



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Council and Board of Directors



Notice of Meeting
Wednesday, 28 June, 2017: 11:30 – 1:30 PM
GSA Commons

(Light lunch provided)

Agenda

	OPEN SESSION	Pages	Action
11:30	1. Call to Order 2. Remarks from the Chair 3. Approval of the Agenda	Oral	Information Decision
	<u>Consent Agenda</u>		
11:35	Motion: To approve and/or receive for information by consent items 4 – 8 below.		
	4. Minutes from the 21 March and 25 April, 2017 Council Meetings	3 – 5	Decision
	5. Minutes from the 24 – 28 May, 2017 Electronic Resolution	6 – 7	Decision
	6. Reports from the Chair and the Executive	8 – 28	Information
	7. Report of the GSA delegate to the CFS SAGM	29 – 30	Information
	8. Report from the Executive Committee; Executive Retreat (link)	31 – 33	Information
	<u>Regular Agenda</u>		
11:40	9. Business Arising from the Minutes	Oral	
11:45	10. Presentation: Student Health Services [Peter Hedley]		Information / Discussion
12:15	11. Ratification of Social Club: American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), U of S Chapter	34 – 35	Decision
12:20	12. Report of the President a) President's Update b) Q & A Period with the Executive	Oral Oral	Information Discussion
12:40	13. Reports from Committees a) Elections	36 – 39	Information
12:45	b) Health and Dental	Oral	Information
12:55	14. Other Business / Announcements		
13:30	15. Adjournment		

Note: All meetings are open to the general membership, except for confidential sessions and those *in camera*, where only councillors, directors, senior staff, or individuals invited by the chair may attend. Agendas and minutes from “open” sessions will be made available electronically to the general membership. It is understood that content and discussions from confidential or *in camera* sessions may not be distributed to or discussed with anyone but current councillors, directors and/or the office manager. No record will be kept of discussions *in camera*.

To allow Council to complete a number of matters quickly and to devote more of its attention to major items of business, the agenda has been divided between items that are to be approved and/or received for information by consent and those that are to be presented individually for discussion and decision and/or information. A consent agenda does not aim to prevent discussion of any matter, but is intended for items that are likely uncontroversial, or relatively minor in nature, and will not be discussed at the meeting unless a member so requests. Members are supplied with the appropriate documentation for each item and all items will be approved by means of one omnibus motion. Council will then move immediately to consideration of the items on the regular agenda.

21 June, 2017

Robert D. E. Henderson, Chair

Please convey regrets in advance to: gsa.chair@usask.ca

**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association**

COUNCIL

Minutes from the Mar. 21, 2017 Meeting

Organization of Meeting: Robert Henderson, Chair of Council, took the chair, and Mylyne Tham, acted as secretary. The Chair advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order @ 4:30pm
2. Remarks from the Chair
 - a. Elections
3. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion – Ziad
 - b. Seconded by Vita
 - c. Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: To approve and/or receive for information by consent items 4 and 5 below

4. Minutes from the 28 February, 2017 Council Meeting
5. Reports from the Executive, *ad hoc* Sustainability, and Executive Committee
 - a. Seconded by Iloradanon
 - b. Comments: Vita was not present at meeting, but it was noted that she was
 - i. Iloradanon was noted as absent, but she was present
 - c. Carried

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Presentation on University Planning: Provost's Advisory Committee on Integrated Planning
 - a. Want to hear what goals the GSA has for the committee
 - b. Seeking feedback from various groups and planning to start a survey
 - c. Theme descriptions – handout provided
 - d. What goals do you think will drive us to achieve our Mission and Vision?
 - e. Where/what/who does the U of S want to be in the next decade in our main areas of activity – T&L, R&D, O&E, and Operational Excellence?
 - i. U of S's position on re-investing responsibly – not investing in fossil fuel industries
 - ii. U of S's strategy for Indigenizing ties into Sustainability
 - iii. More research funding, more support for faculty to get research funding
 - iv. More support and funding for international students who come with family

- v. Increase TA pay rates as a tangible goal
 - vi. Internationalization – McGill doesn't have fees for international students
 - vii. Media Recognition – better promotion of our successes and achievements
 - viii. Encouraging collaboration, interdisciplinarity, connectivity.
 - ix. Reach out to the global and local community – outreach and engagement
- f. The Committee agreed to send Council a semi-final draft of the plan
- g. Contact: Konrad.andre@usask.ca
- 7. Report of the President
 - a. President's Update
 - i. Student-supervisor agreement
 - 1. Had great feedback
 - 2. In 2 weeks, a final guideline will be submitted to CGPS
 - ii. Summer UPASS
 - 1. Asked for a meeting with Transit, request has not been answered yet
 - iii. Events
 - 1. 3-minute thesis next week, 60 participants! Mar. 29th at 10am is opening
 - 2. Apr. 1st GSA Gala
 - iv. ThinkGrad GSA Summit – Apr. 18th
 - b. U of S Response to Council's Letter on Athletic Fees
 - i. Why are there so many faculty members on this committee discussing student fees?
 - 1. One undergrad student was taken off the committee to accommodate a grad student
 - c. Q & A Period with the Executive
 - i. Isaac Pratt – the GSA is hosting the ThinkGrad conference – is the GSA going to be spending money on the conference?
 - ii. GSA is not spending any money, funding will be coming from registration fees and sponsorship
- 8. Reports from the Committees
 - a. Elections
 - i. Motion – to approve the terms of reference as distributed
 - 1. Seconder – Aurora
 - 2. Carried
 - b. Question from Beeta: why are GSA elections overlap with USSU elections? These overlaps make it difficult to campaign.
- 9. Other Business / Announcements
 - a. Seth Sazant from PSAC gave update on Bargaining
 - i. Last offer: 4-year deal with 0% increase in first year, 0% increase in second year, 2% in third year, 1% in fourth year.
 - ii. No clarity or negotiating on appointments process – University is saying that what we have now is good enough
 - iii. Collective action might be needed to show support to the Bargaining team.
 - b. Alumni seats on Board

**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association**

COUNCIL

Minutes from 25 April, 2017 Special Meeting

GSA Commons

Regrets: Ifeoma Adaji, Sylvana Tu, Banjo Olaleye, Naheda Sahtout

Organization of Meeting: Robert Henderson, Chair of Council, took the chair, and Mylyne Tham, acted as secretary. The Chair advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

1. Call to Order
2. Remarks from the Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion: Carolyn Gaspar
 - b. Seconded: Katherine (from Tox)
 - c. Carried

Regular Agenda

4. Report of the Chief Electoral Officer: Election Results
 - a. No questions
5. Report of the VP Finance: Preliminary 2017-18 Budget
 - a. To approve the presented budget as the preliminary budget for 2017 - 2018 – Carolyn Gaspar
 - b. Seconded by Brenda
 - i. 3-MT ran a deficit, ~ 1500-1800 over, will confirm
 - ii. GSA Gala ran a deficit, \$1300 right now, after another department pitches in, will be down to \$300 deficit
 - c. Absentions – 3
 - d. Carried
6. Other Business / Announcements
7. Adjournment
 - a. 4:27pm

**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association**

COUNCIL

Minutes from the 24 – 28 May, 2017 Electronic Resolution

Timestamp	Motion: that former VP External Carolyn Gaspar be appointed as Interm VP External until a by-election is complete.	Please enter your name and affiliation on Council (department/College rep, Board member, executive, etc.)
5/24/2017 20:32:02	In favour	ARCHAIA
5/24/2017 20:32:37	In favour	Naheda Sahtout, Department of Chemistry Council Representative
5/24/2017 20:35:44	In favour	Jaylene Murray, Board member and college rep
5/24/2017 20:36:22	In favour	Isaac Pratt - College of Medicine Graduate Student Society
5/24/2017 20:37:46	In favour	Western college of veterinary medicine - council member
5/24/2017 20:45:08	In favour	Ziad Ghaith, GSA President
5/24/2017 20:53:03	In favour	Banjo Olaleye; English Course Council (ECC) rep
5/24/2017 21:46:05	In favour	Logan Pizzey, Board member
5/24/2017 21:57:17	In favour	School of Public Health Student Association
5/24/2017 22:27:23	In favour	Dimitry Zakharov (History)
5/24/2017 23:08:41	In favour	Colin McLaren, councillor from Kinesiology
5/25/2017 1:21:05	In favour	Emiliana Bomfim College of Medicine
5/25/2017 4:45:44	In favour	Ifeoma Adaji, Computer science depth.
5/25/2017 11:32:00	In favour	Anoosha Attaran (Academic representative for BGSA)/ Biology department/ Art and science/
5/25/2017 12:08:10	In favour	Luc Chabanole; Geological Sciences Representative
5/25/2017 12:55:30	In favour	Wanda Seidlikoski Yurach Board member
5/26/2017 10:47:10	In favour	Haley Scott, WCVM
5/26/2017 11:03:57	In favour	Board Member
5/26/2017 15:32:14	In favour	Evan Poncelet - representative for the Psychology Graduate Students' Association

5/27/2017 9:04:21	In favour	Chris Maierhoffer
5/27/2017 9:54:12	In favour	Josh cronmiller geography rep
5/27/2017 10:10:01	In favour	EGCC
5/27/2017 10:13:09	In favour	Brenda Byers
5/27/2017 11:09:50	In favour	Exec
5/27/2017 11:46:58	In favour	Indigenous Graduate Students' Council
5/27/2017 15:14:02	In favour	Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
5/27/2017 17:46:40	In favour	Jason Ho, Physics Rep.
5/27/2017 19:46:47	In favour	Mila Markevych, EGSA
5/28/2017 12:59:12	Abstain	Chemical and biological engineering representative
5/28/2017 15:22:16	In favour	Ifeoma Adaji, Computer Science department
5/28/2017 15:58:45	In favour	Katherine Raes, TGSA

**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association**

COUNCIL

Report of the Chair

FOR INFORMATION

Chair's GSA Activities

For Council's information, during the month of May, along with other executive and board members, I attended three lunch meetings with candidates for the next Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. In addition, I attended one convocation ceremony (7 June, afternoon) as a member of the platform party on behalf of the GSA.

I have also been appointed to the Governance Committee of University Council as a GSA representative, where I am actively working to enhance graduate student representation and authority on various decision-making bodies on campus. Discussions within the committee are confidential, but I can say that by-laws of various Faculty Councils (essentially the main decision-making groups for each College or School) come to the Governance Committee for revisions or development; when this happens, for example, one of my roles is to scrutinise the number of, and parameters defining (e.g., voting status) graduate student seats in those groups. So far, I have attended both scheduled meetings of May and June. Meetings resume in September.

In addition, I have been (with the president) overseeing, and actively participating in, discussions with respect to the ongoing audits.

From now until the end of July I am also overseeing the by-election process for a new VP External. As I reported to Council by e-mail, Vita Andersone resigned as VP External approximately 3 weeks following the start of the term. The process is well underway – more detail can be found in the Report from the Elections Committee later in this meeting package.

The Board of Directors has been very active since its constitution on 1 May, 2017. We have had one 4-hour meeting in May and a 9-hour meeting in June, which included a discussion with legal counsel on an orientation of directors' duties in the context of our organisation. Directors have put in a substantial amount of time to become intimately familiar with the GSA's operations, ongoing audits, and general governance and oversight.

The board has also asked each executive to write a work plan for their year, against which we can measure progress via monthly reports. This is expected to be an ongoing/standard accountability mechanism for the GSA. At present, we are working to have a set of policies and procedures, and a board handbook, substantially developed by summer's end.

Robert Henderson
GSA Chair
20 June, 2017



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

GSA President Ziad report (GSA June Council Meeting)

Dear GSA Councillor:

It is my pleasure to provide to you my report on my activities as the GSA President. It has been a busy period where the GSA executive committee met several times to plan the GSA activities and initiatives for the next year. This year, we include graduate students out of the executive committee to set on different University committees based on their interest and background.

In this report, I will highlight briefly the major activities that I have been engaged in recently, and I am attaching an abstract of my annual workplan which has been presented to the GSA Board earlier in June.

- Fundraising efforts

I have started fundraising early this year, to ensure that the GSA is a step ahead. I am glad to inform the Council members that I have been successful in raising the flowing amount of money for our initiatives (pending formal letter of conformation)

- 30K toward need based bursary;
- 5K toward improving our visual and audio system;
- 10K toward the GSA Gala;
- 3K toward the GSA Conference;
- One event coordinator to start September;
- One Gala coordinator to start January 2018; and

- **Student Supervisor Agreement**

As the faculty council has recently approved the Students Supervisor Agreement that has been developed as a joint project between the GSA and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Students, the GSA has informally started exploring some opportunity of consultation with different units in the University including graduate chairs, as part of our efforts to continue developing the agreement and get more support of it from different departments/colleges units on campus.

- **GSA Health and Dental plan**

The GSA has recently informed by the Health and Dental provider that the cost of the Health and Dental plans will be increased by 6 percent as the government is imposing PST on all insurance premiums. As a result of this, the GSA has to increase its Health and Dental fees by 6 percent, which add another burden on the graduate students, who already face increases in the tuitions and other fees on the yearly basis, while the TA rate has been unchanged for years. The GSA considers the new tax burden on the insurance premiums is a serious issue which compromise students' health. We are working to communicate through different channels to minimize the impact on the graduate students.

