



Graduate Students' Association

November Council Meeting Minutes

University of Saskatchewan-Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Wednesday, November 26th, 2025; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Hybrid (GSA Commons & Zoom)

"As Council gathers, we acknowledge that we are on Treaty C Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another."

Attendance: See appendix A

Council Chair: Shaily Tandekar

Recording Secretary: Aiminayanate Pepple

a. Call to Order

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

b. Rules and Regulation

Shaily Tandekar briefed council members of the:

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

c. Approval of Agenda

The chair asked for the approval of the meeting agenda.

Mover: Palash Roy

Seconded by: Laila Valila

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

d. Motion1: Approval of GSA Council Meeting Minutes

✓ **October 8, 2025, Council Meeting**

Mover: Mary-fidelma Ndupu

Seconded by: Angelica Uy

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

e. Motion 2: To Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes

✓ **October 8 & 14, 2025**

Mover: Hamid Yari

Seconded by: Shreya Tiwary

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

f. Motion 3: To Receive First Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes

✓ **November 7, 2025**

Mover: Shreya Tiwary

Seconded by: Mary-fidelma Ndupu

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

g. Motion 4: To Receive Bursary Committee Meeting Minutes

✓ **July 2025**

✓ **November 7, 2025**

Mover: Shreya Tiwary

Seconded by: Mary-fidelma Ndupu

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

h. Motion 5: To Elect Council Chair

- The following candidates applied for the position of the GSA Council Chair:
 - ❖ Md Faizal Kabir Roazars
 - ❖ Desmond Buabeng
 - ❖ Clement Abdallah
- Shaily briefed the applicants about the eligibility of the council chair position.
- Modupe asked the applicants about their goals towards the governance of the council.
- Laila asked applicants about their intention to increase indigenous students' participation in GSA and the council meetings.
- Clement Abdallah won the election with 10 votes. The new GSA Council Chair is Clement Abdallah.

i. Motion 6: To Elect Council Vice Chair

- Shamsuddeen Ma'aruf was the only applicant for the role of the Council Vice Chair and got elected to serve the council.

j. Motion 7: To ratify Agricultural and Resource Economics Graduate Students' Society

- The GSA president inquired the reason for the delay in applying for ratification.
- Cornelius Mensah, a representative of the society, stated that the society's election was conducted late.

Mover: Shreya Tiwary

Seconded by: Mary-fidelma Ndupu

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

k. Motion 8: Approval of Councilors for GSA Standing Committees

- The following councilors volunteered to serve in the GSA committees:
 - ❖ **Bursary Committee** - Hamid Yari, Julia-Rose Miller and Mary-fidelma Ndupu.
 - ❖ **Budget and Finance Committee** - Sunny Bui
 - ❖ **Elections and Referenda Committee** - Darji Hetvi
 - ❖ **Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee** – Motajo Modupeoluwa Olakunle
 - ❖ **Sustainability Committee** – Corwyn Shomachuk and Luke Dojack
 - ❖ **Diversity Committee** - Cornelius Mensah
 - ❖ **Awards Committee** - Sunny Bui and Angelica Caresse Uy

Mover: Palash Roy

Seconded by: Mandela Alema

Yes: 25

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried.

I. GSA Executives Reports

➤ **President – Palash Roy**

- The GSA partnered with the SSHRC-funded proposal regarding the improvement of housing conditions for graduate students.
- The association is currently engaged with the provincial government to create sustainable GSA-owned childcare center for the benefits of graduate students with proposal currently worked on.
- The president also met with the Director of Consumer Services and the University Residence

team regarding the improvement of students' residence.

- ❖ An agreement was reached to replace low quality mattresses next year, 2026.
- ❖ The security of the residence parking lot will be strengthened with the provision of high-quality models of security camera.
- A new section named “**submit an article**” has been launched under the **GSA News** on the GSA website with the aim of conveying important information, new initiatives and research surveys.
- The Anti-Racism Symposium held by GSA in collaboration with USSU and Student Health and Wellbeing; on November 19th at the GSA Commons was successful. The president stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University, the GSA, and the USSU is being developed. The GSA in collaboration with the USSU look forward to developing policies to curb anti-racism within the campus.
- The GSA is pleased to announce that the Halloween event held in October 2025 was successful. The president appreciated Laila and Shaily for their positive contribution towards the success of the event.

