

University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 14th, 2022; Zoom, 17:00-19:00 AGENDA

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another

| Ite | em | Page | Action |
|-----|--|-------|-------------|
| 1. | Call to Order | | |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda | 1 | Decision |
| 3. | Approval of Meeting Minutes | | |
| | 3.1 GSA Annual General Meeting Minutes 2022 – April 19 th , 2022 | 2-12 | Decision |
| | 3.2 GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2022 | 13-17 | Decision |
| | 3.3 GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2022 | 18-23 | Decision |
| 4. | GSA Executives Reports | | |
| | 4.1 President's Report | 24-32 | Information |
| | 4.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report | 33-34 | Information |
| | 4.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report | 35-38 | Information |
| | 4.4 Vice President External Affairs Report | 39-40 | Information |
| | 4.5 Questions & Answers | | |
| 5. | Election of GSA Council Vice-Chair | | Decision |
| 6. | Election of GSA Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee | | Decision |
| 7. | Other Business | | Information |
| 8. | Adjournment | | Decision |



University of Saskatchewan

Graduate Students' Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022. Zoom 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.

*Zoom Meeting: The April 19, 2022, Annual General Meeting took place via Zoom due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan along with University Administration has put social guidelines in place to curb the spread of the virus.

Chair: Sadia Afrin Lema

Recording Secretary: Nicole Pasloski

Participants: Jory Litt-Jukes, Amy Jimmo, Kimberlee Dubé, Devin Wittow, Kayla Arisman, , John Malyk, Jensen Cherewyk, Rachel Harris, Natasha Boyes, Maddie Stewart, Abbas Fazel, Nichole Stoll, Michelle Ross, Ozra Mohammadi, Elysa Proulx-Cullen, Behdad Saed, Luis Alejandro Recalde Rosero, Fidelia A. Orji, Amanda Gannon, Kamiar Ghoseiri, Sristy Sumana Nath, Ayla Zehtab-Jadid, Amirsaeed Hosseini Jey, KC Hall, Rosmary Martinez, Rodeen Omar, Irini Soubry, Shamse Tasnim Cynthia, Grace Rath, Olsa Griebel, Ninu Kallingal, Shuqi Ren, Richa Tikoo, Riel Castro-Zunti, Jennifer Le, Pezhman, Iyanu Kumayon, Natasha Mostat

Executives: Rifat Zahan (President), Mostofa Kamal (VP Academic and Student Affairs), Ehsan Moradi (VP Finance and Operations), Devin Cherneski (VP External Affairs).

1. Call to Order/Opening remarks

The agenda package was emailed with the Zoom meeting link for online participation. The Chair welcomed members of council and called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. Ms. Nicole Pasloski, the Recording Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair asked for amendments to the agenda as circulated via email.

There was an amendment from the VP Finance and Operations via the President that was added as item **4.6.**

Motion to approve the amendments and agenda. (Proulx-Cullen/Dubé)

Carried

3. Approval of GSA Annual General Meeting 2021 – April 13th, 2021

The Chair asked if there were any changes before the minutes were called for approval.

Motion to approve the April 13th, 2021, AGM minutes. (Proulx-Cullen/Cherneski)

Carried

4. Motions to receive GSA Standing Committee Reports and Executive Minutes

4.1.2 Governance committee meeting minutes

- 4.1.2.1 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes January 21, 2022
- 4.1.2.2 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes February 1, 2022
- 4.1.2.3 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes February 9, 2022
- 4.1.2.4 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes February 16, 2022
- 4.1.2.5 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes February 23, 2022
- 4.1.2.6 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes March 2, 2022

4.1.3 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes

- 4.1.3.1 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes July 21, 2021
- 4.1.3.2 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes July 27, 2021
- 4.1.3.3 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes November 22, 2021
- 4.1.3.4 Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes November 28, 2021

4.1.4 Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

4.1.4.1 Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2022

4.1.5 Awards Committee Meeting Minutes

- 4.1.5.1 Awards Committee Meeting Minutes March 8, 2022
- 4.1.5.2 Awards Committee Meeting Minutes March 28, 2022

Motion to receive the GSA Standing Committee Reports and Executive Minutes. (Zahan/Dubé)

Carried

4.2 Motion: Honorary Lifetime Membership

WHEREAS Section 5.1.4 of the GSA Constitution permits the naming of an Honorary Lifetime Member which is purely symbolic. Such a position shall be awarded by a majority vote at a General Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Reggie Nyamekye be made an honorary lifetime member in recognition of her diligence, dedication, and years of service to the GSA that served to enhance the image, reputation, and standing of the Association.

Welcome and congratulations were offered by Mostafa Kamal. Kamal spoke of Nyamekye's dedication and abilities, her knowledge and what an asset she is to the GSA.

Motion to bestow an honourary lifetime Membership on Reggie Nyamekye. (Zahan/Kamal).

Carried. 1 opposed.

4.3 Motion: Governance Documents

WHEREAS Section 8.6 of the Constitution of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Association Inc. (GSA) allows a General Meeting of the membership to amend the GSA Constitution, Bylaws, and Polices.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bylaws and Policies be so amended as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee, as set forth in the following supporting documents (Revised Bylaws, Revised Polices) and take effect May 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership consents to the correction of non-substantive corrections, such as numbering, section order and typographical errors, which may arise following these amendments.

