the Saskatchewan CFS component. Mary also stated that the CFS would like to spend more time at the local level to better understand the needs of the students.

Dev then thanked the CFS members for the presentation.

- **Agenda: GSA Executive Reports**

- **President**

David Ohene-Amoako provided a report highlighting his recent activities and reflections on the past month. Despite December being a busy time with exams and other commitments, David shared that the success of the warm clothing drive led to the continuation of a toy and kids' clothing drive, which will run through January 2025. Some of the collected items are also being set aside for a future daycare initiative.

Additionally, David announced an upcoming year-end hangout event at GSA Commons, scheduled for December 27th, 28th, and 30th, from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM. An Eventbrite link will be sent out for registration, though students are welcome to attend even if they do not register in advance. A major announcement about the event will also be posted on Pulse.

In closing, David reflected on the engagement and initiatives of the past year, emphasizing the importance of unity among students in shaping a strong future for the GSA. He encouraged members to take an active role in creating the future they envision.

When someone asked about promotional materials for the toy and clothing drive, David confirmed that posters had already been shared on Pulse and would also be included in an upcoming newsletter.

➤ **VP Finance and Operations**

Lindsay provided a brief update on her recent activities. She informed the Council that the Bursary Selection Committee met earlier today, and the bursary announcements are scheduled to be released by tomorrow or Friday.

➤ **VP Academic and Student Affairs**

Over the past month, Nickson has been actively involved in planning the GSA Winter Orientation 2025, which is scheduled to take place on January 17, 2025, at GSA Commons. The event aims to welcome incoming students and provide them with valuable information sessions. Nickson shared that Dean Dr. Debbie Burstyn will be the chief guest, and attendees will receive lunch and GSA T-shirts. To ensure proper planning, a Google Form has been circulated to estimate the number of participants.

Additionally, efforts have been initiated to revise the Student-Supervisor Agreement at the CGPS level. In coordination with other executives, Nickson has started discussions with Dr. Jaswan Singh, Associate Dean, and has also brought the matter to the university's Vice President. To gather feedback from students, a survey link will be shared through a newsletter and other communication channels in the coming month.

Nickson concluded by inviting members to reach out via email with any questions or suggestions regarding these initiatives.

➤ **VP External Affairs**

Reza Golpayegani announced that the Gala 2025 awards application will open in a week. The venue for the event, Marquis Hall, has been reserved for April 12th. Due to space limitations, Reza has included only one representative from each council on the guest list, as some councils have multiple GSA representatives. He invited members to review the list and inform him via email if any councils were missing.

Reza also noted that he could not find the Pegasus GSA representative in their records. He requested that any representative from that council send their information to his email or share it in the meeting chat.

Additionally, he confirmed that souvenirs for Gala Night have been ordered, including 500 pens, identical to last year's design. Half of these will be used for the gala, while the rest will be distributed at other GSA events.

To improve communication, Reza has created a Discord server for council members and executives. He encouraged those interested to scan the QR code displayed on the screen and join.

Reza concluded by welcoming any questions or concerns and thanking the Council for their time. After his report, Jason identified himself as the Pegasus GSA representative, and Reza confirmed he would follow up with him.

➤ **VP Indigenous Engagement**

Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko provided a report on her recent activities as VP Indigenous Engagement. She reflected on the key initiatives she was elected to focus on—establishing a daycare and advancing anti-racism and anti-oppression efforts. She noted that these issues are deeply connected to larger provincial-level challenges, making progress difficult without broader support. Jennifer encouraged Council members to continue sharing their thoughts and feedback via email, emphasizing that collective support strengthens her advocacy efforts.

She acknowledged that progress has been slow but assured members that further details are outlined in the report included in the agenda. Anyone who needs a copy can email gsa.indigenous@usask.ca.

Currently, Jennifer is working with Reza to ensure respectful Indigenous representation at the Gala, addressing concerns from previous years where it was not handled well. Additionally, she is focused on rebuilding lost connections, mentioning that she has re-established contact with the Jewish student community on campus.

She briefly noted ongoing discussions with the Provost, but stated that now was not the time to discuss those matters.

• **Agenda: Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by the majority of the council members.

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025
Biology Graduate Student Association	Portia Mohrbutter Ayicia Nabigon (Alternate)	P	P	P					
Chemistry Course Council	Marco Justino Loza Taghavi (Alternate) Ozra	P	A	P					
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, microbiology & Immunology	Andy Kim - Councilor Shirley Yu - Councilor Samiul Chowdhury - Councilor Sara Dalkilic - Councilor Rylan Bahrey (Alternate) Adrielle Souza (Alternate)	P	P	P					
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Thulani Hewavithana Norah Ridley Mumtahina Ahmed (Alternate)	P	A	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Sumana Majumder Emmanuel Ezechinyelu (Alternate)	A	P	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Danyil Dmytriiev Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	A	P	P					

Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Parvaneh Koranian Sara Nath (Alternate)	A	A	A					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Anukul Basnet Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	A	A	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Deepa Upadhyaya Subedi Bashu Gautam (Alternate)	A	A	P					
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Kiranbir Kaur Faizan Ansari (Alternate)	A	A	P					
English Course Council	Lydie Hua Gwen Rose (Alternate)	P	A	A					
Geography & Planning Graduate Council	Emily Ireland Prakash Sapkota (Alternate)	A	A	A					
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Matthew Chapelski Karissa Johnson (Alternate)	P	P	P					
Nursing Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	Jordan Sherstobitoff Ewurabena Sacky-Forson Hayen Chei Luri (Alternate) Stella Aluko (Alternate) Kristen Witter (Alternate)	P	P	A					
Plant Science	Luke Dojack	P	P	P					

Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Patrick Janzen-Brown Taya Stang (Alternate)	P	A	A					
SENSSA	Jethro Opara Chelsea Ohenewaa Nyarko (Alternate)	P	P	P					
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Wasim Al-Khanati Omar Bardouh Theresa Agbeyei Isfar Chowdhry (Alternate)	A	P	P					
Sociology GSA	Meaghan Boily Leah Houseman (Alternate)	P	P	A					
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Andrea Cline Chloe Canning (Alternate) Levi Lundell	P	P	P					
Animal and Poultry Science GSA	Megan Dubois Gus Halibert (Alternate)	P	A	P					
Toxicology Graduate Student Association (TGSA) Academic Councilor	Chantel De Lange Summer Selinger (Alternate)	A	P	A					
History Graduate Student Association	Kiegan Lloyd Catlin M. Woloschuk	P	A	A					

Physics & Engineering Physics (PEGASUS)	Jeisson A. Vanegas Carranza Nicholas Simonson	P	A	A					
Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Student Association	Harjot Tur-harjot Bazal Khalid (Alternate)	A	A	A					

Executive member	Name of executive member	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Exec. President	David Ohene-Amoako	P	P	P		
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Lindsay Carlson	P	P	P		
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Nickson Joseph	P	P	P		
Exec. VP External Affairs	Reza Golpayegani	P	P	P		
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko	P	P	P		



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GSA Executives Meetings on January 3, 10, and 28 2025

Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Attendance: David Ohene-Amoako, Lindsay Carlson, Nickson Joseph, Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko, Reza Golpayegani.

Guests: Ali Versi (Student Care) on January 3rd, and Danyil Dmytriiev (Ukrainian Students' Research Association) on January 28th.

All executives approved all of these actions.

President:

1. The Executive Board received an update on the progress made for the Daycare/Childcare for GSA, the proposal suggests beginning with a drop-in session and designating one or two days for utilizing the GSA Commons as a daycare space. Additionally, both short-term and long-term plans will be developed, and a committee will be established to oversee ongoing implementation in the future.
2. **Coordinator Transition**
 - a. It was discussed that a current GSA Coordinator has successfully defended their project and is in the process of graduating.
 - b. There was discussion about whether GSA Coordinators need to be GSA regular members (e.g., enrolled students).
3. It was requested to provide certificates in recognition of the contributions of GSA staff and volunteers.
4. A proposal was made to organize an immigration update session for graduate students.
5. The Executive Board received an update on recent Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) provincial and national meetings from the President.
6. The Board discussed a motion to extend the current executives' term by an additional month to allow for a proper onboarding process for new executives.

VP Finance:

Health and Dental Plan Decisions and Fee Submissions

1. The GSA Executive Board held a meeting to discuss the rising costs of insurance coverage for graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. Ali Versi from Student Care provided a briefing on the reasons behind the increase, which were primarily due to increase in claims.
2. The executives requested Ali Versi to present the same information at an information session (Chaired by Lindsay current VP Finance) for GSA council members on Monday, January 20, 2025. This session was advertised widely and was open to any interested graduate students.
3. During the meeting on Jan 3rd, the executive board proposed presenting four options to the GSA council for a vote:
 - a. 8% increase in insurance cost + Major reduction of benefits
 - b. 16% increase in insurance cost + Significant reduction of benefits
 - c. 24% increase in insurance cost + Reduction of “nonessential” benefits
 - d. 40% increase in insurance cost + No cut in insurance coverage
4. The next GSA council meeting, where a vote on these options would take place, was scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025.
5. Fees to be submitted: **(All Approved)**
 - a. A 40% increase in the Health and Dental Fee was approved by council (final voting results in Council Meeting minutes), but the council recommended splitting the fee into smaller increments.
 - i. Currently, the health and dental fee is split into 4/12 charged in the fall and 8/12 charged in the winter, which has been found burdensome for students in the winter semester.
 - ii. VP Finance inquired re: this to Jennifer Beck, who followed up with Registrarial Services. She confirmed that making this change would require launching a project with the Registrar’s Office. Implementing the change could take up to 18 months and may involve an administration fee. A change could be pursued but would not be reflected for 1-2 academic years.
 - b. The UPass fee will increase based on the January Consumer Price Index (CPI).
 - c. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) fee will increase based on CPI, as confirmed in a letter received on Jan 23.3
 - d. The GSA Executive Board approved that the GSA fee will not be increased this year. However, it was noted that an increase next year may be necessary to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the GSA.

Other GSA Business

6. The VP Finance and President met with RBC representatives to discuss use of the RBC PayEdge Platform, which would allow for digital payments (e.g., to Studentcare, ratified academic councils) while still requiring dual signing authority. The cost is \$1/transaction, whereas wire transfers at the bank cost \$14 each. VP Finance recommends we adopt this platform. **(Approved)**

7. The VP Finance recommended that Chairs of Committees work to convene necessary committees of council as early as possible this semester, so work can be completed before the end of tenure.
8. The bursary selection committee will be convened in early February to discuss potential revisions to the bursary selection rubric.
9. The GSA Executives received event funding proposals from URSA (ratified club) and PEGASUS (ratified academic council) and approved funding requests.