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

- The association employed the service of a professional photographer, Dave Stobbe as they organized a low-cost professional portrait for students in November 2025 at the rate of \$10.
- GSA held its first event of the Financial Literacy Series involving Budgeting on October 22, 2025, with the speaker, Susan Winmill (Student Finance Coordinator at Usask). VP Finance acknowledged the low attendance and proposed that subsequent event may be held at a time more convenient to increase student attendance.
- A new web form was launched to collect funding requests for events by ratified councils and clubs. The form is under the **Academic Councils section of the Governance tab on the GSA website**. Applications can be submitted for up to two times a year. Academic councils and clubs will receive feedback after the executive committee votes on the request.
- The GSA confirms the disbursement of the Fall Need-Based Bursary. A total of \$1,000 bursary was given to 34 applicants out of 299 applications.

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

- The VP stated that 28 councils and 12 clubs have been ratified by GSA.
- The VP coordinated research for graduate students representing committees involving the search for the dean for college for Nursing and the dean for the college of Pharmacy and Nutrition and the dean for the college of Law.
- The GSA holiday hangout will be held in collaboration with ISSAC and Student Wellness Center from the 29th to 30th of December 2025, 10 am to 7 pm daily.

➤ **Vice-President External Affairs - Biraj Saha**

- The GSA team attended the public open house by City of Saskatoon's regarding expansion and accessibility of service.
- Preparation is being made for the movie and board game night to be held in February 2026.
- The GSA continues to update students about necessary information on the various GSA social platforms.
- VP External met with the TLARC committee in October 2025, to review updates towards student learning experience, while exploring the benefits of AI and focusing on fair assessment practices.

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

- The VP indigenous met with different student bodies to solicit for support towards the upcoming Resource Fair on January 21, 2026, from 11 am – 3 pm at the GSA common Hall.
- The VP also met with the CFS president in October 2025 to make beneficial decisions regarding CFS and GSA relationship at USask.
- The VP acknowledges the success of the Halloween event held in October.

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

➤ **End-of-Tenure and Departure of the University President, Peter Stoicheff**

- The VP Finance acknowledged the service of the outgoing University President, Peter Stoicheff.
- The president, Palash Roy highlighted the outgoing University President, Peter Stoicheff fundraising initiative "Be what the world needs" and the challenge the university faced during the COVID period.
- Shreya Tiwary raised a concern regarding the university involvement with graduate students' tuition payment from stipends.
- Palash Roy addressed the issue by confirming the university awareness of the situation. The president stated that the university obtains grants from various sources and this limits their involvement in reviewing the policy regarding students' tuition payment from the stipend.

➤ **Outgoing Council Chair**

- Shaily Tandekar gave a vote of thanks, acknowledging the cooperation of the executive team, and council members towards the completion of her tenure.

n. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm by Shaily Tandekar.

Appendix A

	Academic Council	Councillor	November 2025
1	Agricultural and Resource Economics Graduate Students' Society	Councilor – Aminata Ba Alternate – Cornelius Mensah	P
2	Animal and Poultry Science Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Megan Dubois Alternate - Beatriz Montenegro	P
3	Biology Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Portia Mohrbutter Alternate - Laura Dyson	P
4	Chemistry Course Council	Councilor - Shreya Tiwary Alternate - Segun Liyansan	P
5	College of Medicine Graduate Student Society (CMGSS)	Councilor 1 - Griffin Lehnert Alternate 1 - Christopher Chivers	A
		Councilor 2 - Amber Jurke Alternate 2 - Hetvi Darji	A
6	College of Kinesiology Graduate Society	Councilor - Sunny Bui Alternate - Karissa Johnson	P
7	Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Councilor - Md Shamimur Rahman Alternate - Mary-fidelma Chioma Ndupu	P
8	Education Graduate Students Association (EGSA)	Councilor - Kiegan Lloyd Alternate – Rumpa Banik	A
9	Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC)	Councilor 1 - Farzana Haque Reeti Alternate 1 - Binod Sapkota	P
		Councilor 2 - Adit Raj Chalise Alternate 1 - Corwyn Shomachuk	P
10	English Graduate Students' Association	Councilor - Hamid Yari Alternate - Jasmine Redford	P
11	Geography and Planning Graduate Student Council (GEPL)	Councilor - Emily Ireland Alternate - Prakash Sapkota	P
12	History Graduate Student Association	Councilor - Jessy Lee Saas Alternate - Julia-Rose Miller	P
13	Nursing Graduate Students Association	Councilor - Kirsten Witter Councilor - Aja Tost	A
14	Physics and Engineering Physics Graduate Association of Students at University of Saskatchewan (PEGASUS)	Councilor - Jeisson Vanegas Alternate - Mona Zolghadrshojaee	A
15	Plant Science Graduate Students' Association (PSGSA)	Councilor 1 - Luke Dojack Alternate 1 - Makenna Mitchell	P

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

Executive member	Name	November 2025
Executive President	Palash Roy	P
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Lindsay Carlson	P
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Mandela Alema	P
Exec. VP External Affairs	Biraj Saha	P
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Laila Valila	P

Graduate Students' Association