



University of Saskatchewan  
Graduate Students' Association  
GSA Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday August 13 2019. GSA Commons

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*

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair of Council officially called the meeting to order at 5:13pm.

Mr. Osai Clarke acted as the recording secretary for the meeting.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

*Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Adams/Thomas)*

Carried

**3. Approval of the minutes from June 18, 2019**

*Motion to approve June 18th minutes. (Zahan/Parolia)*

Carried

**4. Information to be received**

a) June 12, 2019 Executive Minutes

*Motion to receive agenda item 4A. (Mohammed/Schulte)*

Carried

## **5. Executive reports**

### **A. Report of the President**

President Rengifo addressed the gathering by thanking councillors for being active members in current and future initiatives. The Executives have scheduled a meeting with the Dean of CGPS to discuss the best ways forward concerning the student supervisor agreement. Some other initiatives would be the sexual assault awareness week in September, global connections event, and orientation events on September 4th so stay tuned to the newsletter and emails for updates. The student engagement with the community will be one of the new initiatives and will be elaborated on further during the September council meeting.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for President Rengifo.

Question from Parolia:

What ever happened to the GSA's bid for a seat on the Board of Governors and are we going to continue to seek a position this upcoming academic year? Additionally, can you update your report to reflect the status of this initiative?

Answer from President Rengifo:

We will be working on this bid and continuing from what has been done. An update on the bid will be added to subsequent reports on a direction for the initiative.

### **B. Report of the VP Finance and Operations**

VP Alam informed the councillors that the GSA bursaries were awarded to 10 of 72 applicants and thanked all those that helped during the vetting period.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for VP Alam.

There were no questions for VP Alam.

### **C. Report of the VP Student Affairs**

VP Fonseca shared with Council that the orientation event will take place on Sept 4th from 5 pm to 8 pm starting with a few speeches to be held in Biology room 106 which will be followed up by the customary BBQ in the bowl. VP Fonseca also asked that councillors join the orientation activities. She

will be working on a new initiative with student health that will take the form of a peer help group and will largely focus on the mental health of graduate students.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for VP Fonseca.

There were no questions for VP Fonseca.

#### **D. Report of the VP External**

VP Ezekwesili let councillors know that all the GSA Guppies sporting events have ended for 2018/2019. She also updated the members on the adopt a plot program where they've harvested 2 lbs of carrots, 3 lbs peas, 2 lbs of beans. Concerning the health chats for the 2019/2020 school year a detailed list of those activities will be given to councillors at the September council meeting.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for VP Ezekwesili.

There were no questions for VP Ezekwesili.

### **6. Items for Information/Discussion**

#### **A) Academic Council Registration for 2019/2020**

President Rengifo reminded academic councillors that the next council meeting is on Sept 24th and that their respective academic councils are invited to register for the 2019/2020 year prior to this meeting.

#### **B) International Students on Implied Status**

President Rengifo invited former President of the GSA, Sahtout to speak on the University's earlier decision regarding work terms for international students on implied status. Implied status refers to students who are currently in the process of renewing their study documents. Under Implied Status, students can continue to follow the conditions of their original study permit until a decision is made (whether it is approval of renewal or rejection of renewal). While the Government recognized the conditions of the original study permit under Implied Status, the employer may choose to no longer authorize students to work, as was the original decision of the University in the 2018/2019 academic year. President Rengifo shared that the University has reversed this decision and international students on implied status will be eligible to engaged in on campus employment, which was welcoming news.

Q: Did this implied status restriction and reversal have any impact on the number of hours an international student can work on campus?

A: President Rengifo: There are no changes to the number of hours an international student can work on campus, but students should be aware that the study permit limits one to 20 hours/week of work off campus.

## **7. Other business/Announcements**

President Rengifo reminded councillors to take part in the library's survey concerning their collections budget as this will best inform them as to the journals of greatest importance to the University community. The surveys were emailed twice in the last few weeks.

The Chair reiterated that the August meeting was the last council meeting for the summer and the next council meeting will be on the September 24.

In closing the Chair thanked Council members for their commitment and contributions to the GSA, as well as the Executives and the Council secretary for all their efforts during the 2018/2019 academic year.

## **8. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn (Adams/Thomas) at 5:39pm.*

**Carried**

## Appendix A

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]