- **GSA retreat**

The GSA Executive Committee had their retreat on May 6 and 7 2017. The plan for the entire year has been set based on the Graduate students' priorities to create wellness and support for our graduate students. The millstones of our annual plan are as follows:

- Graduate Students workshops and Industry Talks. The GSA will hold a monthly workshop starting September 2017 to address the graduate student's needs. These workshops will include tax filing, industry talks ... etc.
- The GSA orientation will take place early on September.

- GSA Services. The GSA Plans to keep the current services and to continue investigating new services including a potential UPASS in Spring/Summer term.
- Graduate Students Achievement week. The GSA will hold its 3rd annual Graduate Students Achievement week in April 2017.

Ziad Ghaith

President, Graduate Students' Association

** Attached the GSA President annual workplan



GSA President Workplan (public)

Author: Ziad Ghaith

Creation Date: 7/05/17

Last Revised: 20/05/17

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Plan

This plan highlights the main initiatives that will be addressed under the GSA President portfolio over 2017/18 and it can serve as a tool to assess the progress on these initiatives.

The initiatives, goals, and objectives in this plan are based on the presidential election statement and the board recommendations. The timeframe of the work over the upcoming year is tentative and can be changed based on the progress.

This Plan defines the following:

- GSA President's main initiatives;
- Scope and expectations;
- Assumptions and constraints;
- Initiatives timeline

Background Information/Available Alternatives

The GSA President focus this year will be on three major initiatives:

- i. Graduate student representation on the University decision making bodies;
- ii. Student Supervisor Guideline (agreement);
- iii. GSA and USask Association of Graduate Employees relationship.

The GSA has started the first two initiatives over 2016/17 academic year, some progress has been achieved specially in-terms initiative (ii). Thus, I will build on the last year progress and will start working on the GSA and the USask Association of Graduate Employees relationship.

Goals and objectives

Based on the proposed initiatives, I will be seeking to achieve the following objectives over the 2017/18 year:

- i. Having a graduate student representative on the board of governance;
- ii. Increasing the graduate students' seats on the University Council to 3 seats;
- iii. Increasing the graduate students' seats on the University Senate to 2 seats;
- iv. Replacing the current CGPS student supervisor agreement with the GSA agreement;
- v. Pilot the GSA Student Supervisor Agreement in one college/department;
- vi. Start consultation in cooperation with the CGPS with different colleges department to have more support for the GSA Student Supervisor Agreement;
- vii. Work toward making the Student Supervisor Agreement mandatory in the University;
- viii. Initiate a discussion with USask Association of Graduate Employees and working with them toward signing a memorandum of understanding with the GSA.

SCOPE

It worthy to note that these initiatives to a high extent depend on other external, although the success of these initiatives depends to a high extent on the GSA advocacy, it is also extremely dependent on external stakeholders. This might hinder the implementation of these initiatives and it should be considered in evaluating this work plan.

In the following sections, I will provide a background about each of this year initiatives, list of barriers and constraints of each initiative, and a timeline of implementation.

GRADUATE STUDENTS REPRESENTATION

Purpose of this initiative

To have a representation of the graduate students on the University Board of Governors, more seats for graduate students on the University Senate, and more seats on the University Council.

Background

The GSA has been working on this particular initiative over the last year to have graduate students representation on the University Board of Governance. Vast efforts have been completed toward this initiative. The GSA addressed this at the provincial government level, the university administration, and broader University stockholders. The GSA met with the Human Services Caucus Policy Committee (Legislative Assembly) to highlight this request by the graduate students' in the University of Saskatchewan and to address the importance of improving the representation for the Graduate Students in the University Council and to have at least one Graduate Students to sit on the Board of Governors, further the GSA addressed this need in almost every meeting of the University Council and Senate, many of the University faculty members and Senate members expressed their support for our genuine request.

The position of the GSA is that there is great potential benefit at the University and the Provincial level by having graduate students on these important committees. These benefits include but are not limited to:

- **At the University level:**
 1. Better representation of the graduate students on the Board of Governors and the University Council, will ensure having graduate student (17% of total student population) insight into the University strategic and academic planning.
 2. The graduate students' insights will ensure support of the university efforts in fulfilling its mission and vision as a leading research University.
- **At the Provincial level:**
 1. The University of Saskatchewan is the leading research University in the province, improved graduate representation will support the University research portfolio as graduate students are part of research production at the university.

2. The University of Saskatchewan is part of U15 universities (intensive research universities) improved representation of the graduate students will ensure the university position on the U15 list, and hopefully improve the university current rank

U15 University	% of Graduate Students	Representation on the Board of Governors
University of Alberta	19	Yes
The University of British Columbia	18	Yes
University of Calgary	19	Yes
Dalhousie University	18	By-elections
University Laval	12	Yes
University of Manitoba	12	Yes
McGill University	24	Yes
McMaster University	14	Yes
University de Montreal	26	By-elections
University of Ottawa	15	Yes
Queen's University	17	Yes
University of Saskatchewan	17	No
University of Toronto	19	Yes
University of Waterloo	14	Yes
Western University	17	Yes