VP Academic:

1. Asked executives to review the Student-Supervisor Agreement Review Google Forms before circulation.
2. The Executive Board received an update on the Co-Curricular Record (CCR) authorization process. CCR records can only be authorized for the current academic year, and after this year, the CCR program will be dissolved. There was some discussion about whether to pursue completion of program set-up left unfinished by previous OM. Executives agreed this would not be a valuable use of time since the program is being terminated soon anyway.
3. **Proposed Changes to Executive Roles:**
 - a. A proposal was made to split the VP Academic and Student Affairs into two separate roles.
 - b. Additionally, it was proposed to merge the VP Student Affairs role with the current VP External role. (In consultation with current VP External).
 - c. Executives noted that this would require significant restructuring of the bylaws.⁴
4. The Executive Board was asked to approve a proposal to the Governance Committee regarding policy changes, which include:
 1. GSA Leadership Circle
 2. Academic Council and Social Group Policy
 3. Removal of GSA Fall, Winter Orientation, and GALA and merge them into one social event under VP Student Affairs and VP Academic. (In consultation with VP External).

VP Indigenous:

1. sorting out Honorariums and tobacco for Elders and drummers/singers at Gala (not discussed)
2. we may not be able to have dancers at gala
3. Proposed to have an information page about Health and Dental plan on GSA website.
4. Proposed to ask GSA council to approve that anyone running for GSA VPIE should be confirmed as eligible under tapwewin | debwaaywin.
5. **IAW Event Planning**

- a. Notice given for an IAW event, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, from 4:00–5:45 PM.
 - b. Funding Needs:
 - I. \$250 requested for raffle gifts—discussion on whether this should come from discretionary funding or an existing budget line.
 - II. CGPS is funding soup and bannock catering.
 - c. Budget Code: Jennifer to use 53309 for new initiatives.
6. The GSA President was requested to send an email to the previous office manager, requesting access to the GSA Gmail account and QuickBooks, and issuing a cease and desist to prevent the deletion of files he had sent to himself.

VP External:

- 1. Moved to approve December 2024 executives' meeting minutes. **(Approved)**
- 2. **GALA 2025:**
 - a. The deadline for nomination for GSA Awards 2025 was extended till February 10th, 2025. Approval was received from the Awards Committee through email. (All members Approved)
 - b. A total of \$31,500.00 CAD has been raised in addition to \$5,000.00 CAD allocated from the GSA budget for GALA 2025, bringing the total budget to \$36,500.00 CAD. The updated sponsor list is available on the [GALA 2025 page](#).
 - c. The GSA Executive Board decided that awardees at GALA night will be given one minute for an optional speech.
 - d. Asked the executives' board to review and approve the GALA 2025 guest list. **(Approved)**
 - e. The process of receiving the sponsors' guest list is underway. Additionally, efforts are being made to secure a photographer for GALA night. David Stobbe, who was the photographer for GALA 2024, has been contacted, and a response is pending.
- 3. **GSA Website Backend Cleanup:**

In coordination with Prince (current GSA coordinator), all unpublished files. were removed from the backend of the GSA website. Prince has downloaded and compiled the deleted files into a zip archive and sent it to all executives via email for future backup.

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GSA Awards Committee Meeting on January 9, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Attendance: Reza Golpayegani, David Ohene-Amoako, Zohreh Sadati, Shabnam Abdi, Adam Luchkanych

Regret: None

Guest: None

All Committee members approved all of these actions.

1. **Introductions:** Reza initiated the meeting by requesting all committee members to provide a brief introduction about themselves.
2. **Awards 2025 Webpage Update:** Reza informed the committee members about the Awards 2025 page on the GSA website.
3. **Approval of Application Criteria:** The committee members had previously approved, via email on December 20, 2024, the opening of applications using the same criteria as in previous years.
4. **Awards Overview:** Reza provided a detailed briefing on the various awards and their respective criteria.
5. **Voting on Application Types for the Professional Excellence Award:** The committee voted to accept both project-based and course-based student applications for the Professional Excellence Award. The motion was approved.

Graduate Students Association Governance Committee 2025

Motion: Approval of Amendments to the GSA Policy and Bylaws

In accordance with the policy document of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), a Governance Committee shall be established. The primary responsibilities of this committee will include:

- i. revising existing documents.
- ii. Creating required policies and/or bylaws absent in the existing documents.
- iii. authoring recommendations and bringing forth motions for Policy, Bylaw or Constitution amendments, accordingly

In consultation with the executives and following our review, we hereby present to the council the proposed amendments to the policy document and bylaws for your consideration. Please find attached the meeting minutes along with the approved amendments for your review.

GSA - Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 2025

Location: Zoom

Time 10:30am-1130am

Attendance:

1. David Ohene-Amoako - GSA President
2. Nickson Joseph, GSA Vice president Academics and Student affairs - member
3. Roseline Ogori - Member
4. Donaldson Magloire - Member
5. Souza Lira, Adrielle - Member
6. Tirtho, Devopriya - Member

During the first meeting, committee members introduced themselves and were charged to make time and study the governing documents of GSA especially the policy, it was agreed that we establish a common platform (WhatsApp) for quick interactions while keeping all official communications via email. The committee has agreed to request written reviews from GSA Executives, who will also be invited to present their reviews in person. Following discussions, the proposed documents will be forwarded to the council for discussion and onward adoption. The projection by members is to hold a maximum of three meetings to help facilitate the process. Members will be copied (CC'd) in all communications to stay informed of updates. Additionally, committee members will be recognized on the GSA website as an honour for their contribution to GSA. The meeting ended approximately 11:18am

Compiled by:

David Ohene-Amoako

GSA President2

GSA Governance Committee Meeting Minutes II

Date: February 14, 2025

Location: Zoom

Time 1:30pm-3:30pm

Attendance:

1. David Ohene-Amoako - GSA President
2. Nickson Joseph, GSA Vice president Academics and Student affairs - member
3. Roseline Ogori - Member
4. Donaldson Magloire - Member
5. Souza Lira, Adrielle – Member

The meeting was chaired by **Magloire Donaldson**, and discussions commenced with a review of the draft amendments to the governance documents of the **Graduate Students' Association (GSA)**, which had been submitted by the executive committee. The committee members engaged in an initial discussion to assess the proposed changes before the executive representatives joined the meeting.