The Chair asked for any questions on motion 4.3 at this time. There were none.

Motion to amend governance documents. (Zahan/Kamal).

Carried

Proulx-Cullen abstained as she was the Chair (of Governance Committee) of that meeting.

4.4 Motion: Approval of the GSA Financial Statements

WHEREAS Section 8.1.2.1 of the GSA Constitution governs the presentation of Financial Statements to the Membership.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the reviewed financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Inc. be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2023.

Motion to approve the GSA 2021-2022 Financial Statements. (Moradi/Zahan).

Carried

The VP Finance and Operations was indisposed at this point of the meeting (because of emergency health issue) and unable to answer questions. Questions may be sent to his email.

4.5 Motion: Approval of the GSA Auditor for the 2022-2023 Financial Year

WHEREAS Section 8.1.2.2 of the GSA Constitution and Section 149(1) of the Saskatchewan Non-Profits Corporation Act governs the appointment of an auditor.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Buckberger Baerg and Partners LLP be appointed as auditors for the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

As the Finance and Operations was indisposed at this point in the meeting, the President, spoke in his stead. This company has been used as auditors for the GSA for many years.

Motion to approve Buckberger Baerg and Partners LLP as auditors for the 2022-2023 Financial year. (Moradi/Zahan)

Carried

4.6 Motion: Approval of withdrawal of \$40,000 from the GSA account

WHEREAS GSA executives proposed the withdrawal of \$40,000 from the GSA account to distribute a special GSA bursary due to a significant number of increases of need-based bursary applications from the graduate students financially hit heard by since the start of the COVID crisis which was approved by the GSA Finance and Budget Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The request for withdrawal of \$40,000 be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2023.

The President, the VP Finance and Operations, and the VP Academic and Student Affairs spoke on the motion and explained the increased need for financial support since the beginning of COVID. This was requested by the Budget and Finance Committee to give more money in the form of needs-based bursaries. The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) will match the funding. This money previously has not been earmarked for anything.

Question: The wording of the motion needed clarification: is the money for students who applied for bursaries in the 2021-2022 academic year but previously did not receive anything?

Answer: That is correct. The additional money is going to students who applied to the GSA in the 2021-2022 Academic year and because of the demand, not all students were able to be approved. This withdrawal is going toward current Graduate students who have already applied but did not receive any financial aid from the GSA.

Motion to approve the withdrawal of \$40,000/year for the year ended April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2023, from the GSA account for Graduate student bursaries due to excessive demand. (Moradi/Kamal)

Carried

5. GSA Executives' Annual Report

5.1 President's Report

Highlights of the report were conveyed to graduate students and was available in the agenda package, as well as posted on the GSA website for review. The President spoke about how much they learned and how much they enjoyed their position, as well as how challenging it was personally and academically. The President also spoke about the importance of the position as a representative of the 4400 Graduate students. The full report is online and is roughly 40 pages. The President thanked all present including council members, executives, office staff, and other administrative roles.

5.2 VP Finance and Operations Report

The VP Finance and Operations spoke highly of the outgoing President as well as the other executives, thanking all of them and speaking highly of the experience as an executive as well as the difficulties that arose. They emphasized their motivation of always trying to consider what was best for Graduate students and trying to improve student life for them. The goal was always to successfully manage the finances and to financially support students where possible. The full report, including meeting attendance, is available online to view.

5.3 VP Academic and Student Affairs

The VP Academic and Student Affairs thanked everyone including all the Councillors, committee volunteers, and all of the current, and outgoing executives for their dedication and commitment to the GSA. The VP Academic and Student Affairs finds himself incredibly lucky to have worked with such a great group of people and is moving into the position of the GSA President for the coming academic year (2022-2023). He spoke of some highlights included in his report as well as his goals for the coming year in his new position and thanked everyone for their hard work.

5.4 VP External Affairs

The VP External Affairs thanked everyone and shared that he really enjoyed his tenure as a part of the GSA. Enormous responsibilities with all of the VP positions, and he is confident that his tenure was handled and was managed to the absolute best of his abilities. The VP External Affairs shared some highlights from the report that is also available to read online. He was particularly proud of their interactions with MPs and interactions with policy-makers. He thanked everyone for the opportunity and for the year.

5.5 O&A

Question: For all executives: do you think the upcoming challenges are a continuation of current challenges, or what do you think is on the horizon, and what new issues will the incoming GSA Executives face?

President: It was difficult when Grad students are working entirely from home, they don't understand what goes into running the Association, there is miscommunication, and Graduate students are disconnected from the campus community.

Question: Commendation and congratulations to the outgoing executives. We observed members (Chairs and VP Indigenous Engagement) resign and there is concerns about it. Why did this happen? Is it based on the workload? If so, is workload something that should be reassessed?

President: We do not want to comment since they all resigned for very specific and different reasons. It could be workload and spreading duties over more positions could be a possibility, but this is a complex issue with many individual opinions involved.

Question: Is there anything else in the works to assist students as inflation continues to affect graduate students?