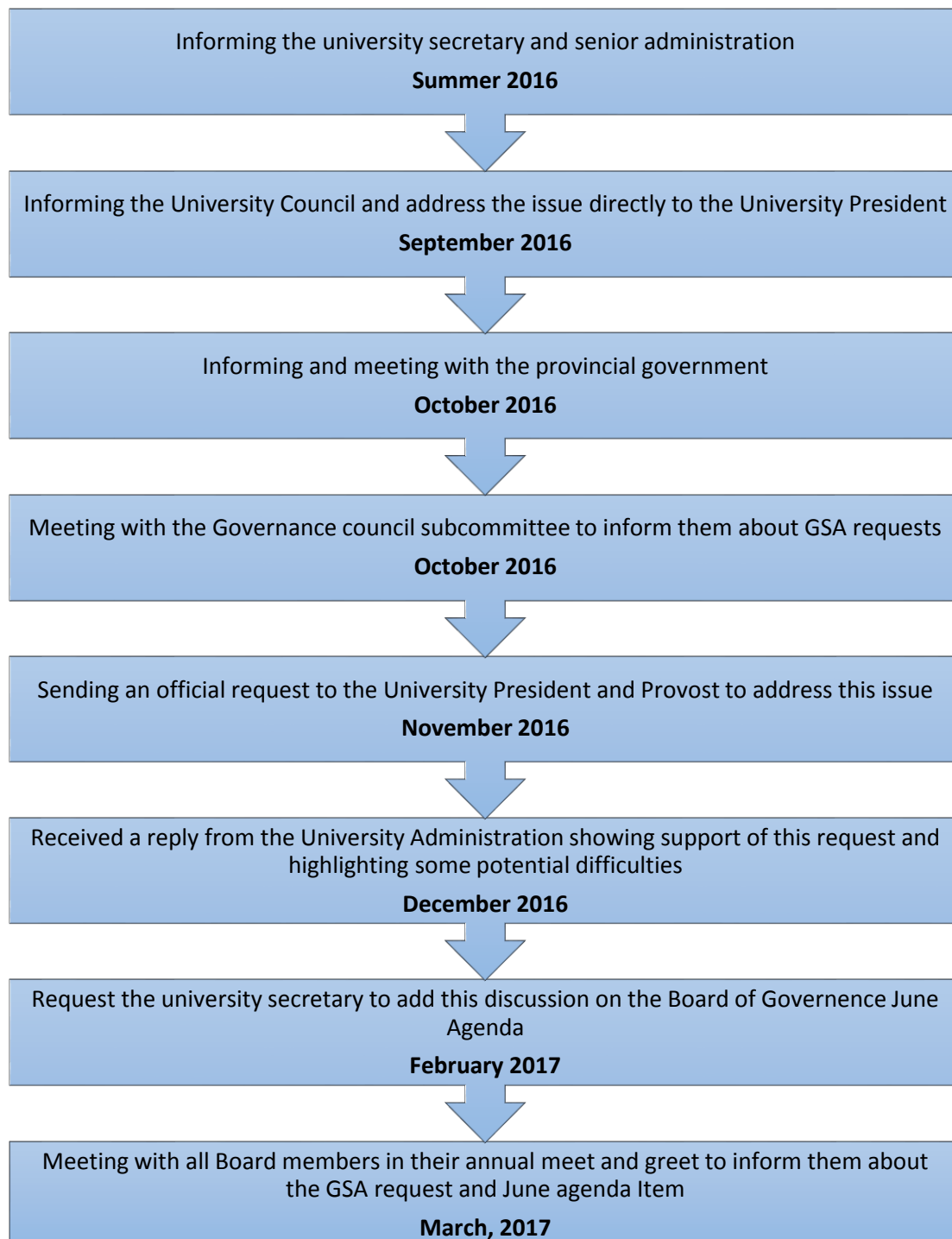
At this stage of our advocacy to improve our representation, I would like to invite the incoming GSA executives and board to continue keeping this initiative as one of the GSA priorities as this initiative has crossed very important threshold in-terms of implementations.

In the same vein, I would like to draw our members attention to the fact that the University of Saskatchewan is the only University among the U15 where Graduate Students are unrepresented on the Board of Governors. The GSA believes that our institution needs to be on the same page in terms of governor's practice with other GU15. See the Table below for more details.

Graduate Students Representation in the Board of Governors – U15 Universities

A proposal was sent as well to the Senate Membership Committee addressing the important of having more graduate students on the Senate, and a presentation was delivered to the Council Governance Committee addressing the same request.

This project in-terms on implementation time, can be summarized in the graph below:



Tentative Timeline

Task	Tentative date
Meeting with the incoming provost	Summer 2017 (June/July?)
Meeting with the Board of Governors	Summer 2017 (June?)
Initiate the discussion with USSU	Summer 2017
Working with the University Secretary	Summer 2017
News story	Fall /Winter 2017/18
Petition to the provincial government	Winter/Spring 2018

STUDENT SUPERVISOR AGREEMENT

Purpose of this initiative

To have a student supervisor agreement in place to be signed between supervisors and their students as students commence working on their research. The major goal of this agreement is to help the students, as well as their supervisors an agreement on their responsibilities as they start working together.

