



**University of Saskatchewan-Graduate Students' Association (GSA)**

Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 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: Sara Nath**

- **Call to Order**

The Chair, Devopriya Tirtho and the recording secretary, Sara Nath of the GSA officially welcomed all the graduate students, council members and executives to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:09 P.M. after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Recording Secretary of the Council, compiled the meeting minutes.

The chair quoted Henry Ford, emphasizing that unity, persistence, and collaboration are key to success. He highlighted that while starting something is easy, true impact comes from staying and working together. As GSA members, challenges test resilience, but perseverance leads to growth and success. The chair encouraged continued unity and teamwork to build a stronger, supportive graduate community.

- **Rules and Regulation**

Before the approval, the GSA recording secretary explained the rules and regulations of the meeting to the council members. She explained that GSA uses the Robert's Rules of Order for its meeting, so for a decision to be passed or approved, a mover and a seconder are needed, and the vote cast is either in favor, opposed or abstain. Agenda items are addressed one at a time with specific time allocations; extended discussions move to the next meeting. Each council member has 3 minutes to speak, with notifications at 1 minute and 30 seconds remaining, and will be muted after their time. Respect and decorum are emphasized, with the Chair and Secretary authorized to mute or stop inappropriate speech. It is advisable for members to have their video on while speaking, but flexibility is allowed.

- **Introduction of Council Members**

The recording secretary requested each council member to introduce themselves by stating their name and the council they represent. The council members then introduced themselves accordingly.

After that, the chair announced that the VP of Indigenous Engagement couldn't attend the meeting due to urgent work commitments but would participate in the next meeting.

- **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.

Lindsay asked if the Chemistry Course Council is currently ratified. Ozra responded that the group was ratified last year but not this year, and she attended the meeting to address this. Lindsay

mentioned plans to align all council ratifications in late September or early October. Nickson agreed, explaining that ratifications typically occur in September, with councils submitting forms and documents to the VP Academics during that time. Ozra asked if the Chemistry Course Council could hold their department's orientation event without ratification. Nickson suggested resolving the issue outside of the meeting and assured that any gap in ratification would be addressed. Also, the chair informed Ozra that the email only included a screenshot and requested she resend it with all the attachments.

After that, the chair called for a mover and a seconder to approve the agenda package.

*Motion to approve the agenda of the meeting. (Nickson/Lindsay)*

**Carried**

**Yes: 14**

**No: 0**

**Abstention: 0**

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

- **Agenda: Approval of Minutes**

### **1. Approval of June 26, 2024, Meeting Minute**

The Chair asked about the approval of the minute from GSA council meeting from June 26, 2024.

*Motion to approve the minutes from June 26, 2024. (Nickson/Lindsay)*

**Carried**

Yes: 11

No: 0

Abstention: 0

The motion to approve the *June 26, 2024*, minutes was approved by the majority of the council members.

### **Agenda: Motion to Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. GSA Executive Meeting May 1, 2024**

*Motion to Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2024. (Nickson/Landon)*

**Carried**

**Yes: 15**

**No: 0**

**Abstention: 0**

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

Reza clarified that there was no meeting on May 1st and corrected the dates, stating the actual

meeting dates as May 15, May 28, June 3, June 19, July 3, July 11, July 17, and July 31.

## **2. GSA Executive Meeting June 3 and June 19, 2024**

*Motion to Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes from June 2024.*

*(Nickson/David)*

**Carried**

**Yes: 12**

**No: 0**

**Abstention: 0**

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

## **3. GSA Executive Meeting July 3, July 7 & July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

*Motion to Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes from July 2024.*

*(Reza/Chelsea)*

**Carried**

**Yes: 11**

**No: 0**

**Abstention: 0**

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

- **Agenda: GSA Executive Reports**

- **President**

David summarized his report, noting that the GSA held five meetings, including an emergency session, focused on GSA's welfare and sustainability. He had monthly meetings with the Dean of Graduate Studies, discussing initiatives like a daycare facility and tuition fee installment plans. He also participated in volunteer briefings, meetings with USSU on pest control in residences, and the Canadian Federation of Students' conference. He emphasized GSA's commitment to improving student services, including the U-Pass and food distribution, and called for unity among GSA members for future growth.

- **VP Finance and Operations**

Lindsay reported on the spring/summer bursary call, which received 159 applications, highlighting both the demand and the financial need among graduate students. Bursaries were given to the top 32 applicants, with future distributions to be done electronically. Lindsay mentioned ongoing

discontent regarding limited support for students and aims to address this in the upcoming budget, which will be presented in September. She hopes to increase assistance through councils and GSA programs. The GSA is also digitizing records and progressing with the audit process.