Following this preliminary review, **Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko (Vice President, Indigenous Engagement), Joseph Nickson (Vice President, Student Affairs), and David Ohene-Amoako (President)**—representing the **GSA Executive Committee**—joined the session to present the amendments one by one for discussion, deliberation, and subsequent approval. During the meeting, **Amendments 1 through 13, as well as Amendments 17 and 18, were unanimously approved** by the committee. It was agreed that further discussions on the remaining amendments would be conducted later to allow for a more in-depth review. Subsequently, **Amendments 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20 were also reviewed and approved by the committee via email.**

With all proposed changes thoroughly examined and accepted, the committee resolved to forward the finalized amendments to the **GSA Council** for final endorsement. Upon approval, these amendments will be integrated into the governance documents as official working document. Getting to the tail end of the committee's duties, a member Adrielle Souza Lira resigned from the committee after the majority of the committee's tasks had been completed. The GSA 2025 Governance Committee worked together and is confident that this amendment will go a long way to strengthen the Association. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Compiled by:

David Ohene-Amoako
(GSA President)

2. GSA POLICY REVISION 2025

Amendment 1

Original policy: 2. Association Student Handbook Policy

Recommended change: Remove this entire section.

Rationale: The GSA handbooks cost \$2500-5000 per year, and do not seem to be used/valued by students. We have had trouble distributing these in the past few years, and they cannot be saved for use in a following year because they are an academic year planner. Also, the handbook provides information about the association and resources/services available to students which is redundant to what is online. Funds would be better used to increase on campus postering, digital advertising, or in-person events to spread awareness about services such as the UPass.

Amendment 2

Original policy: 3.2. ThinkGRAD

Recommended change: Remove this entire sub-section.

Rationale: ThinkGRAD is a defunct organization, so this section is no longer relevant.

Amendment 3

Original policy: 5.4.3 The Executives shall endeavor to make this space available to its Members. The Association may grant a special waiver of GSA Commons booking fees if a non-ratified student group or social club wants to organize events related to academic matters or societal importance.

Recommended change: The Association may grant a special waiver of GSA Commons booking fees if a non-ratified student group or **non-ratified** social club wants to organize events related to academic matters or societal importance. **Such a waiver must be unanimously agreed upon by the Executives, with the request, rationale, and decision communicated in the VP Finance and Operations' report to Council.**

Rationale: The GSA Commons is a revenue source for GSA, so the Executives should carefully consider requests to use the space for free to protect GSA incomes, and no group/individual

should feel entitled to use the space for free regardless of the nobility of their cause. Unanimous agreement by all executives aims to ensure that no one individual abuses this clause for personal benefit. Communication of the requests in reports to council ensures that these requests are handled with transparency.

Amendment 4

Original policy: 5.4.5. Ratified Academic Councils and Social Groups can book the GSA Commons at no charge during regular hours. Bookings outside of regular hours will be charged at an hourly rate, as indicated on the Association website.

Recommended change: Ratified Academic Councils and **Ratified** Social Groups can book the GSA Commons at no charge during regular **operating** hours, **as posted on the Association's website**. Bookings outside of regular hours will be charged **\$50 per hour**. **Ratified groups will be charged for use of the BBQ or other services (e.g., coffee carafes), even during staffed hours.**

Rationale: Explicitly provide rate information and rules.

Amendment 5

Original policy: 5.4.6. Non-ratified groups or individuals can book the GSA Commons at an hourly rate, as indicated on the Association website.

Recommended change: Non-ratified groups or individuals can book the GSA Commons, **and will be charged \$75 per hour, plus any add-ons (e.g., BBQ use, coffee carafes).**

Rationale: Explicitly provide rate information.

Amendment 6

Original policy: 5.4.10. The Association owns two BBQs that can be: 5.4.10.1. Used on the premises by Association ratified Academic Councils and Social Groups at a flat rate, and propane will be billed. 5.4.10.2. Used on the premises by non-ratified groups or individuals at an hourly rate, and propane will be billed. 5.4.10.3. BBQs are to be left as they were found. 5.4.10.4. Additional charges will apply if the BBQ is found inoperable or dirty.

Recommended change: 5.4.10. **Use of Association BBQs:** 5.4.10.1. **BBQs can be used during**

events held on the premises by Association ratified Academic Councils and Social Groups at a flat rate of \$22. 5.4.10.2. BBQs can be used during events held on the premises by non-ratified groups or individuals at an hourly rate of \$15 (duration of the event, even if not used the entire time). 5.4.10.3. BBQs are to be left as they were found. 5.4.10.4. Forfeiture of all or part of the damage deposit will apply if the BBQ is found inoperable or dirty.

Rationale: Clarify language, add rates, remove propane charges which are too difficult to track and charge accurately for. I increased the BBQ rate for ratified groups from \$20/flat to \$22/flat to account for ~30 mins use of propane.

Amendment 7

Original policy: 6.2.4 The Office Manager and Vice-President Finance and Operations, and if one of the mentioned is unavailable another member of the Executive, are required to be together for an approved GSA purchase outside the GSA Commons premises.

Recommended change: Remove this policy.

Rationale: It is not practical to require two people to go on a shopping trip to make “approved purchases” such as basic office supplies, tea and coffee for the commons, or food for events. Policy 6.1.1 sufficiently covers that the card should be used for approved purchases only.

Graduate Students' Association

Amendment 8

Original policy: 8.3. The Executive shall discuss health and dental changes and make recommendation(s) to the Board. The Board, via the Vice-President Finance and Operations shall discuss any changes to the plan to Council. 8.4. The Executive, Board and Council shall decide on the health and dental insurance provider and fees by a two thirds (2/3, 67%) majority vote before the end of each Fiscal Year.

Recommended change: 8.3. The Executive shall discuss health and dental changes and make recommendation(s) to Council. 8.4. The Executive and Council shall decide on the health and dental insurance provider and fees by a two thirds (2/3, 67%) majority vote before the University of Saskatchewan's Internal Fee Review Committee's submission deadline for fees imposed in fall term (typically due mid-January).

Rationale: “The Board” is defined in GSA Constitution 6.4, as the GSA President and Vice-

Presidents and is a term only needed for non-profit incorporation purposes. As such, “the Board” is redundant language with “the Executive” (when Executive is used in plural). As such, we have made the proposed changes. Additionally, fees assessed in the fall term are to be submitted to the university in January or early February, so this decision must be made well before the end of the fiscal year (April).

Amendment 9

Original policy: 9. Academic Council Funding Policy

9.1. The purpose of Academic Council funding shall be to support graduate student projects and activities in the Academic Unit.

9.2. Academic Councils must have a bank account to receive funding.

9.3. Academic Council funding monies unclaimed or not deposited, after 6 months from the date of issue, will be considered forfeited pursuant to the club and/or Council ratification agreement. Stale dated cheques will not be replaced.

9.4. Academic Council funding will be distributed proportionally based on:

9.4.1. The number of full-time students.

9.4.2. The attendance rate of the Academic Council representatives to Regular Council meetings.

9.4.3. Academic Councils may receive \$3.00 per full time student according to the following formula: $c = [x (3.00)] [a / b]$, where c is the funding received by the Academic Council, x is the number of full-time students, a is the number of meetings attended by Academic Councilors and b is the number of Regular Council meetings for the academic year, up to a maximum of \$500.

9.5. Academic Councils shall be considered ratified Social Groups for the purposes of applying for additional funding, following the Social Group Funding Policy

Recommended changes: 9. Academic Council Policy

9.1.1 An Academic Council, as defined in the Association Constitution (refer 2.1.7. of the Constitution), shall support graduate student projects and activities in the Academic Unit.

9.1.2 All Academic Councils wishing to be ratified by the Association should do so before the end of September every year.

9.1.3 An Academic Council should submit to the Vice President Academic and Student Affairs by e-mail, the following documents for its ratification:

9.1.3.1 Completed Academic Council ratification form (posted on Association's website).

9.1.3.2 An official letter from the graduate office of the respective academic unit stating the total number of graduate students enrolled in the respective academic unit at the time of ratification of the respective academic council.

9.1.3.3 A void cheque (preferably downloaded directly from online banking) which includes institution number, transit number, account number, and name of the council to

which the account belongs.

9.1.3.4 A copy constitution/working manual/policy.

9.1.3.5 Electoral information compiled in a document clearing stating the democratic process of elections (name of candidates, votes counted for each candidate, final results and the

document needs to be signed by all the elected member along with their position.

9.1.4 Academic Councils must have a bank account (in the name of the Council, not in the name of an individual member) to receive funding.

9.1.5 Elect its executives in an open and fair election process similar to GSA election process and hold elections approximately once per year.

9.2 Academic Council funding will be distributed following finalization of the ratification process each fall (preferably by end of October) based on:

9.2.1.1 The number of full-time students represented by the council (see 9.1.3.2).

9.2.1.2 The attendance rate of the Academic Council representatives to council meetings (including SGM and AGMs).

9.2.1.3 Academic Councils may receive \$6.00 per full time student (up to a maximum of \$750) according to the following formula: $c = [x (6.00)][a / b]$, where c is the funding received by the Academic Council, x is the number of full-time students in the current academic year, a is the number of meetings attended by the group's academic councilor(s) during the previous academic year (Sept – Aug) and b is the number of council meetings during the previous academic year.

9.3 Refer to 11.0 Event Funding Policy for the specifications on how to apply and receive funding and the scope of funding for an event organized by an Academic Council.

Rationale: These changes aim to clarify and standardize the procedure for ratifying an academic council, pulling from language in the bylaws. Additionally, edits to 9.2.1.3 attempts to provide additional funding for academic councils, as this funding rate has not been changes in at least the last decade, despite significant inflation. We also added language to clarify which periods of enrolment and meeting attendance should be used in calculating the funding amount.

Amendment 10

Original policy: (only relevant portions shown) 10. Social Groups Policy

10.3. To be ratified, Social Groups must.

10.3.1. Have more than 50 % of its total membership be GSA Members.

10.3.2. Have more than 50 % of its executive be GSA Members.

10.3.3. Have members from more than one Academic Council.

10.3.4. Have completed and submitted an application for ratification, which identifies:

10.3.6. Have submitted a void-cheque.

Recommended changes (unaltered portions of the policy are not shown):

10.3. To be ratified, Social Groups must.

Remove this requirement: 10.3.3. Have members from more than one Academic Council.

10.3.4. Have a minimum of 10 members.

10.3.5 Have submitted an application for ratification via email to the Vice President Academic and Student Affairs. A complete ratification package should include:

10.3.5.1 Completed Social Group ratification form which is posted on the Association website.

10.3.5.2 A void cheque (preferably downloaded directly from online banking) which includes institution number, transit number, account number, and name of the social group to which the account belongs.

Rationale: It is unrealistic to ask for council membership for all members to ensure 10.3.3 is met, and ultimately it may be discriminatory to some groups where the majority of interested members may come from one department/field. Our changes aim to clarify what is required in a ratification package and how it should be submitted. We also ask for the right to re-order and renumber these policies (excluding any additional wording changes or removal).

Amendment 11

Original policy: 11. Social Group Funding Policy 11.1. Ratified Social Groups can apply for Social Group Funding for a future event their Social Group will be organizing.

Recommended changes:

11. **Event Funding Policy**

11.1 **Ratified Academic Councils and Ratified Social Groups (hereafter, Ratified Groups)** can apply for Social Group Funding for a future event their **Ratified** Group will be organizing.

Rationale: This policy applies to both ratified academic councils and ratified social groups, but there has commonly been confusion about this in the past. We aim to clarify this by changing the language of this policy. We also request authorization to change all instances of “Social Group” to “Ratified Group” in the remainder of the policy.

Amendment 12

Original policy: 11.3. Applications for Social Group Funding shall be made to the President and Vice- President Finance and Operations. **Recommended changes:** 11.3 **An official funding request should be submitted before the event**

via email to the President and Vice-President Finance and Operations. The request must include the Event Funding Request form (posted on the GSA website) and an event budget, and may contain other supporting documentation (e.g., sponsorship package) the group wishes to provide (optional).

Rationale: Groups requesting funding have often been confused about what they need to provide, how the funding request should be made, and when. We aim to clarify the process by adding a standardized funding request form and adding details to the language of this policy.

Amendment 13

Original policy: 11.3.1. Applicants will be invited to present to the Executive at one of the Executive meetings. 11.3.2. Applicants will be informed of the decision no later than seven (7) days after the meeting they presented at.

Recommended changes: Remove 11.3.1, the requirement requiring groups to present at an Executive meeting. 11.3.3. Applicants will be informed of the decision no later than 30 days following the submission of their complete application package.

Rationale: Requiring a group representative to present the event at an Executive meeting is an undue burden on the group representative, often doesn't provide information that is not included in the event funding package, and so seems unnecessary. The Executives are not required to meet weekly, so promising a vote/approval within 7 days is sometimes not possible.

Amendment 14

Original policy: 11.4.1. In order to receive approved funding, Social Groups are responsible for submitting expense receipts to the Office Manager within fourteen (14) days of the event. 11.4.2. Social Groups will only be reimbursed up to the total of the expense receipts received, and up to the maximum of approved funding. A cheque will be remitted no later than seven (7) days of receiving the expense receipts.

Recommended changes: 11.4.1. In order to receive approved funding, groups should submit an Event Expense Form (posted on the Association website), the original budget, and copies of receipts associated with the claimed event costs to the Office Manager and Vice-President Finance and Operations within thirty (30) days of the event. 11.4.2. Ratified Groups will only be reimbursed up to the total of the expense receipts received, and up to the maximum of approved funding. Reimbursement by direct deposit or cheque will be provided no later than seven (7)

business days of receiving the expense receipts.

Rationale: There has also been regular confusion about how to claim reimbursement for events. We would like to introduce a new form to simplify and standardize this process. We would like to provide additional time to submit this information, as we know graduate students are very busy. Finally, we want this policy to reflect modernization in our financials process by providing an opportunity for bank transfer payments.

Amendment 15

Original policy: 11.5. Social Groups can receive up to a maximum of \$750 (\$500 in funding for the first event and \$250 for a second event) per Fiscal Year.

Recommended changes: 11.5. Ratified groups can receive up to a maximum of \$750 per Fiscal Year, **which they can claim in any denomination, for up to two events.**

Rationale: We feel the current event funding policy was unnecessarily restrictive in its distribution of event funding and aim to liberalize the policy for flexibility according to the variety of group needs.

Amendment 16

Original policy: (only relevant portions are included) 12. Bursary Policy 12.5.3. One letter of support from the applicant's supervisor, or a faculty member in the applicant's department, who is able to attest to the academic, financial, and extracurricular involves of the applicant 12.5.4. A confirmation of enrollment for the applicable term.

Recommended changes: **Remove these subsections.**

Rationale: The Bursary Selection Committee feels that requiring a \$10 confirmation of enrolment is prohibitive for applicants who are in need already. CGPS has agreed to confirm enrolment free of charge. Additionally, the committee felt that students who may be unwilling to admit need or struggle to their supervisor (or whose supervisor is non-responsive) may be excluded by the requirement for a support letter. The committee felt that these letters did not add much information to the application package anyway.



EXECUTIVES' REPORT

a. President's report

University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

Presented by the GSA President

Report to the GSA Council: January 2025

Dear Council Members,

I am pleased to share the activities I participated in as GSA President during the month of February and a bit in January. I sincerely appreciate your time and dedication to GSA as a council member.

Black History Month

Black History Celebration began this month, bringing a series of activities in which I actively participated. I served on various committees to help plan the activities for the month. I participated in the opening ceremony and attended the UBUNTU film premiere night. Beyond my commitment on committees, I also served as a panel member, offering insights from a student's perspective, and presented a spoken word performance at the event. With few activities ahead, we remain committed to representing the Graduate Students' Association and contributing meaningfully throughout Black History Month. Also, a tragic incident occurred where a student who had come to Canada for school was fatally stabbed to death here in Saskatoon. In response, GSA sent a message of solidarity to the student's family and the entire Black community. May his departed soul rest well.

Childcare Initiative

The childcare center has been in existence for a couple of years, and in collaboration with the Vice President of Indigenous Engagement, we are working on a strategic plan to revive and sustain this vision each year. The approach includes both short-term and long-term goals:

- Short-term: Introducing drop-in childcare sessions at the GSA Commons.
- Long-term: Establishing a dedicated childcare facility for the GSA.