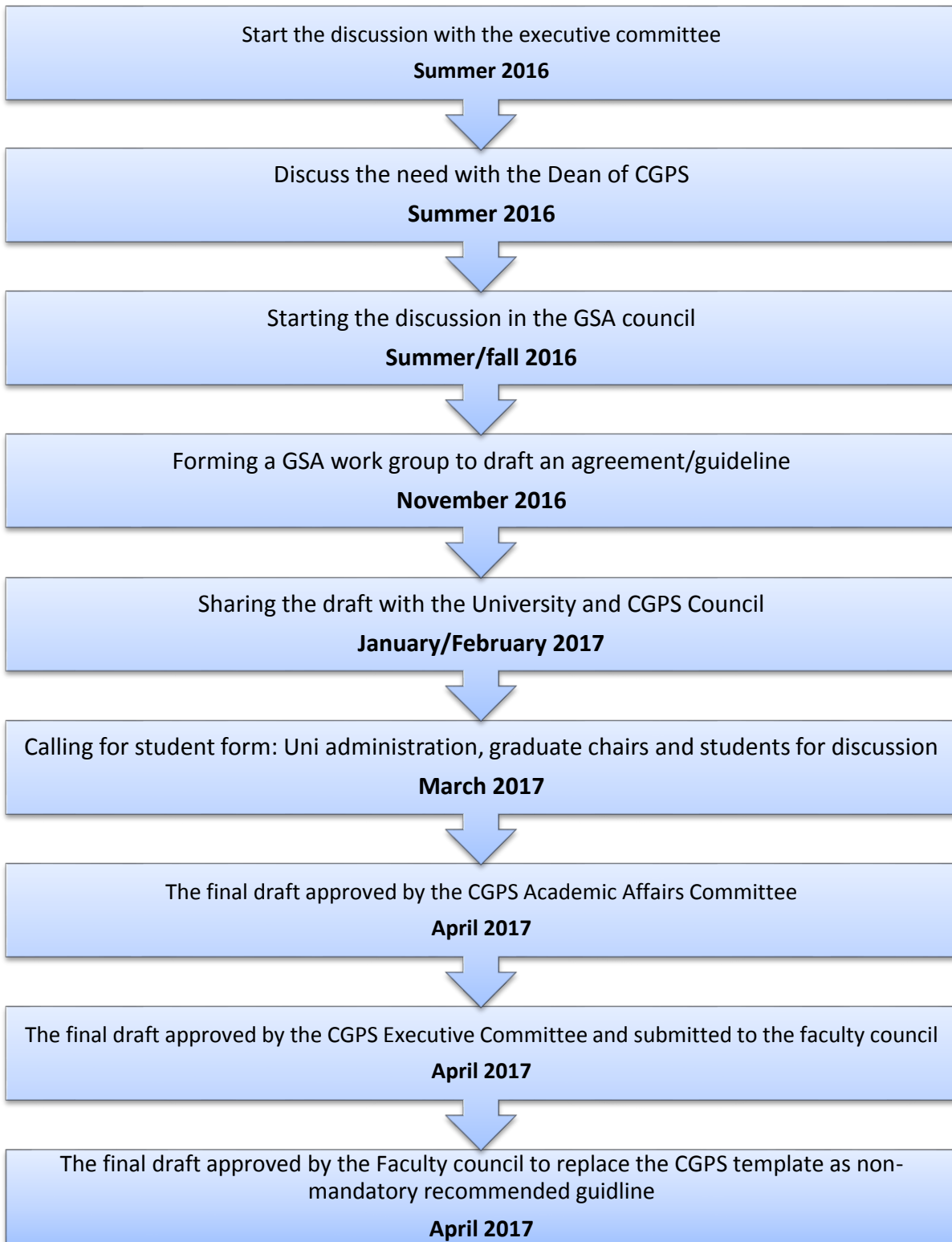
Background

The GSA has begun an initiative to draft a guideline to be as used between supervisors and their students as a mandatory agreement as students begin working on their research. This has been a growing issue that graduate students have addressed many times to the GSA executives.

In 2016 the GSA formed a working group including some Council members to work on this agreement, and consulted with the CGPS and different colleges, students, and graduate chairs in developing the draft. The draft document was presented in the University Council, the CGPS Council, and in cooperation with the CGPS associate Dean and the Office of the Vice Provost Teaching and Learning, the GSA had a meeting were more than 15 graduate chairs along other university unit directors were invited to discuss the proposed agreement and to give their inputs.

This initiative was well received by the University Administration, the CGPS Dean and Associate Dean, and many graduate chairs and Faculty members. The final document has been approved by the the CGPS Academic Affairs Committee, and then by the CGPS Executive Committee and recently approve the and on May 9th has been approved by the faculty council to replace the current CGPS template.

This project in-terms on implementation time, can be summarized in the graph below:



Building on the last year

Building on the last year progress, the work plan to make the Student Supervisor Agreement mandatory in the U of S will include:

- Working with the Dean of the CGPS to run a university wide consultation (with departments, grad chairs, associate deans) to receive their feedback and amend the agreement as seen necessary to get more allies on board.
- Working with one or two departments in the university to pilot this agreement in their department (Potentially kinesiology and Pharmacy).
- Try to collect and write a complete document on the importance of having such an agreement in place on the quality of the graduate education in the university, this will include the impact of the relationship with supervisors on mental health, time on completion ... etc.
- Propose to make this agreement mandatory by get the approval by CGPS council (this is conditional on having enough number of allies to support this cultural change, and will not be proposed unless there is a high potential of success)

Tentative Timeline

Task	Tentative date
University wide consultation	Summer and Fall 2017
Piloting the agreement in one or two departments	Fall and Winter 2017/18
Working on having more allies for this agreement	Whole year
Preparing a research paper to be presented with any potential motion to approve this agreement as mandatory tool in U of S	Fall and Winter 2017/18
Propose a motion to make this agreement mandatory in U of S	Spring 2019

GSA and USASK ASSOCIATION of GRADUATE EMPLOYEES RELATIONSHIP

Purpose of this initiative

The main goal of this project is to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the GSA and USask Association of Graduate Employees, to ensure that both bodies are working coherently in advocating for the graduate students.

Background

Graduate student employees represent roughly half of the total population of graduate students (half of the GSA members) voted in 2015 with vast majority in favor of unionizing. The union bargaining team entered negotiations with the University in late 2015. I personally believe that part of the student vote to unionize, was the failure of the GSA to address the graduate students urgent issues including their stipends, wages ... etc.

The Union is still new, and there are no obvious achievements for the students so far, however the negotiation with the university over the last year and a half has made good progress on every front except the most important - appointments and wages.

Tentative Timeline

Task	Tentative date
Meeting and start the discussion with the USask Association of Graduate Employees President	Summer 2017
Signing the Memorandum of Understanding	Fall / Winter 2017/18

End of the GSA President workplan



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

VP Finance & Operations



Monthly Council Report

June 9, 2017

Important Dates

- **May 30** – Monthly Executive meeting (minutes available online and in agenda package)
 - **May 31** – Met with GSA bookkeeper Erica Smith to discuss state of finances / newly implemented procedures
 - **June 6** – Spring / Summer bursary application period opened
 - **June 8** – Monthly Board of Directors meeting / governance retreat
 - **June 11 – June 21** – Leave of Absence for MBA International Study Tour
 - **June 23** – Tentative deadline for bursary applications, potential extension to June 30
 - **June 28** – Council meeting
-

State of Initiatives

I met with the GSA's bookkeeper Erica Smith on May 31st to discuss the chart of accounts she has developed for the organization, as well as the steps that need to be taken to work towards completing the financial evaluations she has undertaken.

The GSA Board of Directors extended its monthly meeting to include a governance retreat, which officially introduced Directors to their responsibilities to the organization. The retreat / meeting also involved discussion with the auditors and lawyers contracted by the GSA.

On Monday, June 6, the window for spring/summer bursary applications was opened. The bursary committee opted to collect hard copy applications to prevent any unexpected separation of application components. The intended close date for applications is Friday, June 23. However, the state of applications will be evaluated on June 22, and if necessary an extension will be applied to the deadline. If this is the case, the new deadline would be Friday, June 30.

Moving forward, I intend to begin researching projection equipment for the Commons, as well as continue to work on financial reconciliation efforts for the organization.

VP External Council Report

As the interim external I have worked on:

- Attended the executive meeting.
- I worked on The GSA Academic Planner. I only had 3 days to finalize the content and solicit welcome messages and advertisements, so I was unable to reach the budgeted amount for fundraising.
- I worked with the Health and Dental committee on the PST increase on the Health and Dental plan and I will be attending the Student Care Stakeholder meeting in Montreal June 14th to 16th.
- I also represented the GSA at convocation on June 5th & 6th.
- Over the past year, I have worked with CFS to hire a Student Ambassador. I have been able to secure a position. The application went live June 12th and the last day to apply is June 30th for more information look on our social media. The Student Ambassador is to work with the VP External to solicit student discounts for the ISIC card and for students in general.



Iloradanon Efimoff
Monthly Report
June 18th, 2017

To whom it may concern:

The following is a list of the meetings I have since May 30th 2017.

Meeting	Date
TLARC final meeting	June 1 2017
Aboriginal Student Centre planning meeting	June 1 2017
Canadian Federation of Students Semi-Annual General Meeting	June 3 to June 8 2017
Campus Master Plan and Space Plan	June 14 2017

This month I had the pleasure of attending the graduation powwow, where I connected with New York Times Toronto Correspondent, Katherine Porter, regarding Indigenization at the University of Saskatchewan. I also connected her with other individuals involved who may be interested in discussing their experiences. This connection with Katherine Porter was made through my involvement with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Council, but is of course relevant to my role as Indigenous Liaison. She has recently published a piece on Indigenization at the University of Saskatchewan.

During my meeting with the Aboriginal Student Centre, we discussed mutual plans for the year, and discussed the potential to host a "SAGE" type program for Indigenous graduate students at the U of S, which is a type of mentorship program. This will be done in collaboration between the ASC and IGSC, which is of course inherently connected to the GSA Indigenous Liaison position.

The largest portion of my time related to GSA activities since my last report was attending the Canadian Federation of Student's 70th Semi-Annual General Meeting from June 3rd to June 8th. I was the only representative who attended from the GSA. This meeting is not under my portfolio, however due to the VP External position being vacant and then refilled with an Interim VP External shortly before this conference, my schedule was the only one amenable to attending. Please see the attached report for further information.

Lastly, I attended the campus and space plan meeting with external contractors, "Dialogue". Dialogue is multidisciplinary design firm, and the leader of the team at U of S, Gale Shillingford, has been working on master plans at Universities such as U of T, University of

Manitoba, etc., for many years. At this meeting I spoke of the importance of consulting Indigenous students (perhaps by going to the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre), and graduate students (perhaps by going to the GSA building). I also spoke to the importance of affordable student housing (especially given our meeting with consumer services, where we learned that some of the most affordable residence housing units are going to be torn down in the next 10 years or so), and the importance of good public transit to alleviate massive parking issues. The consultants encouraged us to discuss space needs with our peers and bring that information back; however, they are planning a student forum of some kind for September.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Háw'aa,

(Thank you)

Iloradanon Efimoff

Interim VP External

During the interim I will work on recruiting a VP External for the position.

Other activities I have completed to date:

- Working with the Health & Dental Committee on the influence of the PST increase on the Health & Dental Plan.
- Ordering the GSA Planner through CFS and trying to fundraise to help reduce the cost. However, no advertising was done prior to my arrival and the deadline is June 2nd. I am working on trying to get the deadline postponed.
- Working with Indigenous Liaison on her attending the CFS NGM June 4th to June 7th.

Activities I will work on:

- Working on sustainability of the Health and Wellness committee with councillors and university staff.
- Leading the white paper for ThinkGRAD.
- Working on the Wellness Strategy at the U of S and the potential implementation of Empower Me. Interoperable services through Student Care.



Iloradanon Efimoff
Canadian Federation of Students Semi-Annual General Meeting Report
June 11th, 2017

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this report is to recount decisions made or processes in play during the 70th Canadian Federations of Students (CFS) Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM) that impact the GSA and graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan.

Several items in the agenda package were tabled. Minutes of the opening and closing plenary will be made available on the CFS website in short order (to my knowledge).

During several workshops and meetings, delegates heard from student leaders on their experiences on their respective campuses. Some of the students actions could be easily replicated at the University of Saskatchewan and potentially have great impact on student life.

1. Nour Alideeb, Organizer at U of T Mississauga, organized an open temple day to combat Islamophobia by educating students about Islam and the religion. This might be something interesting to try to facilitate with community or on-campus partners.
2. Sophia Descalzi, Grenfell campus of Memorial University, argued for the importance of solidarity between international and domestic students. In particular, she explained that international students may need to leave protests if police arrive, as police records could influence citizenship and end in deportation – in these cases, domestic student solidarity is particularly important.
3. There is interest within the Circle of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Students to create documentation surrounding smudging policies across Canada, to help student groups who are trying to bring smudging to their campuses.
4. Carleton students discussed a movement called 'our turn' regarding a national movement on sexual assault. They brought forward several interesting points...
 - a. Surveyed student population at Carleton – 40% identify as sexual assault survivors
 - b. Friends need training as they are most often confided in
 - c. Movement must be intersectional – ensuring by consulting broadly
 - d. Movement includes supports, advocacy, and education
 - e. Presence at 'high-risk' events, like frosh week

- f. Club funding tied to online sexual assault education
- g. Working to obtain deferrals for sexual assault survivors
- h. Created measurement tool after reading sexual assault policies across Canada

I'm not sure what our sexual assault policy is, but this presentation put forth several 'best practices.' I signed up for their mailing list to get more information. We could connect with the President's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women at the U of S, and potentially with interested students who want to be involved in looking at our current policies and how we can improve them. Please see the attached information sheet from Our Turn.

5. The incoming Graduate Caucus chair is looking to create a survey of graduate student unions across Canada, to collect basic information on various factors, such as number of positions, titles, duties, wages, etc. This will likely be of interest to the GSA, especially given our recent restructuring.
6. Michael Geist, professor at the University of Ottawa in Law, presented on current copywrite issues. He explained that a bill is in the works that will make copywrite more restrictive. This will impact all students, but especially graduate students. He is active on twitter, so updates can be found @mgeist.
7. Mina Rajabi, president of the York University Graduate Students' Association, presented on her coordination with striking food workers on campus to fight for a \$15 minimum wage. Connections with other unions on campus may be valuable for the GSA to gain more lobbying power in the institution and potentially provincial government.

Aside from this, I also connected with other delegates representing Saskatchewan. In particular, Haris Khan (VP External Affairs at the University of Regina Students' Union) and I discussed a potential campaign called 'Rage Against the Wall' to protest Brad Wall's cuts to University budgets, STC, public libraries, and other services that impact students (potential hashtag #rawSK [Rage Against the Wall Saskatchewan]). Potential partners include University of Regina, First Nations University, satellite campuses, and the Undergraduate Students' Union at U of S. Potential activities include protests at the Legislative Assembly and on campus, sending tweets/emails/letters, sit-ins, etc. This may be especially appropriate in the fall, when discussion for the next annual budget are in full swing.



GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Meeting



Executive Agenda

Tuesday, May 30, 2017, 5 – 7 pm

GSA Commons

Present: Z. Ghaith (President); J. Bonkowski (VP Finance & Operations); A. Kiani (VP Academic & Student Affairs); C. Gaspar (Interim VP External, Teleconference); I. Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison, Teleconference).

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Meeting is called to order at 5:10 pm.

First official Exec meeting of the year.

A. Kiani Update – 5 students came to Kiani w/ concerns, began subsequent processes. Kiani also began formatting the call for hiring coordinator for GSA events. Kiani started to buy some supply for the orientation. Kiani attended different meetings like University Council meeting, meeting with candidates for CGPS Dean, meeting with associate deans.

J. Bonkowski Update – Administrative meetings, H&D plan decisions, University Council meeting, will meet w/ Bookkeeper tomorrow (May 31)

C. Gaspar Update – Working to catch up on VP External portfolio, has been working on the planner with imminent deadlines (June 2, 2017).

I. Efimoff Update – Working with search committee for new VP Indigenous Engagement position, working with Gaspar to coordinate for upcoming CFS NGM (June 4-7), reached out to CFS regarding RISE funding but they have indicated that they are already funding the national RISE conference

Z. Ghaith Update – Has just returned from 2 week “vacation”, participated in CGPS Dean Search Committee, Action Plan, Health & Dental discussions

2. Approval of the Agenda

Kiani adds discussion regarding upcoming events

Bonkowski would like to discuss Bursaries for the Spring / Summer term.

Ghaith moves to approve agenda. Kiani seconds. All in Favour

Carried.

3. Approval of April 21 minutes (Final GSA 2016/17 Exec Meeting)

Ghaith moves to approve meeting minutes. Kiani seconds. 3 approval, 2 abstention.

Carried.

4. Approval of May 6/7 minutes (GSA 2017/18 Retreat)

Bonkowski will implement Efimoff's suggestions after the Exec meeting.

Kiani moves to approve minutes. Ghaith seconds. 4 in favour, 1 abstention.

Carried.

5. Interim VP External Appointment

Gaspar accepted the role of Interim VP External following Andersone's resignation.

Ghaith expresses sincere gratitude on behalf of the Executive. Gaspar has reached out to the outgoing VP External regarding initiatives that started in May.

6. GSA Health & Dental Plan

GSA has faced issue of inclusion of 6% PST on insurance premiums beginning July 1, 2017. Discussion took place late last week and over the weekend. Necessary movement is underway in the University. New H&D increase is ~ \$47 from last year.

7. Annual Work Plans

This is a new initiative as requested by the GSA Board of Directors. Bonkowski has provided a template to formulate action plans. Deadline for submission to Board Chair is end of day today. Short report of activities for the month of May should also be submitted to the Chair.

8. Executive Funds

Each Executive has access to a discretionary fund for their use towards student initiatives, training, etc. Ghaith poses the question to fellow Executives as to how the funds will be used for this year. Kiani and Efimoff say that the funds are open to the corresponding VP's discretion but should always be used toward student initiatives.

9. Convocation Ceremonies

Monday, June 5th @ 2 pm – Ghaith

Tuesday, June 6th @ 9 am – Gaspar

Tuesday, June 6th @ 2 pm – Kiani

Wednesday, June 7th @ 9 am – TBD

Wednesday, June 7th @ 2 pm – TBD

Thursday, June 8th @ 9am – Bonkowski

Thursday, June 8th @ 2pm – Gaspar (tentative)

Kiani and Bonkowski will attend Convocation dinners with Ghaith on June 6th and 7th respectively.

10. Upcoming Events – VP Student Affairs

Five-week workshop about Mastermind Group Studies in works. Will take place in GSA Commons. Only cost to GSA will be printing and binder costs. Workshop is just for students. Cost is based on attendance. Kiani hopes for the workshop to begin in mid-July

and go into August. This may change based on consultation with the GSA Office Manager regarding availability of students and Commons. This workshop is about working on communication skills, positive spaces, leaderships. Efimoff asks if the summer is best for maximizing attendance. Kiani says there is always the opportunity hold another group of sessions in the subsequent terms.

Kiani is also beginning to look into hiring a coordinator for Fall Orientation as well as beginning to explore items to purchase and other parts of the event. Kiani would like to buy everything in July and use the Commons for storage. Ghaith is working on obtaining funding for the coordinator. Once funds are concerned the call can be made. Orientation will occur on September 6 (tentative). Kiani would also like to coordinate with the International Student Centre.

11. Spring / Summer Bursaries – VP Finance & Operations

Bursary applications require a cover letter, application form, reference letter (1) and copy of tuition statement. Plan to provide checklist w/ CTA so students know what application package requires. Discussed options for collection of bursaries (hard copy vs. Fluid Surveys in particular). Bonkowski hopes to begin the bursary process on Monday, June 5th, and will touch base with the Bursary Committee in the meantime.

12. In Camera Session

13. Other Business

No other business has arisen during the meeting.

14. Adjournment

Ghaith moves to adjourn meeting @ 6:30 pm. Kiani seconds. All in favour.

Carried. Meeting Adjourned.

University of Saskatchewan AAPS Student Chapter

Background:

The University of Saskatchewan's Student Chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) is a non-profit student association that connects students and postdoctoral fellows from various disciplines to the AAPS; one the largest professional scientific societies with 12,000 members worldwide. It was launched in January, 2015 to be the newest AAPS student chapter joining 96 other student chapters in 19 countries around the world. It is the first of its kind in Saskatchewan and fifth in Canada. Over the past year, our student chapter has grown to 45 members with about 90% graduate students. Our members are from various backgrounds such as pharmacy, nutrition, chemistry, biomedical engineering and art & sciences.

Our Vision and Mission:

As an emerging AAPS student chapter, we aim at creating a coherent social and scientific community that serve the needs and interests of students studying in the Pharmacy, chemistry, biomedical engineering and biochemistry at the University of Saskatchewan. Our student chapter helps each student member to share knowledge with peers and mentors from wide varieties of field of studies such as toxicology, clinical pharmacology, biotechnology, medicinal chemistry, analytical chemistry, pharmacokinetics, and drug development.

Our primary target is to launch a platform where our multidisciplinary expertise can meet, nourish and grow. This is best achieved through the integration of different interactive learning environments that will not only help students to grow professionally but will also allow them to develop other communication and leadership skills. Workshops, seminars and discussion groups on career opportunities and current advancements in pharmaceutical sciences are organized. Speakers from industry are invited to talk to students about career options and how to effectively search for jobs in the industry.

Our Activities:

Over the last year, we organized several events to provide students opportunities for professional and personal development. On April 29th, 2015, we organized the "U of S AAPS chapter Launching Event" at the GSA commons with around 30 attendee including students, postdoctoral fellows and faculties from our college. Our faculty advisor; Dr. Kishor Wasan, spoke about the AAPS and its associated benefits. In September, our executive committee organized several promotional events "Road Shows" to recruit student members across campus. The success of our chapter was also manifested through the co-sponsoring of the College's research day in November 2015 that resulted in 11 oral and over 50 poster presentations. Currently, our executive committee is working on bringing prominent international guest speaker from industry to talk to the members about job opportunities and challenges in the pharmaceutical industry. Recently, we have won a grant to sponsor a national conference and workshop to enhance our

students' knowledge of the latest advances and discoveries in the pharmaceutical sciences. Moreover, we are looking forward to the organization of a social event to get all our members together in a friendly setting.

Graduate Students' Association – University of Saskatchewan
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Report to Council: Special Summer By-Election 2017 – Rules and Regulations

Important Dates (2017)

ASAP	Call for nominations
Friday, 9 June, 12-1pm	Orientation meeting
Tuesday, 27 June, 3pm	Nomination period closes
Thursday, 29 June, 12 – 1pm	Procedures meeting
Friday, 30 June, 9am	Campaigning begins
Wednesday, 5 July, 12 – 1pm	All-candidates forum
Friday, 7 July, 9am	Voting begins; campaigning ends
Friday, 14 July, 4pm	Voting ends
14 – 28 July	Buffer for election complaints
August Council Meeting	New VP External introduced

Eligibility

To be eligible for election to an executive position, nominees must:

- Be a member of the Association in good standing
- Not be an election official
- Not nominate another person for the same position that they are seeking
- At the discretion of the Elections Committee, have demonstrated prior experience with the GSA or similar student association governing bodies or their committees at the U of S or another Canadian university.
- Candidates shall submit a CV or resume containing content of their choice (maximum two pages in PDF format) to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). If the candidate desires, this document will be made available on the Association website during the campaign period.
- Currently serving executive members or Councillors need not resign during the election period to run for an available position.

A nomination form for an Executive position must include:

- The full name, signature, and student number of the nominee; and,
- The full name, signature, and student number of ten (10) nominators.
- The University confirmation of enrollment of the nominee.
- In addition, candidates will be asked to submit a personal statement to voters of not more than 250 words.

A nominator must:

- Be a member of the association;

- Not be an election official; and
- Not be a nominee for the same position for which he or she has nominated another person.

A nominee or their delegate must attend the Procedures Meeting to be eligible for ratification as a candidate.

The names of nominees and nominators are to be kept confidential. This does not apply to nominees who have been approved to be candidates for election.

No person may seek more than one position on the Executive.

A nominee must provide a \$50 deposit that is refundable at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

Campaigning

- Prior to the campaign period, no one shall: a) publicly advertise the intent of any person to seek election; or b) campaign on behalf of any candidate.
- Campaigning is limited to official GSA channels, personal e-mail/social media contacts and word-of-mouth as outlined below. There may not be any secret campaign materials (e.g., secret social media/web groups/pages), and all campaign websites or social media channels/groups shall be made available to the CEO. For example, immediately upon their creation, the CEO shall be informed of, and given unfettered access to, any Facebook or other social media groups in any way related to or containing campaign materials.
- An official elections webpage will be made available to voters and will consist of general elections information, a list of candidates, their personal statements not to exceed 250 words, and an optional PDF copy of their CV or resume which shall not exceed two pages.
- Candidates or their representatives shall not misrepresent the character or policies of other candidates, nor shall they interfere in any manner with the campaign materials of other candidates.
- No candidate or representative shall deliver campaign speeches or information about a slate in regularly scheduled classes, labs, computer labs, the Commons, or University Culinary Services locations, except during scheduled election forums.
- No candidate or representative shall engage in door-to-door soliciting within the University residences.
- No printed posters shall be permitted in this by-election.

- Candidates and representatives may use websites and may send email for campaign purposes and are responsible for learning and following applicable University rules, regulations, and policies regarding electronic communication. However, no candidate or their agent may send, or cause to be sent, e-mail to voters via any university or mass e-mail list or through any university staff or faculty member. E-mail is limited to the candidates' personal contacts.
- No candidate or representative shall offer gifts or products to voters.
- No candidate or their representative(s) shall use personal funds to acquire campaign materials or special websites/domains. Any such material to promote a candidate will be considered unauthorized and any such incident shall be remedied at the discretion of the CEO.
- Candidates shall ensure that their campaign materials are taken down by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of voting. Campaigning during the voting period is strictly limited to informing constituents of the fact that voting is open, and shall not be for the purposes of endorsing a candidate.
- Council shall be a neutral forum. No promotional materials shall be displayed or distributed to Council.
- No campaigning of any kind may take place inside the GSA Commons, except the all-candidates forum.
- All campaign materials must be removed by 11:59pm on the last day of voting.

Violations and Complaints

- Candidates are liable for violations by representatives.
- Registered campaign committees are liable for violations during referenda, including the actions of any individual or group working on behalf of the campaign.
- Complaints arising out of any election or referendum must be submitted in writing to the Association office within five working days after the final ballot count.
- The CEO, in consultation with the Elections Committee, shall investigate and deal with alleged violations of this bylaw and the schedules arising from the beginning of the academic year to the deadline to file complaints.
- Complaints concerning the CEO shall be reviewed during a meeting of the Elections Committee excluding the CEO, who shall forward complaints to Council if appropriate.

- The CEO shall investigate all other complaints of violations of this bylaw and its schedules and provide advice to the Elections Committee at the earliest possible meeting.
- The Elections Committee may take such steps as it deems necessary to fulfil its mandate.
- The Elections Committee may disqualify a candidate where appropriate.
- Any person affected by a decision of the Elections Committee may make an application for review by submitting a complaint to the Office Manager.
- The Office Manager shall forward the application to the Code of Ethics Committee.
- Where the Code of Ethics Committee is of the opinion that the application is not frivolous or vexatious, he or she shall notify the Council of the complaint.
- Where a hearing is required, the matter shall be referred to the Code of Ethics Committee, to hear the complaint. The CEO shall not participate in the hearing.
- The review panel may overturn a decision of the Elections Committee if the Elections Committee:
 - a) acted without authority, acted beyond its jurisdiction, or refused to exercise its jurisdiction;
 - b) failed to observe a principle of natural justice or procedural fairness;
 - c) based its decision on an erroneous finding of fact that it made in a perverse or capricious manner or without regard for the material before it; or
 - d) acted in any other way that was contrary to law.
- A decision of the review panel is final.
- All applications must be made within 14 days of the Elections Committee's final decision.

Other

If there is only one candidate for one position on the Executive the acclamation must be affirmed in a vote of confidence in which the candidate receives a majority of 'yes' votes.

Eight percent (8%) of the total student graduate body must vote in a general or by-election. In cases where this does not occur a new vote must be held.

Approved electronically.
Robert Henderson, Chair
On behalf of the Elections Committee
2 June, 2017