President: There will be crisis financial aid available to students as specified by senior leadership at the university. They are pursuing policies with graduate students to ensure a minimum amount of years of funding. This is an ongoing and pressing issue.

The executives have been advocating for graduate students to at least make what someone working at minimum wage would make and four years guaranteed funding for PhD students.

Question: What is the plan for the VP Indigenous Engagement position?

President: The Elections Committee often receives zero nominations and it is difficult to get people to put their names forward. It is important that we are aware and look to engage, but people are not putting their names forward. At this point, we are not sure what the plan is.

Question: Is there a plan regarding unconditional opt-outs for the Saskatoon Transit Fee?

President: This will be a question for the incoming executives, this is an ongoing conversation.

6. Election Results

The Chair acknowledged the work of Candace the Office Manager and the Elections and Referenda Committee. She also acknowledges all those who voted.

7. Introduction of new Executives

President: Mostofa Kamal

VP Finance and Operations: Ehsan Moradi

VP Academic and Student Affairs: Sristy Sumana Nath

VP External Affairs: Ozra Mohammadi

VP Indigenous Engagement: *Vacant*

8. Other Business

There was no other business put forward at this time.

9. Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn at 5:51 PM. (Dube/Cherneski)

Carried

Appendix A

| Academic Council | Name of Councillors and (alternates) | Sep. | Oct.26 | Nov. | Dec. 14 | Jan. 18 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 15 | Apr. | Jun. | Aug. |
|--|---|------|--------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|------|
| | | 2021 | 2021 | 23 2021 | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association | Amy Carruthers – Councillor Michelle Ross - Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Animal and Poultry Science | Rachel Carey – Councillor Megan Wasden - Alternate | | | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | А | | |
| ARCHAIA | Angela Burant - Councillor Bailey Pelletier - Alternate | N/A | | Р | Р | А | Р | А | А | | |
| Biology Graduate Student Association | Jory Litt-Jukes – Councillor Mercy Harris – Alternate | | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Chemistry Course Council | Iyanu Kumayon - Councillor Srikant Singh - Alternate | N/A | Р | | А | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology | Kundanika Mukherjee – Councillor Arshdeep Jagait – Alternate | N/A | | Р | А | А | Р | Р | А | | |
| College of Medicine Graduate Students Society -Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology | Maddie Stewart – Councillor Rachel Harris- Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | А | A | Р | Р | Р | | |
| College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology | Amanda Gannon – Councillor Emilia Gillies - Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences | Elyse Proulx-Cullen — Councillor Fabrice N. Njotu — Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | Р | А | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC) | Fidelia Orji – Councillor Naz Zarreen Oishie – Councillor Keyhan Najafian – Alternate | | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |

| Academic Council | Name of Councillors and | Sep. | Oct.26 | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | Jun. | Aug. |
|---|---|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | (alternates) | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological | Ninu Kallingal Mohandas – Councillor | N/A | Р | А | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical | Abbas Fazel - Councillor Tochukwu Ezechukwu - Alternate | N/A | Р | А | А | Р | Р | А | Р | | |
| Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical | Shahab Minaei – Councillor Khaled Zoroufchi Benis - Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | А | Р | Р | А | А | | |
| Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental | Fatima Abed Al Sater – Councillor Behdad Saed - Alternate | N/A | А | Α | А | Р | Р | А | Р | | |
| Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer | Simin Keykhosravi – Councillor Sandhya Chandran - Alternate | N/A | А | А | Р | Р | Р | А | А | | |
| Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical | Justin Tricsli – Councillor Tonye Jack – Alternate | N/A | А | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | А | | |
| English Course Council | Dara Gerbrandt – Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Amanda Burrows - Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | А | | |
| Geography & Planning Graduate Council | Nichole-Lynn Stoll – Councillor Irini Sourbry (Alternate) | | | | | | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association | Fati Zahra Mubarak – Councillor Shehreen Fatima - Alternate | N/A | Р | А | А | А | А | А | A | | |
| Kinesiology Graduate Student Council | Natasha Boyes | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |

| Academic Council | Name of Councillors and (alternates) | Sep. | Oct.26 | Nov.23 | Dec.14 | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | Jun. | Aug. |
|--|---|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| Physical and Engineering Physics - PEGASUS | Kimberlee Dube – Councillor Nicholas Simonson - Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council | Jennifer Chami - Councillor Asiyah Suchak - Alternate | N/A | A | А | Р | А | Р | Р | A | | |
| Plant Science | Sandesh Neupane – Councillor Adam Carter - Alternate | N/A | | Р | Р | Р | А | А | А | | |
| Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS) | Michael Tweten - Councillor Devin Wittow – Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| SENSA | Tatiana Corello - Councillor Jaclyn Porter - Councillor Rory Wheat - Alternate | N/A | Р | А | A | A | Р | Р | A | | |
| SPHSA | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | | |
| Sociology GSA | Kayla Arisman — Councillor Ayla Zehtab-Jadid — Councillor Shayla Batty — Councillor Iyesogie Iyiewuare — Alternate Grace Rath -Alternate Kamal Abu-Hena — Alternate | N/A | P | P | A | A | P | P | Р | | |
| Soil Science Graduate Student Association | Amy Jimmo Councillor Eric Neil – Alternate | N/A | Р | А | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Toxicology Graduate Students' Association | Jensen Cherewyk – Councillor Hannah Mahoney - Alternate | N/A | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) GSA | Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate | N/A | A | A | Р | A | Р | Р | A | | |

| Academic Council | Name of Councillors and | Sep. | Oct.26 | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | Jun. | Aug. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | (alternates) | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| Exec. President | Rifat Zahan | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Exec. VP Finance and Operations | Ehsan Moradi | Р | Р | Р | Р | А | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs | Mostafa Kamal | R | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Exec. VP External Affairs | Devin Cherneski | Р | Р | Р | А | Р | Р | Р | Р | | |
| Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement | Tina Alexis | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | А | N/A | N/A | | |



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes May 8, 2022 – ZOOM

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Present: Mostofa Kamal (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Sristy Sumana Nath (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Ozra Mohammadi (Vice-President External Affairs).

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests: N/a

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM by GSA *President Mostofa*.

2. Approval of the Agenda

President Mostofa asked whether there were any amendments to the plan as circulated. There was no amendment.

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

4. Items for decision

4.1 To approve the GSA Council meetings Dates.

Motion: To approve the date for the 2022-2023 GSA council meetings on Second Thursday of each month at 5-7 PM.

- Jun 9, 2022
- Aug 11, 2022
- Sep 8, 2022
- Oct 13, 2022
- Nov 10, 2022
- Dec 8, 2022
- Jan 12, 2023
- Feb 9, 2023
- Mar 9, 2023
- April 13, 2023

Moved: VP External Affairs

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

4.2 To approve GSA executives By-weekly meeting dates

Motion: To approve the date for the 2022-2023 GSA council meetings on "first and third" Thursday of each month at 5-7 PM.

- Jun 2, 2022
- Jul 7, 2022

- Aug 4, 2022
- Sep 1, 2022
- Sep 15, 2022
- Oct 6, 2022
- Oct 20, 2022
- Nov 3, 2022
- Nov 17, 2022
- Dec 1, 2022
- Dec 15, 2022
- Jan 5, 2023
- Jan 19, 2023
- Feb 2, 2023
- Feb 16, 2023
- Mar 2, 2023
- Mar 16, 2023
- April 6, 2023
- April 20, 2023

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

4.3 4.1 To approve the GSA Commons opening Dates.

Motion: To approve the date for each executive that they should be present on GSA commons

- Monday: Sristy
- Tuesday: Mostofa
- Wednesday: Ozra
- Thursday: Ehsan
- Friday: Mostofa

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Academic and Student Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1. GSA Executives Committee Duty Assignment – The president Mostofa asked executives

about their roles and emphasis to be aware of the duties mentioned on by-lows.

5.2. Spring and Summer GSA need-based bursary dates – The VP finance will inform the

decisions after discussing it in regarding committee.

5.3. GSA coordinator hiring – The coordinator needs to work on GSA 3 hours per day. The

position will be announced in PAWS and social media. Training for the position will be done by

GSA administrator Candace.

5.4.GSA representatives for different university governance committees

President Mostofa reminded the executives about the various university committees they will

represent the GSA.

5.5. Fall 2022 orientation date selection

This item will be discussed on June 2, 2022, executive committee meeting.

5.6. Spring/summer graduate student transport (UPass or low-paid parking)

5.7. Student rights policy

5.8. Discussion about Research and innovation program – Mostofa will be in touch with Jacelyn

to invite her to one of the council meetings to present.

6. Adjournment of Meeting – President Mostofa motioned to adjourn the executive meeting in

May 2022.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM

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Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association GSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes June 2, 2022 – ZOOM 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Present: Mostofa Kamal (President), Ehsan Moradi (Vice-President Finance and Operations), Sristy Sumana Nath (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs), Ozra Mohammadi (Vice-President External Affairs).

Regrets/Absent: None

Guests: N/a

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by GSA *President Mostofa Kamal* followed by a Land acknowledgment. The agenda items for the meeting were compiled after starting the meeting. The GSA president mentioned that following the GSA Bylaws 2022 [2.5.1.11], the VP of External Affairs need to act as recording secretary for the executive meeting.

2. Items for discussion

2.1 Convocation Ceremony:

The executives attending list changed as follows:

| Convocation Day | Morning Session (attendee) Start at 9:00 am | Afternoon Session (attendee) Start at 2:00 pm |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Monday, June 6, 2022 | None | Mostofa Kamal (President) |
| Tuesday, June 7, 2022 | Sristy Sumona Nath (VP Academic and Student Affairs, GSA) | Ozra Mohammadi (VP External Affairs, GSA) |
| Wednesday, June 8, 2022 | Sristy Sumona Nath (VP Academic and Student Affairs, GSA) | Ozra Mohammadi (VP External Affairs, GSA) |
| Thursday, June 9, 2022 | Ozra Mohammadi (VP External Affairs, GSA) | Ehsan Moradi (VP Finance and Operations, GSA) |
| Friday, June 10, 2022 | Mostofa Kamal (President, GSA) | None |

2.2. GSA 2022-2023 Handbook (message from the president)

President Mostofa will provide it by June 9, 2022.

2.3. Swag bag items for Fall/Winter Orientation 2022-2023:

The GSA executive agreed to order swag bag items for both fall and winter terms in one purchase order so that items can be purchased at a discounted price. Since budget codes for fall and winter orientation are different, it is recommended to maintain separate purchase receipts for different terms, such as one receipt for fall and one for winter term. Executives have received concern regarding swag bag item's distributed in earlier orientation programs because of their shorter lifetime or durability. Thus, the current executives agreed to purchase items of better quality that will last longer. The committee also decided that the number of swag bag items for the fall and winter term will be less considering better quality items. The VP of Finance informed that the

2022-2023 budget allows the GSA the spend a maximum of \$6,200 for the Fall 2022 orientation program. The GSA executives recommended the VP of Academic and Student Affairs spend up to \$5000 on the Swag bag items and keep \$1,200 for the orientation day event. The executives asked the VP of Academic and Student Affairs to make a draft list of recommended items for the fall and winter orientation program and share it with the GSA executives for further discussion and approval. Since better quality items are considered for the upcoming orientation program, the GSA can afford a limited number of swag bag items in the forthcoming orientation program. Hence, the GSA executives agreed to distribute the swag bag items only among the new students. The GSA will create a registration form for incoming students for swag bag item distribution. The GSA executives also agreed to order a t-shirt for the executives and volunteer for the orientation program.

2.4. Melisa Kyrejto, Academic Affairs Specialist, requested more volunteers for the Academic misconduct hearing board:

The Academic Misconduct hearing board consists of either a GSA executive or a graduate student nominated by the GSA. Generally, the VP of Academic and Student Affairs sits on the Academic Misconduct hearing board. However, because of the busy schedule of the VP of Academic and Student Affairs and occasional conflict of interest (e.g., a student from the same department, personal relationship with accused students, etc.), the hearing board requested more graduate student members so that a substitute of VP Academic and Student Affairs can be found easily. President Mostofa suggested Khaled Zoroufchi Benis, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical Engineering, because of his extensive volunteering and leadership experience with the GSA for the last few years. VP Ozra recommended another graduate student named Bernd from the Chemistry department for the Academic Misconduct hearing board.

2.5. GSA Fall Orientation:

The GSA executives decided to organize the Fall 2022 orientation in person on September 8, 2022, from 10 am to 12 pm at the GSA commons. The VP Academic and Student Affairs will serve as the Emcee of the orientation event, while all other GSA executives will give an introductory speech at the event. Sristy will prepare an orientation presentation that will cover GSA's annual activities, including Holiday Hangout, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Annual Tax Clinic, GSA Need-based bursaries, etc. The GSA executives recommended the VP Sristy to consult with the

immediate past GSA President, Rifat Zahan while preparing for the. VP Academic and Student Affairs will share the orientation presentation with the other GSA executives for review and approval by the GSA President. The executive committee decided to serve pizza following the orientation program. VP Sristy will work with the GSA Office Manager to for ordering of the food.

2.6. Organizing a Science Communication Workshop:

The GSA President proposed to organize a day-long Science Communication Workshop for the University of Saskatchewan graduate students in Fall 2022. This workshop aims to train graduate students in better strategies and efficient skills for communicating their research to a broader audience apart from peer-reviewed scientific journals such as blogs, newspaper op-eds, town halls, policymakers, etc. President Mostofa proposed to organize this workshop in the fall so that graduate students can apply the knowledge gained from this workshop in the 2023 3MT competition. The GSA President expressed his desire to identify another University of Saskatchewan graduate student from the 2023 3MT competition so that the champion would maximize the chance of winning the western regional 3MT competition following the success of the University of Saskatchewan's candidate at the Western Regional Competition in 2022. President Mostofa reminded that Antonia Powell, a Master of Science in Applied Microbiology graduate student, who won the western regional Three Minute (3MT®) Thesis Competition 2022 among 16 other graduate students represented by 16 universities from Western Canada. The GSA President will discuss this proposed workshop with the Dean of the College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies (CGPS) and will request financial support to organize this workshop. President Mostofa will prepare a detailed proposal for the proposed workshop and share it with the other GSA executives in the coming months.

2.7. Spring/Summer bursary dates:

The GSA will provide 25 regular need-based bursaries during the Spring and Summer 2022 terms from its regular bursary budget and matched funding from the CGPS. At the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of GSA, the council approved to draw 40K CAD additional funding from GSA to provide additional need-based bursaries (which will be equally divided into three terms) during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The GSA executives decided to award ten additional need-based bursaries from the above approved GSA funding. Therefore, during the Spring and Summer of

2022, the GSA will award 35 need-based bursaries. The GSA bursary committee will follow the below schedule to distribute the Spring and Summer 2022 bursaries:

Bursary Application Open: June 8, 2022

Bursary Application Close: June 29, 2022

Bursary Results Announcement: July 4, 2022

2.8. Meeting Date for University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA):

Professor Nadim Jamali from the Department of Computer Sciences has been elected by the USFA to represent the faculty members at the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors. Professor Jamali sent an email to the GSA executives expressing his interest in having a formal meeting to hear from the newly elected GSA executives about their list of priorities and advocacies for graduate students during their tenure. Professor Jamali expressed his interest in becoming a supporting person for the GSA and wants to work together to ensure the University of Saskatchewan's academic and leadership excellence. The GSA President informed the GSA executives about the critical role Professor Jamali can play at different governing bodies at the University of Saskatchewan in supporting GSA advocacy works. Upon discussion, the GSA executives were scheduled to meet Professor Jamali on June 10, 2022, at 8:45 am.

2.9. Meeting Date for Health and Dental Plan Coordinator

The GSA President informed the GSA executives about a potential orientation meeting with the Studentcare representative, Mr. Robyn Paches, who oversees the GSA Health and Dental Plan on behalf of the GSA at USask. The GSA President reminded the GSA executives that one of the priorities of the current GSA executive committee is to extend the existing health and dental coverage for graduate students and advocate for broadening of the health practitioners' network. Thus, the proposed meeting is very important where the presence of all executives is required so that detailed discussion can be done with the Studentcare representative. There will be two meetings with the Studentcare representative: the first meeting will be attended by all GSA executives, and the second meeting will be attended by the GSA President and the VP Finance and Operations. The GSA executives mentioned they are available for the meeting on June 20, 22, and 23, 2022. The GSA President will finalize the meeting date upon consulting with the Studentcare representative and will notify the final date and time to the GSA executives.

5. Items for Decision

5.1. Approval of the May 8 GSA executive monthly meeting minutes:

President Mostofa asked, if there were any amendments in the executive meeting minutes as circulated. There were none.

Mover: Sristy

Seconder: Ehsan

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

5.2. Approval of the GSA executive committee 2022-4-20 retreat meeting minutes:

President Mostofa asked, if there were any amendments in the executive meeting minutes as circulated. There were none.

Mover: Mostofa

Seconder: Sristy

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

6. Adjournment of Meeting – President Mostofa motioned to adjourn the executive meeting in June 2022.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP External Affairs

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.



Monthly Activity Report of GSA President, June 2022

Dear Council Members,

Please find the President's monthly activity summary from April 20, 2022, to June 01, 2022, as listed below.

1. President Executive Council/GSA year-end meeting: April 22, 2022

This meeting was scheduled as a farewell meeting for the outgoing GSA executives while introducing the newly elected GSA executives to the President of the University of Saskatchewan and other top-level university administration. At the PEC meeting, the GSA Executives discussed their election platforms based on which they got elected. The election platforms of the 2022-2023 committee are listed below:

- a. To advocate for a minimum guaranteed funding for all thesis-based graduate students not less than the equivalent amount of Saskatchewan's minimum wage salary.
- b. To advocate to ensure a university-wide minimum of four years of guaranteed funding for Ph.D. students and for thesis-based master's students to be three years.
- c. Work with various colleges to help bring down the University of Saskatchewan's median graduation timeline under the U15 median.
- d. Advocacy for the introduction of part-time study opportunities coupled with part-time tuition fee options for part-time students.

- e. To ensure more flexible Saskatoon Transit bus pass (UPASS) services for different graduate students (e.g., opt-out options for remote students, students living in university residences, more frequent bus services within the city, etc.)
- f. To advocate for increased College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) bursary grants to match the GSA's additional bursary funding.
- g. Enhancing existing Health and Dental Plan coverages through Studentcare.
- h. Advocacy for broader and faster adoption of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion principles across different levels of the university services.
- i. Advocacy for the introduction of universal parental benefits for the graduate students (currently, a limited number of colleges offer such benefits at USask).
- j. Advocacy for the introduction of a university-wide emergency graduate childcare bursary.
- k. Advocacy for the reduction/removal of international tuition differential for master's students.

2. GSA President's meeting with Dean of CGPS, April 27, 2022

The newly elected GSA president met the Dean of CGPS, Dr. Debby Burshtyn, at her office and discussed the above election platforms of the 2022-2023 executive committee and expressed his interest in working in collaboration with the dean of CGPS to improve the graduate student experience at the University of Saskatchewan. The dean of CGPS agreed with some of the GSA objectives and expressed her willingness to resolve some other issues in the long run.

3. GSA Need-Based Winter Bursary

The graduate students are passing through an unprecedented financial hardship since the pandemic for many reasons, including rapid tuition fees hike, Canada's record-breaking inflation rate, lack of part-time job opportunities, and limited part-time job hours. The GSA has received an unusually high number of need-based bursary applications over the last two years. Unfortunately, the GSA could only offer need-based bursaries to only 25 to 28 graduate students (approximately 15% of the total applicants) each semester because of GSA's limited financial capacity and matched with CGPS's financial assistance. The GSA

provided a total of 68 bursaries during winter 2022. The GSA wants to thank the council

members for their approval of an additional \$40k for need-based bursaries for the winter

2022 term.

During the Spring and Summer 2022 terms, the GSA will provide 25 regular bursaries plus

ten additional bursaries from the additional funding (\$40k for the 2022-2023 fiscal year)

approved by the GSA council members at the AGM on April 19, 2022. The GSA bursary

committee will follow the below schedule to distribute the Spring and Summer 2022

bursaries:

Bursary Application Open: June 8, 2022

Bursary Application Close: June 29, 2022

Bursary Results Announcement: July 4, 2022.

The GSA is grateful to the CGPS for its current financial support for the need-based bursary

and advocation to match the additional GSA bursary funding so that the GSA can provide

bursaries to a maximum number of financially struggling graduate students in the

upcoming terms. If the CGPS matches the GSA's additional funding for the need-based

bursaries, GSA would be able to provide 45 bursaries in each term.

4. Spring-term Swag Bag Distribution

The GSA distributed about 100 swag bags among incoming graduate students in Spring

2022.

5. GSA Handbooks

As part of the Fall orientation activities, the GSA decided to print 800 handbooks for the

2022-2023 academic year.

6. USASK Student Won Western Regional Three Minutes Thesis Competition

The University of Saskatchewan's Master of Science in Applied Microbiology graduate

student Antonia Powell won the western regional Three Minute (3MT®) Thesis

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Competition 2022 by beating 16 other graduate students represented by 16 universities from Western Canada.

7. Helping Graduate Students with Academic Issues

The GSA President and VP of Academic and Student Affairs are helping several graduate students on various issues, including academic misconduct, conflict with a supervisor, and eviction from the university. Because of confidentiality, no further details can be disclosed.

8. **GSA Executive Committee Meeting**: May 8, 2022

Please see the executive meeting minutes for details.

9. Council Orientation for Incoming USSU President and GSA President (May 13, 2022)

The GSA President and the USSU president met with all the secretaries of various governance committees and top-level university leaders, including the President, provost, dean, and university council chair. They got trained about university policies and governing principles.

10. CGPS Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting (May 17, 2022)

The GSA President and VP of Academic and Student Affairs attended the CGPS Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting, where the President presented the various activities of the outgoing GSA executive committee.

11. University Council Meeting Monthly Meeting: May 19, 2022

The GSA president attended the university council meeting on May 19, 2022, and discussed the newly elected GSA executive committee's goals and list of advocacy works (listed under number 1) that the current committee wants to achieve during its tenure.

12. Fall Orientation Meeting (May 25, 2022)

The GSA President and VP of Academic and Student Affairs attended the university's Fall

Welcome working group and contributed to the discussion about welcome week's planning

and management.

13. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Meeting (May 5 and May 26, 2022)

On May 5, 2022, meeting the Dean of CGPS presented information about the Tri-Council

scholarship application and success rate. On May 26, 2022, the Vice-President of Research,

Dr. Baljit Singh, briefed the committee about his recent visit to Bangladesh and research

collaboration between the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and with Global

Institute of Food Security of the University of Saskatchewan.

14. Arts and Science Dean Search Committee Meeting (May 31, 2022)

The GSA president is serving on the Arts and Science Dean Recruitment Committee. To

ensure transparency in the recruitment process, all committee members, including the GSA

president, attended Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training. The GSA president is

committed to helping the University of Saskatchewan to hire the best candidate for these

top-level academic and administrative personnel.

15. Meeting with University of Saskatchewan Marketing Coordinator (June 1, 2022)

The GSA President and GSA manager attended a meeting with the University of

Saskatchewan Marketing Coordinator, Kim Fontaine, to discuss the best practices for

emails and newsletters while communicating with the graduate students.

Regards,

Mostofa Kamal

President

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan

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Monthly Activity Report of GSA President, July 2022

Dear Council Members,

Please find the President's monthly activity summary from June 2, 2022, to July 06, 2022, as listed below.

1. GSA Commons is Open for Students

After keeping the GSA Commons close since March 2020 following the University of Saskatchewan, Federal and Provincial Government's COVID-19 protocols, the GSA Commons opened its in-person operation starting on May 2, 2022. The GSA Commons is now open for student activity during office hours (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) from Monday to Friday. Graduate students can meet the GSA executives and Office Manager for different services. The GSA Commons is also available for rent, provided that potential renters follow GSA's renting guidelines.

2. GSA Executive Monthly Meeting June 2, 2022

The 2nd executive committee meeting took place on June 2, 2022. The executives conducted a detailed discussion about fall 2022 orientation, GSA handbook, Organizing a Science Communication Workshop, Summer-spring bursary, and a potential meeting with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association Chair and Studentcare representative. Please see attached GSA Executive Monthly Meeting June 2, 2022, meeting minutes.

3. President's Platform Party, June 6 and 10, 2022

The GSA executives are invited to share the Chancellor's Platform Party for USask Spring Convocation 2022 to celebrate the graduating class. The GSA president attended the 1st and last day of the convocation, while other executives attended the other three days.

4. Convocation Dinner at the USASK's President's Residence, June 7, 2022

University of Saskatchewan President, Professor Peter Stoicheff organized a Convocation Dinner at the USASK's President's Residence on June 7, 2022. The GSA president was invited to meet and greet the honorary degree recipients and outstanding student and faculty members.

5. Planning and Priorities Committee, June 13, 2022

The GSA president attended the Planning and Priorities Committee on June 13, 2022, and discussed the University of Saskatchewan's goals for the next three years. The GSA president pressed the need to focus on improving the University of Saskatchewan's various world rankings. Further, the GSA president requested to re-evaluate increased International Tuition Differential for master's students.

6. University Council Meeting Monthly Meeting: June 16, 2022

The GSA president attended the university council meeting on May 19, 2022, updated ongoing GSA activities, and conveyed concern about two important student issues: 1: Inadequate Services at the Student Wellness Centre and 2. Increasing minimum guaranteed funding for thesis-based graduate students.

The GSA president informed the council members that graduate students are concerned about the limited accessibility of various services at the Student Wellness Centre. For example, students require four to eight weeks to get a doctor's appointment; lack of Walk-In doctor facilities, and a limited number of Counsellors, Social Workers, Mental Health Nurse, Psychologists, and Psychiatrists. After receiving confirmation for the initial appointment following the four to six weeks, students receive frequent cancelations of their appointments at the last minute. Thus, GSA advocated for service improvement at the student wellness center so that students can receive enhanced service for their health needs.

The GSA president presented data about the significant food price increase and Canada's record-breaking inflation rate increase. Thus, the GSA president re-iterated its advocacy for a minimum guaranteed scholarship for all thesis-based graduate students not less than the equivalent amount of Saskatchewan's minimum wage salary (~ \$22,500).

7. GSA President's meeting with Dean of CGPS, June 29, 2022

The GSA president met the Dean of CGPS, Dr. Debby Burshtyn, at her office and discussed the following issues:

- a. Strategies to help graduate students to minimize the risk of academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, research ethic, etc.). The GSA president requested to make the ethics course mandatory for all graduate students. The CGPS dean asked the GSA president to bring a motion at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting in Fall 2022.
- b. Possibility of awarding a course-based or research-based MSc degree to a student who struggles to complete a Ph.D. degree for various reasons.
- c. Minimum guaranteed funding (not less than \$22,500/year) for Ph.D. (4 years) and M.Sc. (3 years) students
- d. A university-wide introduction of graduate parental benefits (a paid leave)

8. Meeting with University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association Chair, June 13, 2022

The GSA executives meet with the newly elected University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association Chair, Professor Nadeem Jamali, on June 13, 2022. The GSA executives shared their election platforms with Professor Jamali and explained to him how each election platform would bring positive change to graduate students' life and wellbeing. Further, the GSA executives requested Professor Jamali and the faculty association's open support for GSA's advocacy work at various university forums.

9. Meeting with Health and Dental Plan Coordinator, June 23, 2022

The GSA executives meet with Health and Dental Plan Coordinator Robyn for an orientation

meeting on June 23, 2022. Mr. Robyn presented an overview of the existing Health and Dental

care plans. The GSA executives discussed potential areas of coverage improvements and

associated premium costs. They emphasized the need for more doctors and health care

professionals in the studentcare network.

10. Helping Graduate Students with Academic Issues

The GSA President and VP of Academic and Student Affairs are helping several graduate students

on various issues, including academic misconduct, conflict with a supervisor, and eviction from

the university. Because of confidentiality, no further details can be disclosed.

Regards,

Mostofa Kamal

President

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan

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Report from the VP Finance and Operations (June 2022)

Hello GSA Councilors,

I am pleased to provide you an update on my activities as the current Vice-President Finance and Operations.

1) New GSA executives' term

We want to acknowledge the past executives to help us with the smooth transition to our new roles. During this month, most of my time was filled with meetings to reconnect with people around university and prepare to work with them to support graduate students. Additionally, I have actively participated in the executive meetings and other meetings within my portfolio as the VP of finance and operations.

2) GSA Summer Bursary Update

We started working on the GSA Spring/Summer bursary application. We received more than 150 applications and right now the applications are getting evaluated by the bursary committee. We are hoping the result be available by end of first week of July.

3) Closure of GSA Commons

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GSA Commons was closed last year but this year has been serving students since start of out tenure. Communication with the GSA Main Office is being conducted via Office Manager's email address (gsa.admn@usask.ca) and in person meeting in GSA common. We have also been maintaining our monthly newsletters and social media to keep grad students updated about scholarships, bursaries, grants, financial aids, along with other relevant updates that interest graduate students. We encourage all the graduate students to check our newsletters and social media pages on a regular basis for any further updates. The GSA Executives remain available and reachable through emails and in person.

Additionally, I continue to sit on various committees to improve the graduate students' experiences both on and off campus. Some of the meetings that I attended as part of my responsibilities are listed below:

Meetings

Executive Retreat Meeting
PRT/PEC/USSU/GSA Meeting
Studentcare
GSA-PSAC
Student Affairs and Services
ISSAC-GSA
Mental Health First Aid
Meeting with the City of Saskatoon

GSA Executive Meeting

Multiple meetings with outgoing VP Finance

Please feel free to contact me at gsa.fin@usask.ca should you have any questions or need any further clarification.

Sincerely,

Ehsan Moradi

Vice-President Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association

Email: gsa.fin@usask.ca | Web: https://gsa.usask.ca/

Facebook: UsaskGSA | Twitter: GSA USask | