



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
GSA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 7th 2020. Email Meeting*

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*

***Email Meeting:** *The April 7th 2020 Council meeting took place over email due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan made directives to practice social distancing in order to curb the spread of the virus.*

1. Call to Order

The Chair of Council emailed all Councilors a link to the Agenda, as well as a link for voting on agenda items in order to participate over email. Councilors had 24 hours to participate and the call to order commenced as soon as Councilors received the link. Quorum for the meeting was reached. As the meeting was over email, there was no recording secretary for the meeting and the Chair noted all questions, comments and concerns.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair, prior to the meeting, sent Councilors a request for any amendments to the agenda as circulated and provided a deadline to respond with any amendments. There were two amendments submitted:

Addition to agenda item 5 of the budget line 52320 to CAD 500, with this change, the revenue and expenses should match for 2020-20201. (*Mendoza/Alam*)

Addition of discussion item 8: Proposal for the University to waive the 2020 Spring/Summer Tuition fees for Graduate Students. (*Parolia/Zahan*)

Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Zahan/Mellidez)

Carried

3. Approval of the minutes from March 17th, 2020

Motion to approve the March 17th, 2020 minutes. (Zahan/Mellidez)

Carried

4. Information to be received

- A. November 4, 2019, Diversity Committee minutes
- B. November 8, 2019, Awards Selection Committee minutes
- C. November 8, 2019, Health and Dental Committee minutes
- D. December 10, 2019, Sustainability Committee minutes
- E. January 28, 2020, Sustainability Committee minutes
- F. January 30, 2020, Budget and Finance Committee minutes
- G. February 18, 2020, Executive Meeting minutes
- H. February 25, 2020, Diversity Committee minutes
- I. March 3, 2020, Sustainability Committee minutes
- J. March 5, 2020, Bursary Selection Committee minutes
- K. March 7 & 8, 2020 Awards Selection Committee minutes
- L. March 9, 2020, Elections and Referenda Committee minutes
- M. March 12, 2020, Governance Committee minutes
- N. March 25, 2020, Budget and Finance Committee minutes

Motion to receive agenda items 4A-N. (Zahan/Mellidez)

Carried

5. Motion: Operational Budget 2020-2021

*Motion to approve the GSA 2020-2021 fiscal year budget and Operation budget notes.
(Zahan/Mendoza)*

Carried

6. Ratification of Iranian Students Council as a Social Club

Motion to ratify Iranian Students Council. (Fonseca/Zahan)

Carried

7. Executive reports

- **Report of the President**

There were no questions for President Rengifo.

- **Report of the VP External**

There were no questions for VP Ezekwesili.

- **Report of the VP Finance and Operations**

There were no questions for VP Alam.

- **Report of the VP Student Affairs**

There were no questions for VP Fonseca.

8. Discussion: Proposal for the University to waive the 2020 Spring/Summer Tuition fees for Graduate Students

Councilors were in support of this initiative/proposal, and comments made reflected the following;

- Such a proposal should be sent to university administration, as tuition reductions will help graduate students;
- Consideration should be made regarding courses, particularly for course-based graduate programs, especially if practicum requirements will be postponed;
- Should tuition fees be waived / reduced, consideration should be made to refunding those who have already paid in full;
- Parallel should be drawn to other universities, such as those in Quebec, who have lower tuition fees per year for post-graduate studies.

9. Other Business/Announcements

A Councilor suggested that if possible, the GSA should try to reach out to students in every way possible, from a virtual coffee break or other online events.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. (Zahan/Mellidez)

Carried

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.24 2019	Oct.15 2019	Nov.5 2019	Dec.3 2019	Jan.28 2020	Feb.25 2020	Mar.17 2020	Apr.7 2020	Jun. 2020	Aug. 2020
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Ran San (Valentina Ofori)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Animal & Poultry Science Grad Students' Assoc.	Muhammad Imran (Kiana Rieger)	P	A	P	A	A	A	A	P		
ARCHAIA	Adrienne Ratuszniak (Michelle Gowan)	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	A		
Biology Graduate Student Association	Rebecca Smith (Ruth Greuel) (Carmen Marquez) (Andrea Wishart)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Chemistry Course Council	Naheda Sahtout (Doug Fansher)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kushagra Parolia (Andrew Roebuc)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A	R	P	P		
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Sampurna Ghosh (Megha Rohamar)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A	A	A	A		
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Harini Aiyer (N/A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	P	A	P	A		
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Michael Zaki (N/A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A	A	A	A		
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Rifat Zahan Muhammad Aminul Islam (Md. Nadim)	N/A	p	p	P	P	P	P	P		

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