To drive this initiative forward, I hope to form a committee comprising GSA representatives and allied partners to ensure continuous progress. We have initiated discussions with the Saskatchewan Childcare Centre and remain engaged in exploring viable pathways. Contributions and support from the community are welcome to help facilitate this process.

As we reflect on the past and work towards a better future, it is essential to acknowledge the contributions, struggles, and resilience of Black communities. Black History Month serves as a time of remembrance, celebration, and advocacy, while initiatives like the childcare project demonstrate our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and community support. As Martin Luther

King Jr. once said, *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"* Through both representation and action, we strive to make a meaningful impact.

Meetings Attended

01/23/2025 Payedge Meeting Graduate Students Association
01/23/2025 CGPS Faculty Council Meeting
01/24/2025 Childcare establishment meeting with Ida student Wellness
01/27/2025 GSA Tuition Consultation
01/27/2025 Recreation and Athletics Advisory Council (RAAC)
01/27/2025 Meeting with USSU Jason Kovitch
01/28/2025 GSA Executive Meeting
01/29/2025 Regular monthly meeting GSA Exec/Vice-Provost, Students & Learning
01/30/2025 Ubuntu planning meeting
02/03/2025 Residence GSA Touch base meeting
02/03/2025 Graduate Students Career Readiness Meeting
02/05/2025 CGPS Executives and Coordinating Meeting
02/05/2025 Faith Leaders Meeting
02/06/2025 GSA Chair transition Meeting
02/12/2025 UBUNTU film Screening
02/14/2025 GSA Governance Meeting
02/27/2025 Anti-racism, Anti-oppression Meeting

David Ohene-Amoako
President, Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

b. VP Finance & Operations' report

Dear GSA Councilors,

I am writing to provide you with an update on my late January and February activities, as the Vice-President Finance and Operations.

1) Operations manager position

After close collaboration with our HR consultant on efforts to rework the position description, job advertisement, and contract, we posted the Operations Manager position on the USask job board and LinkedIn on February 13. We have received 28 applicants from the University posting and more than 50 from LinkedIn. Our HR consultant also assisted us with creation of a screening tool to select top applicants, and an interview guide with standardized questions. We are currently working to select top candidates and invite them for interviews in early March.

2) 2024 fiscal year audit

I have been working closely with GSA's bookkeeper and auditor to advance the 2024 fiscal year audit as quickly as possible, with hopes that our audit process can be caught up by the end of my tenure. My goal is for the 2024 audit to be delivered before the spring AGM, and I will do everything I can to ensure progression is efficient and continuous.

3) 2024 tax documents

I have been working closely with GSA's bookkeeper to ensure T4s for employees and T4As for bursary recipients are prepared on time, and all other GSA tax documentation is submitted. T4As were distributed on February 26, and T4s on February 28. Students who received a GSA-CGPS need-based bursary in fall 2024 will not receive a T4A from GSA directly, but their bursary amount is included in the T4A they receive from the university.

4) New invoicing system

Upon recommendation from our bookkeeper, GSA will doing all invoicing (e.g., for commons rentals, post-doc GSA memberships, etc) through QuickBooks beginning in March. This will improve operational efficiency in bookkeeping, reduce errors in invoice issuing, and reduce paper waste.

5) New ratified group event funding protocol

The current method to request funding for an event is vague and confusing. In conjunction with proposed updates to the GSA policies, we will be implementing a new form for event funding requests in early March. It will be posted on the GSA website when completed.

6) Winter bursary call, re-evaluation of bursary selection rubric

Following two adjudications of GSA-CGPS need-based bursary, the bursary selection committee met to review the current rubric on February 13. We are still working to finalize exact rubric values, but survey used to collect information for the winter call (active as of Monday March 3) will be significantly different than previous versions. We hope these changes will make the survey simpler to fill out for students, less stressful, and lead to outcomes which promote equity in distribution of funds.

Meetings Attended

1/22/2025	GSA Council Meeting
1/22/2025	Bookkeeper Meeting
1/23/2025	RBC/PayEdge Set-up Meeting
1/23/2025	Facilities Meeting
1/27/2025	Tuition Consultation Meeting

1/27/2025 USSU Administrator Meeting
1/28/2025 GSA Executive Meeting
1/29/2025 Planning & Priorities Committee Meeting
1/31/2025 Fee Review Committee Meeting
2/5/2025 Scholarship & Awards Adjudication Meeting
2/6/2025 President's Executive Committee Meeting
2/6/2025 Meeting with Lori Lisitza
2/12/2025 Bookkeeper Meeting
2/13/2025 CGPS/Studentcare Opt-Out Situation Meeting
2/13/2025 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting
2/25/2025 Auditor/Bookkeeper Meeting
2/27/2025 Student Finance/Registrar Meeting
2/28/2025 GSA Executive Meeting

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Regards,

Lindsay G. Carlson (she/her)

VP Finance and Operations, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

PhD Candidate, Department of Biology University of Saskatchewan

c. VP Student & Academic affairs report

Dear GSA Councilors,

I am writing to update you on my January-February activities as the Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs.

Note: Initiatives and discussions related to confidential matters concerning individual students are not made public.

1) GSA Winter Orientation 2025

Winter Orientation 2025 was planned to be held on 17th of January 2025 at GSA Commons. Dr. Debby Burshtyn, Dean CGPS was the invited chief guest of the day. Although 32 students registered via Google forms that was circulated, only 5-7 people were present around the starting time. We then waited for nearly an hour, seeing nobody else is showing – the event was cancelled. This was possibly due to the cold windy weather on that particular day, which was unfortunate. All the invited speakers were notified of this update. We could not cancel the food, so it was distributed among the students who showed up at Commons that day. We also asked them to bring their friends so that we do not waste the food. It was also distributed among the staff. The orientation report will be uploaded on the GSA website after the approval from executive committee.

2) Re-thinking the Orientation events

After the winter orientation, it got me thinking if we should have a welcome event instead of orientation. The purpose of orientation is to give briefings on different facilities at the university that are available to graduate students and along with that some welcoming items, e.g., food, free t-shirts etc. But this also makes it rather long event where students are not able to spend half a day just for this. I am opening a discussion here, to see if we can re-think the idea of orientation. My thoughts include, replacing orientations with purely welcome events or parties. Since we are also in the process of updating our website, all the information/links to information can be put there, which can be a much more efficient way to learn things in a need-to-know basis. Since this also requires policy changes it would be nice if I can collect some thoughts during the next council.

3) Student-Supervisor Agreement Revisions – Expecting more responses

The link to the google form for collecting revision proposals on the current student-supervisor agreement document was already circulated but I only got response from one academic council. I appreciate inputs from all of our councils so that the revision proposal we make to the CGPS will incorporate the need of graduate students across different colleges and programs.

Please find the link here - <https://forms.gle/zgoNta8mbWQf84Qw6>

4) Update on Co-Curricular Record (CCR)

USask Career services is going to stop the CCR service they provide because of the extra burden it is causing to them and because they think it is not much relevant in present times.

5) Governance Committee – Update

I am part of the GSA Governance committee which is chaired by GSA President. The committee had approved several revisions as proposed by the GSA Executive team – as presented here at the

council. I strongly believe that these changes will help in better functioning of GSA. We also look forward to look into further possible revisions in the coming weeks.

Meetings Attended

1/27/2025 Meeting with Laurie Johnston from Career Services (Regarding CCR)

1/28/2025 GSA Executive Meeting

1/29/2025 Academic Programs Committee

1/31/2025 Governance Committee Meeting #1

2/03/2025 Meeting with Consumer Services (Touchbase)

2/06/2025 Meeting with PEC

2/07/2025 1:1 Meeting with Dr.Jaswant Singh Associate Dean, CGPS

2/06/2025 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting

2/14/2025 Governance Committee Meeting #2

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Nickson Joseph

Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Students' Association

University of Saskatchewan

d. VP External Affairs report

Dear GSA Councilors,

I am writing to provide you with an update on my January and February activities as the Vice-President External.

1) GALA 2025 Update

- Invitations for council members were sent as a calendar invitation. Please click on “yes” to confirm your attendance.
- 32,500 CAD was raised so far and all of the seats are sold out.
- Currently, I am in the process of inviting speakers for the GALA.
- I have received 23 applications in total for all categories. The application packages were shared with the awards committee on Feb 11th. The awards committee will have a second meeting on March 3rd as a discussion session all of the committee members are informed that they have to submit their scores before the meeting.
- I will update the GSA website on March 4th and announce the names of the awardees.

2) Executives Meeting minutes

January executives' meeting minutes are posted on the website and executives board had three meetings in January on the 3rd, 10th, and 28th.

3) GSA Public Group

The GSA public group was moved from Discord to WhatsApp to make the communication in GSA community easier as it was brought to my attention that members are not familiar with Discord.

4) Meetings Attended

01/22/2025 GSA Council Meeting

01/27/2025 Tuition Consultation Meeting

01/28/2025 GSA Executives Meeting

02/07/2025 Meeting with Dean of CGPS about GALA 2025

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Reza Golpayegani (He/Him)

Vice-President of External Affairs (gsa.external@usask.ca)

M.Sc. Student, Department of Computer Science

University of Saskatchewan

e. VP Indigenous Engagement's report

For late January/February 2025, planning began in earnest for Indigenous Achievement Week. The GSA will be hosting a feast and giveaway on March 12, 2025, at 4 pm at the GSA commons. I attended multiple mistatimok meetings to get information about this and other upcoming events being put on by the Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement. I also have information

available about multiple upcoming volunteer opportunities related to those events, feel free to contact me for details.

My time continues to be nearly monopolized with other issues that are less relevant to my job, but still very important. Lindsay and I were successful in clearing the fire escape at the GSA commons, as someone put a bunch of broken furniture in that entryway. I am also heavily involved in screening resumes and applications for our new office manager. Hopefully, by the time we have this meeting, we will have interviews set up with the people on our shortlist.

I will end this report by encouraging Indigenous graduate students to submit their election package to run in the GSA elections this upcoming April. I will be graduating this summer and hopefully getting a job, and will not be able or eligible to run for VPIE again. I am available to help with putting the election package together or with becoming verified through deybawin | taapwaywin | tapwewin as anybody may need. I am available to answer any questions about this or to explain my rationale for amending GSA policy to require deybawin | taapwaywin | tapwewin verification, not just tonight but any time.

Meetings to attend by GSA council date of March 5/meetings attended:

CGPS faculty council 23/01/25

Meeting with Jerome Cranston + other GSA exec 29/01/25

Meeting with new GORBSC director Dallas Pelly and Aurora Wolfe to coordinate IAW week event 31/01/25

Lunch with drummers and singers for IAW event 03/02/25

Angela Jaime 04/02/25

CGPS Executive and Coordinating Committee 05/02/25

Mistatimok meeting 05/02/25

Sick with the flu- missed RSAW/PEC

Graduate Programs Committee stand-in for Nickson 12/02/25

Bursary Committee meeting with Lindsay 13/02/25

oyateki Student Leadership Circle 14/02/25

mistatimok meeting 03/03/25

CGPS Executive and Coordinating committee 03/05/25