➤ **VP Academic and Student Affairs**

Nickson provided three key updates. First, the GSA orientation is scheduled for September 11, featuring guest speaker Dr. Debbie Dean from CGPS. The event will include a welcome session, informational talks from various university services, free T-shirts for new students, and lunch. Second, he mentioned the GSA-CGPS need-based bursary, where he participated in the selection committee, and further details are in the report. Lastly, he highlighted resolving a waitlist issue for courses in the Sustainability program, allowing students to attend full-term courses. He also noted GSA's active participation in various university welcome events.

➤ **VP External Affairs**

Reza provided three key updates. First, executive meeting minutes are now posted monthly on the GSA website, with emergency meeting minutes posted separately. Second, 300 CFS handbooks have been ordered and paid for. Lastly, a GSA representative was found for PAC department, and Reza invited members to collaborate via LinkedIn, email, or by joining the GSA volunteers' WhatsApp group.

**Agenda: Other Business**

Lindsay announced that GSA Standing Committees are seeking new council members, as some members are ending their terms. She urged current members to inform incoming GSA counselors about open roles, especially for the Budget and Finance Committee, which requires council members to convene. Since groups for 2024-2025 are not yet ratified, the GSA lacks contact information for new counselors. She asked for help in communicating this and encouraged any questions.

**Agenda: Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. (Nickson/Reza)

**Carried**

*Yes: 15*

*No: 0*

*Abstention: 0*

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

The chair thanked everyone for attending and mentioned that details for the next council meeting would be posted on the GSA website and sent via email. He announced that future meetings will be held in person, with notifications to follow via email and on the website. The chair then invited

the secretary to add any remarks.

The recording secretary thanked everyone for their participation and contributions to the GSA community. She reminded members to watch for email updates with the date, time, and agenda for the next council meeting. Members were encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns. She concluded by wishing everyone a great evening and looking forward to the next meeting.

## Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Jun 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Biology Graduate Student Association	Shuqi Ren Ilsa Griebel (Alternate) Lynsey Bent (Alternate)	P	A						
Chemistry Course Council	Nasrin Aliasgharlou Vi Phan(Alternate)	A	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Mary Lazell Wright Farnoosh Tabatabaieian (Alternate)	P	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, microbiology & Immunology	Rachel Harris – Councilor	P	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Zoe Schipper – Councilor Tachlima Chowdhury Sunna (Alternate)	A	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councilor Shima Hozhabrimahani (Alternate)	A	A						
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Thulani Hewavithana Norah Ridley Mumtahina Ahmed (Alternate)	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Pabitra Chandra Das	A	A						

Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Blessing Ekwueme	A	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Maliheh Heravi Ehsan Samimi Sohrforozani (Alternate)	A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Ehsan Samimi Sohrforozani Corwyn Shomachuk (Alternate)	A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Mohammad Salimi Hossein Nezhadian (Alternate)	A	A						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Siddhartha Gollamudi Kathryn Avery (Alternate)	P	P						
English Course Council	Parastoo Tahmasbi Gwen Rose (Alternate)	P	P						
Geography & Planning Graduate Council	Emily Ireland Prakash Sapkota (Alternate)	P	P						
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Kevin Mageto Karissa Johnson (Alternate)	A	A						
Nursing Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	Jordan Sherstobitoff Catherine Lavigne Sarah Karwacki Solie (Alternate) Geneveave Barbo (Alternate)	P	P						
Plant Science	Sainey Ceesay Suma Ghosh- Alternate	P	A						
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Tyler Blanchette Carter Frerichs (Alternate)	A	P						
SENSSA	Chelsea Ohenewaa Nyarko Aisha Adelah (Alternate)	P	P						
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Somayeh Abdi Jaclyn Edwards Ahmed Muftah (Alternate)	A	A						



Sociology GSA	Meaghan Boily Leah Houseman (Alternate) Kayla Arisman (Alternate)	P	A						
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Landon Orenchuk Tristan Chambers (Alternate)	P	P						
Animal and Poultry Science GSA	Megan Dubois Wyatt Armes	P	P						
ARE Graduate Student Society	Koal Sammons Josh Bourassa	P	P						
Toxicology Graduate Student Association (TGSA) Academic Councilor	Alexandra Cullen Emily Kennedy	A	A						
History Graduate Student Association	Kiegan Lloyd Catlin M. Woloschuk	P	A						
Physics & Engineering Physics (PEGASUS)	Jeisson A. Vanegas Carranza Nicholas Simonson	P	P						
Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Student Association	Harjot Tu Bazal Khalid	A	P						

Executive member	Name of executive member	Jun 20 24	Aug 20 24	Sep 20 24	Oct 20 24	Nov 20 24	Dec 20 24	Jan 20 25	Feb 20 25
Exec. President	David Ohene-Amoako	P	P						
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Lindsay Carlson	P	P						
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Nickson Joseph	A	P						
Exec. VP External Affairs	Reza Golpayegani	P	P						
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko	P	A						



Graduate Students' Association

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

GSA Meetings on September 4, 18, and 25 2024

**Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

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

**Regret:** None

**Guest:** None

**All executives approved all of these actions.**

**President:**

1. Asked all the executives to prepare a list of their main objectives for the remainder of their tenure.
2. Proposed to make a committee containing two executives (David and Nickson were selected) to investigate business ventures/other fundraising opportunities that GSA can make more money to support bursaries, etc.
3. Proposed the dates for next council meetings the approved dates are: (Executives should be in GSA commons at 4:30 PM.)
  - a. October 9th
  - b. October 28th SGM (Special General Meeting)
  - c. November 27th
  - d. December 18th

**VP Finance:**

1. Proposed to purchase a few properties for GSA the list of the properties are as follows:
  - a. A timekeeping system for GSA staff.
  - b. A Screen and Zoom room microphone for executive office (proposed by Reza a few meetings ago)
  - c. A Printer for the main office (Requested by the current Office manager.)
2. Discussed coordinator schedule proposed by office manager. Executives approved no more than 12 coordinator hours per week, which costs GSA \$12,700 annually.
3. Executives voted to change GSA Commons fall hours to close at 5:00 pm rather than 7:00 pm. This is due to lack of use, concern for staff safety, and to allow greater time for coordinators to assist the office manager during the day. Ratified clubs and groups will not be charged to use the commons until after 7:00 pm, as was previously the case.
4. Executive board approved giving the office manager a three month extension to the previous contract, with performance metrics and completion benchmarks to be reached before a longer-term extension is considered.
5. Executive board will assign one meeting in October to discuss the long term contract for office manager.
6. Executives agreed to cover Office Manager health insurance in a new contract extension which will cost GSA ~\$1500 CAD annually.
7. Updates for executive board:
  - a. Budget Committee Formation and Meeting Scheduling
  - b. CSGC event funding request.
8. Approved event funding for two ratified groups after their executives made a presentation requesting it.
  - a. Biology Graduate Student Association
  - b. Bangladeshi Student Association
9. Discussed the process of selection of new GSA chair and GSA secretary and GSA vice chair.

**VP Academic:**

1. A PAWS announcement was issued to announce the ratification deadlines/ process for graduate student councils and groups, however few groups have ratified so far.
2. The GSA chair has been working to get email addresses of new councilors to remind them of the ratification deadline and requirements.

**VP Indigenous:**

1. Missed the meetings on September 4th and 18th.

**VP External:**

1. Proposed to design signage for GSA Commons building.
2. Proposed the new logo for GSA and Paying the coordinator (Prince George) for 10 hours for designing the new logo. The new GSA logos are included below.



3. Updated the Executives board on meeting with Debby Brshtyn and Jerome Cranstone about the new location for GSA. This relocation needs regular follow up with the campus planning team from the current and future executive board. Considering the current GSA building is really old and has significant maintenance issues, GSA will lose this building in the next couple of years which shows the importance of regular follow up on this matter from GSA.
4. Proposed to close GSA commons at 5pm when there is no event happening.
5. Proposed to do major updates to GSA website using USASK IT department. (GSA executives voted to get a quote from USask IT, and include this as a line item to be approved in the new budget).

## **Nomination for Council Members for GSA Standing Committee's Vacant Position**

### **Bursary Selection Committee**

**3 Vacant Positions for Council Members**

### **Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee**

**1 Vacant Positions for Council Members**

### **Sustainability Committee**

**1 Vacant Positions for Council Members**

### **Diversity Committee**

**1 Vacant Positions for Council Members**

### **Elections and Referenda Committee**

**1 Vacant Positions for Council Members**

## **Approval of GSA Standing Committee**

### **Budget and Finance Committee**

- 1. Lindsay Carlson - VP Finance and Operations as Chair**
- 2. David Ohene-Amoako - President**
3. Matthew Chapelski - College of Kinesiology
4. Bilal Bare - School of Public Health
5. Ebenezer (Ope) Adenekan - Public Administration
6. Lordina Baidoo – College of Education
- 7. Matthew Chapelski - Council Member**

### **Bursary Selection Committee**

- 1. Lindsay Carlson - VP Finance and Operations as Chair**
- 2. Nickson Joseph - Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs**
3. Vincent Maranda – Health Sciences
4. Meherun Nahar – Department of Community Health and Epidemiology
5. Jessica Sharpe – Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- 6. Vacant – Council Member**
- 7. Vacant - Council Member**
- 8. Vacant - Council Member**

### **Governance Committee**

- 1. David Ohene-Amoako - President**
- 2. Nickson Joseph - Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs**
3. Devopriya Tirtho - Council Chair
4. Donaldson Magloire - Veterinary Microbiology
5. Kimia Khavaninzadeh – Department of Music
6. Ogory Roseline - Department of Animal and Poultry Science
- 7. Adrielle Souza Lira - Council Member**

### **Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee**

- 1. Devopriya Tirtho - Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer**
2. Meaghan Boily - Department of Sociology
3. Suvasish Das - School of Environment and Sustainability
4. Anita Adefuye - School of Public Policy
5. Emily Tang - Public Health
6. Haonan Yang- Department of English
- 7. Vacant - Council Member**

## Awards Selection Committee

- 1. Reza Golpayegani - VP External Affairs as Chair**
- 2. David Ohene-Amoako - President**
3. Shabnam Abdi - Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences
4. Stella Aluko - College of Nursing
5. Adam Luchkanych - Biomedical Sciences, WCVU
6. Zohreh Sadati - Master of Economics
7. Md Helal Uddin - Council Member

## Sustainability Committee

- 1. Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko - VP Indigenous Engagement as Chair**
- 2. Reza Golpayegani - VP External Affairs**
3. Liying Chen - Master of Sustainability
4. Pravini Navarathne - Master of Regenerative Sustainability
5. Lauren Aubrey - School of Public Health
6. Parsa Salehipour - School of Arts and Sciences
- 7. Vacant - Council Member**

## Diversity Committee

- 1. Nickson Joseph - Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs**
- 2. Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko - VP Indigenous Engagement**
3. Saba Kamran - College of Educational Psychology & Special Education
4. Jessica Lam – Department of Geography and Planning
5. Stephanie Braithwaite - Master of Nursing
6. Eunice Essah - Public Administration
- 7. Vacant - Council Member**

## Elections and Referenda Committee

- 1. Devopriya Tirtho - Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer**
2. Shamsuddeen Yusuf Ma'aruf - Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics
3. Yesu ramya Kandregula - Biological Engineering Department
4. Arash Amanlou - College of Pharmacy & Nutrition
- 5. Vacant - Council Member**



# Student Forum

## *Enhancing the Quality of Discussion and Decision Making for Students at the University of Saskatchewan*

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### **Preamble**

Until 2007 there was no forum at the University of Saskatchewan that is dedicated to the broad discussion of student issues and the overall nature of the student experience on our campus. The structure of the university's administrative and council committees has historically been oriented toward specific content areas (e.g., Academic Programs, Scholarships and Awards, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work, International Activities, Teaching and Learning). This structure has served the university well with respect to the specific concerns and issues but has not fostered a concern for the overall character and quality of student life. The university needs a place where students, faculty members, and administrators with responsibilities associated closely with the student experience can come together on a regular basis to discuss, debate, and develop a consensus regarding a wide range of issues that affect students on our campus. For this reason, it is proposed that the university create a "Student Forum" dedicated to improving student life.

### **Mandate**

The purpose of the Student Forum is to provide a venue in which students can discuss important issues of the day so that university administration, governing bodies, and representatives of the university's key stakeholder groups hear and consider the perspective of students on institution-wide issues that affect the nature and quality of the student experience at the University of Saskatchewan. The Student Forum will provide leadership on behalf of the university community regarding best practices in education, student retention and success, and other aspects of the student experience on our campus. It will also develop recommendations for policy development and the coordinated application of existing policies across the university. Matters for consideration by the forum can be brought forward by any interested group, including student groups, University Council and/or its committees, and colleges and administrative units.

While curricular issues may emerge as objects of discussion, this is not a body that will deliberate on specific academic programs. That responsibility is located with colleges and the Academic Programs Committee of Council. The Student Forum is designed and populated in a manner intended to bring voice and authority to ideas aimed at improving the overall experience of students beyond curricular matters. The quality of teaching, the quality of services, and the policies that bear on the student experience are all subjects in which the forum can and should be engaged. The Student Forum is not intended to be a governance body. It will draw on the authority of its members, many of whom are university officers, to carry recommendations forward into action; the mandates of existing bodies will not be affected until and unless the decision is made to transfer responsibilities to the Student Forum.

## Specific Responsibilities

The Student Forum will discuss issues, consider proposals, and where appropriate, make recommendations to the appropriate decision makers regarding a range of topics that affect student life, including but not limited to the following:

1. *Academic Structures and Processes*
  - The annual academic calendar
  - Timetabling and room scheduling policies and principles
  - Course structures (3 vs. 6 credit courses)
  - Principles and policies re: non-traditional timetabling and course structures (e.g., evening/weekend courses, spring/summer courses, condensed or extended courses, mixed format courses, etc.)
  - Registration-related principles and policies
  - Exam regulations, exam scheduling principles and policies, etc.
  - Articulation agreements, transfer credit policies, principles, goals, and directions
  - Minimum class sizes
  - Distance education and off-campus courses/programs
2. *Academic Standing*
  - Interplay between and coordination of college-specific academic standing policies and principles (probation, RTD, admission/readmission practices, etc.)
  - Admission/readmission principles and policies for probationary/RTD students
3. *Quality and Effectiveness of Teaching and Learning Environments*
  - Innovations in pedagogy, engaging teaching and learning practices, on-line learning, curricular flexibility
  - Principles and policies re: accommodation for students with disabilities
  - Experiential learning issues and initiatives (service learning, volunteerism, leadership programming, undergraduate research)
  - Exchange and study-abroad programs
4. *Student Retention and Success*
  - Transition activities and programs (UStart!, Orientation)
  - First year programming and Learning Communities
  - Career guidance, academic decision-making, academic advising
  - Support practices and programs for at-risk students
  - Development of “early warning” mechanisms
  - Study skills, tutoring, remediation programs
5. *Student Life Issues*
  - Social and cultural programming/relations with USSU & GSA
  - Residence life issues
  - Status and conduct of student groups
  - Student code of conduct: policies and implementation
  - Alcohol policies
  - Campus safety and security relative to student functions

6. *Student Feedback*
  - Principles and mechanisms for hearing student concerns, complaints, and grievances
  - Principles and policies re: ombuds/advocacy services
  - Quality of academic advising and staff interaction
  - Recommendations and actions flowing from student feedback mechanisms (NSSE, CUSC, focus groups)
7. *Performance of Campus Services and Facilities*
  - Student Health and Student Counselling Services
  - Student Learning Services
  - Bookstore
  - Computer Store
  - Library
  - Technology services (e.g., PAWS)
  - Food services
  - Recreation services
  - Space and facilities (e.g., residences, student social spaces, lounges)
  - Parking services
  - Transportation principles, policies, and practices

## Membership

The Student Forum is intended as a place where student representatives can dialogue with key university officials who have responsibility for developing and implementing policies and practices that affect the student experience. The goal is to create a space in which students feel confident expressing opinions. The membership of the forum is drawn from three groups.

**Students:** Student representation will recognize the formal leadership of the USSU and GSA. Further student involvement is secured by seeking participation of students selected through the USSU appointments process, representatives from the peer assistance program appointed by the PAL Coordinator from the Peer Assisted Learning Program (PAL Peer Mentors), and graduate students appointed by the GSA Course Council; these students will participate not as representatives of particular interest groups, but rather as university citizens. From time to time, the forum may invite additional student input on particular issues, perhaps from a specific subset of the student body who is most affected by the issue at hand (e.g., first-year students, students with disabilities, mature students, Aboriginal students, international students, etc.).

**College academic leaders:** To ensure that the recommendations arising from discussions at the Student Forum result in creative and prompt action, the forum will include faculty representation from each of the colleges. These members are expected to be the Associate or Assistant Deans who have formal responsibilities for student issues within their college.

**Administrative units:** Key university administrators whose work is directly related to the student environment and who have responsibility to develop or implement policies and practices that impact on the student experience will participate in the forum as members. An additional group of individuals have been identified who will be invited to participate on the forum as correspondents. These individuals will receive all correspondence and will participate when the forum is addressing issues that bear directly on their portfolios.

## Members

- Two USSU executive members (or designates)
- Four undergraduate students, selected through the USSU appointments process
- Four students nominated by the PAL Coordinator from the Peer Assisted Program (PAL Peer Mentors)
- Three representatives of the Association of Constituency Presidents
- Two members of the GSA Executive (or designates) and two Graduate Course Counsellors appointed by the GSA Course Council
- President of the Indigenous Graduate Students Council
- President of the Indigenous Students Council
- Six Assistant/Associate Deans Academic nominated by the Assistant/Associate Deans Academic Group
- Dean, University Library (or designate)
- Registrar
- Senior Director, Strategic Enrolment Management
- Director, Student Affairs & Services (position does not exist at this time)
- Director of Student Academic Services, College of Arts and Science
- Director of Programs and Operations, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Associate Director, Consumer Services (Culinary Services – Residence)
- Vice-Provost, Students and Learning
- Director, Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

## Correspondents

- Provost and Vice-President Academic
- University Secretary
- Manager, Student Information Systems
- Director, Distance Education, Off-Campus and Certificate Programs (DOC), Centre for Continuing and Distance Education
- Head of Student Learning Services
- Director, Teaching and Learning Enhancement
- Director, ICT Client Services
- Director, Consumer Services
- Manager, Space Planning
- Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council
- Chair, Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee of Council
- Director, International Student & Study Abroad Centre
- Manager, Student Health Services
- Manager, Protective Services
- Director & Assistant Registrar (Student Central) Special Advisor to the Registrar
- Associate Deans Academic not otherwise nominated to be members in a given year

## **Leadership**

The Student Forum will be supported by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and Learning (VPSL). The first meeting will be chaired by the Vice-Provost, Students and Learning, with subsequent meetings being chaired by USSU and GSA members of the Student Forum Executive. It is the responsibility of the executive to craft an agenda broad enough in its implications and not focused on explicit details so that all members of the forum will find the topics pertinent and most will have views that they wish to convey. Ideas advancing to the forum should be presented in a proposal format that allows members to provide constructive input. Members of the forum will be encouraged to contribute to the construction of this agenda. The Executive includes: two members of the GSA Executive, two members of the USSU Executive, the Vice-Provost, Students and Learning and the chair of the Associate Deans' Academic group (or

designates).

The forum will meet at least twice a term and at the call of the chair.

### **Evaluation of the Forum**

The student forum was created by and responsible to the Provost and Vice-President Academic who may request periodic assessments. Practices regarding agenda creation and the conduct of business should be evaluated. This will also be an opportunity to reconsider the forum's membership and its relationship to other bodies on campus.



**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN – GRADUATE  
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
SEPTEMBER 2024 REPORT PRESENTED TO THE  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING ON OCTOBER 8, 2024, AT  
THE GSA COMMONS**

Dear Council Members,

I present to you a brief report for a busy month, capturing key details that executives will provide as it pertains to their respective offices.

### **GSA Fall Orientation**

On September 11, 2024, the GSA Commons successfully hosted the GSA fall orientation.

### **Daycare Facility**

The GSA Daycare Facility is an ongoing project. We have received interest from individuals who believe in this vision, thanks to CGPS Dean, Debby Burshtyn. Leading this vision are the GSA president and the VP of Indigenous Affairs.

### **Launching a new logo**

We're pleased to announce that starting November 1, 2024, our new logo will be officially launched, and members can identify and use it.

### **Tuition**

I have also initiated a discussion regarding early holds placed on students who default on tuition payments. The proposal seeks to extend the payment deadline, giving students more time to gather resources and fulfill their financial obligations for tuition.

### **Meeting with the CGPS Dean**

I met with the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to discuss issues related to daycare, tuition, and strategic plans aimed at ensuring the well-being and future success of our graduate students.

### **Strategic Planning for Fund Generation to Support GSA**

To explore ways of generating additional funds for the GSA as an NGO, the GSA Office Manager and I met with Beth Bilson, a former Dean of Education who also worked at the Faculty

of Law, to discuss potential strategies. Our goal is to leverage our common resources while maintaining the GSA's NGO status. The primary objective is to raise extra revenue to support GSA members in the future. This discussion is ongoing.

### **Travels**

On September 27, 2024, the GSA President attended a provincial annual general meeting in Regina to elect executives for the Saskatchewan sector; however, the environment was unsafe for members to proceed, leading to the meeting's adjournment until further notice.

### **The GSA Commons**

We'd like to inform the council that GSA Commons is available for rentals and open to graduate students for study sessions. Also, there has been a break in the supply of bread in the commons due to challenges with the source of supply; however, we are coordinating to get that restored.

I want to remind all members that your voice matters in our administration. We are actively working to establish a secure environment within the GSA. Let's continue working together toward our common goals. Thank you.

### **Meetings attended**

CGPS Executive & Coordinating Committee	Wed 04/09/2024
Executive meeting	Wed 04/09/2024
Bi-Weekly Mistatimōk Committee Meeting	Wed 04/09/2024
PEC/Student Executives monthly meeting	Thu 05/09/2024
GSA President re: Policies	Mon 09/09/2024
Governance Committee Meeting	Tue 09/09/2024
New International Student Orientation and Social	Wed 11/09/2024
Meeting with Johnson Leah - Tri agency Scholarship	Thu 12/09/2024



Bi-Weekly Mistatimōk Committee Meeting	Mon 16/09/2024
Meeting with University Library Operations	Mon 16/09/2024
Executive Meeting	Wed 18/09/2024
Daycare expansion meeting (GSA)	Wed 25/09/2024
Meeting of the USask India Advisory Committee	Thu 26/09/2024
Food Security Discussion	Wed 02/10/2024
Executive Meeting	Wed 02/10/2024
Meeting with VP Research Baljit Singh	Fri 04/10/2024

**David Ohene-Amoako**

***DO-A***

**President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)**



Dear GSA Councilors,

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

- 1) Designing new Logo for GSA

As VP External of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) at the University of Saskatchewan, I tasked Prince George with designing a new logo for better compatibility with the university's official templates. The original issue we faced was that the previous GSA logo lacked a high-quality version, preventing us from effectively using it on essential materials such as GSA T-shirts and handbooks. I provided Prince with the design concept, ensuring it would integrate smoothly with the university's branding standards. Using the free version of CANVA, Prince skillfully created a versatile logo that addressed these challenges. He spent several hours on the task, and his dedication was instrumental in delivering a design that could now be used seamlessly across various platforms and merchandise.

## 2) GSA Website Update

The GSA Executive Board has recognized the need for a significant update to the GSA website, including a complete redesign of its menus to enhance user-friendliness and professionalism. To address this, I have instructed our office manager to reach out to the University of Saskatchewan's IT department to identify a suitable web designer who can take on this project. We are focused on ensuring that the redesigned website will offer a more streamlined and accessible experience for our members. I will keep you updated on all developments as we move forward with this important task.

## 3) Meetings Attended

8/28/2024	GSA Council Meeting
9/4/2024	Executive Meeting
9/18/2024	Executive Meeting
9/25/2024	Emergency Executive Meeting
9/27/2024	Meeting with USFA
10/2/2024	Food Security Discussion

10/2/2024      Executive Meeting  
10/4/2024      Meeting with Baljit and  
Brit

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

Thanks,

**Reza Golpayegani**

He/Him

Vice-President of External Affairs

M.Sc. Student, Department of Computer Science

**University of Saskatchewan**

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



## **Graduate Students' Association Council Meeting: October 2024**

### **Report from the Office of Vice President Academic & Student Affairs**

Dear Graduate Students' Association Council Members

Please find the briefings on major activities that I was involved with during the month of September as Vice President Academic and Student Affairs.

#### **1) Graduate Students' Association Fall Orientation - 2024**

The Graduate Students' Association Fall Orientation that was held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the GSA Commons was a success. The event started with from 9.00 AM and ended with a lunch. We had circulated a SurveyMonkey link for registration using which around 74 graduate students registered.

The lunch, for the Fall Orientation, was ordered from Biryani Box and consisted of halal chicken biryani and vegetable fried rice (vegan). Vegan cupcakes were ordered as dessert. We had huge response from the graduate student community that we got more students coming in later the same day which was the reason for ordering additional food from the same vendor. Because we ordered on a short notice the vendor charged us additional labour fee. The food was delivered by the vendor both the time with an additional delivery fee. While waiting for the second order to be delivered the students were waiting and hungry. Due to the time delay (around 50 minutes) in getting the

food delivered from Biryani Box I had to get some emergency lunch – chicken biryani (halal) from Marhaba Restaurant and 5 vegetable biryani (vegan) from Little Spice Restaurant.

We had photography coverage throughout the event. Anas, SENS Master's student who is also a new freelance photographer provided paid service – which was paid on per hour basis. The photographs that were taken were shared with Reza and me through Google Drive.

I can proudly say that we launched our new GSA T-shirts by presenting it first to Dr. Debby Burshtyn, Dean, College of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies. These T-shirts were distributed to all the attendees of the event. Our graduate students wore this new T-shirt happily and we even had a group picture taken with nearly everyone who was there at that moment. Apart from our Dean, representatives from ISSAC, University Library, Safety Resources, Student Care Centre, USSU executives, University Career services and University Student Affairs and Outreach, University Rec along with various social club representatives (Bridges, PSAC) also participated and had small speech slots during Orientation.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to all my fellow executives for prompt responses and help which along with the significant amount of work done by our office staff and volunteers led to the success of this event which was truly a delight. Please feel free to ask me anything related to this event. On an ending note I would also like to mention the verbal feedback we got after the Orientation was tremendous which primarily came from the increased participation of graduate students.

## **SUMMARY**

Total number of graduate students participated – 184

Budget - \$7,000

Total expenses for Fall Orientation (including expenses for t-shirts bought for Winter Orientation) - \$7,485.71.

After splitting the cost of t-shirts between Fall and Winter Orientations (2:1) - \$5,811.97

Sl.No.	Item	Cost (CAD)
1	Graduate Students' Association 2024-2025 T-shirts (Fall+Winter)	5021.22
2	Refreshments (Day before Orientation)	113.53
3	Morning eateries and beverages (Orientation Day)	252.7
4	Lunch and dessert (Orientation Day)	1776.59
5	Emergency Lunch	177.49
6	SurveyMonkey	132.09
6	Miscellaneous (ice)	11.99
7	Total	7485.71

## 2) GSA-Campus Howlers Workshop on Public Speaking during Grad School

Campus Howlers is a toastmaster's club at our university. We in collaboration with them had a wonderful and interactive mini workshop to show what the club has to offer graduate students to help with public speaking during the graduate journey. Few interested students showed up and it went well. GSA provided refreshments. I encourage all of you to follow GSA on Instagram so that many of you would be aware of all the event happenings and we would get good participation as well. I would also like to mention here that I am very open to collaborate with any councils if you have a good idea that can help graduate students not just within your college but throughout our university.

## 3) Represented GSA at ISSAC Welcome Social for International Students.

This event happened on same day as our Orientation(September 11, 2024) at Louis'. It was wonderful experience were Reza and I could interact with prospective graduate students.

### Meetings Attended

8/28/2024 GSA Council Meeting

9/4/2024 Executive Meeting

9/10/2024 Meeting with Jaswanth

9/12/2024 CGPS Committee Meeting

9/18/2024 Planning & Priorities Committee Meeting

9/18/2024 Executive Meeting

9/25/2024 Graduate Programs Committee Meeting



9/25/2024 Emergency Executive Meeting

10/2/2024 Executive Meeting

10/3/2024 Meeting with President's Executive Committee

10/4/2024 Meeting with Baljit and Brit

Best Regards,

Nickson Joseph

Vice President Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Students' Association

University of Saskatchewan.



Dear GSA Councilors,

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

1) Completion of 2022-2023 Audit

Since the beginning of my service, I have been working closely and communicating regularly with our auditors to ensure they have the information needed to move forward with the audit process. As of the end of September, they have finalized the audit of GSA finances for the fiscal year which began May 1, 2022 and ended on April 30, 2023. The audit was favorable and found no significant concerns or liabilities, but the post-audit communication did cite significant delays between May 2023 and April 2024 in receiving information needed to complete the audit. This caused a ~9-month delay in completion of the audit, and delayed initiation of the next fiscal year's audit. The auditors can now begin the audit of the last fiscal year, which began on May 1, 2023 and ended April 30, 2024.

2) Organizing Committees of Council

In August, GSA solicited general members of GSA and council members to create new committees of council. Some committees had only enough applicants needed to proceed, but a few committees (Sustainability and Diversity in particular) had many more applicants than can serve on the committee. When the number of applicants exceeded the number of committee members needed, we selected individuals on a first come, first served basis while ensuring that committees did not have more than one member from the same department. I would like to thank our Chair, Devopriya Tirtho, for organizing the communications and selection process. We are still seeking Council members to serve on some of these committees.

3) Changing GSA Commons Hours

Because use of the commons by students for studying or gathering is limited during the evenings, and security of the building and safety of our coordinators and office staff is of utmost importance, we will be changing our weekday opening hours to 9:00 am - 5:00 pm for the fall semester. Ratified groups wishing to book the Commons will not be charged for bookings ending before the "typical" Commons closing time (7:00 pm) during the fall semester, while we evaluate the effects of this change. We aim to provide a safe environment for students to gather, and as such, we have submitted a maintenance request asking that the university repair the streetlights and external lights surrounding the building.

4) Announcing Fall Bursary Call

The GSA-CGPS Need-Based Bursary will be announced and opened by the end of October, with plans to distribute bursaries before the winter holidays.

Meetings Attended

8/28/2024	GSA Council Meeting
9/4/2024	Executive Meeting
9/18/2024	Planning & Priorities Committee Meeting
9/18/2024	Executive Meeting
9/24/2024	Fee Review Committee Orientation
9/25/2024	Emergency Executive Meeting
9/27/2024	Meeting with Auditor
9/27/2024	Meeting with Bookkeeper
10/2/2024	Food Security Discussion
10/2/2024	Executive Meeting
10/4/2024	Meeting with Baljit and Brit

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 Student, Department of Biology

University of Saskatchewan

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Address: 1337 College Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6

## GSA VPIE report October 2024

- July 5: had lunch with and was introduced to the team at OVPIE
- July-August: formed a better working relationship with George Foufas of Consumer services. GSA now has a 4x-yearly check in with him to discuss student issues with the dorms.
- July 30: met with Susan Bens from the GWCTL to discuss university AI policy. We have an AI policy! feel free to ask, it's a soft rollout, and I personally love the policy.
- was away from August 18-September 22 for a family emergency/ vacation; still was able to answer emails and help students, just had to do so remotely.
- Sept 25: had a meeting with an ad-hoc committee composed of myself and President David, Professor Helen Baulch, and Shakiba Jalal to discuss and try to find a path forward to make more daycare spots available for GSA students. please get in touch if interested.
- Sept 26: participated in a panel discussion in collaboration with ISSAC and the department of linguistics to talk about linguistic racism and its effects on students both Indigenous and international. more information to come in a later announcement; talk is scheduled for the afternoon of Oct 29.
- Sept 27 on returning: welcomed delegation of Maori to the city for a week. it was unclear if photographs were ok; I erred on the side of caution and did not take any pictures. But they had an honour song and they marched in with their own song, there was a big welcome and speeches from Elders both local to Saskatoon as well as Maori.
- Sept 27: Also was invited to lunch with the Maori delegation after the welcome ceremony. they performed a song for us over lunch to show gratitude. Very cool day
- Sept 27: Also was invited to the Huskies football game evening where the Maori performed once more.
- Sept 30: not engaged in local Indigenous events, flew to Winnipeg (GSA did not cover these fees, this was my decision.)
- Oct 1: met some of the COUSINS Indigenous graduate student community at an in person lunch at Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Center. gave a talk encouraging people to send me an email if they need any sort of assistance, as well as talking about the daycare initiative and a third path (as in beyond DHPS or solving it yourself) for students affected by racism.
- Oct 2: met with ECC to provide general updates on member activities.
- Oct 2: met with Jerome Cranston to try to get things moving on food security on campus. please get in touch if interested.
- Oct 3: met with PEC and gave a speech about daycare/lack thereof on campus. also started collaboration on third path initiative with USSU.
- Oct 4: had breakfast with VP Research Dr. Baljit Singh. discussed student stipends and funding for attending conferences.
- Oct 8: attending a monthly meeting with Angela Jaime. update to follow at council meeting.







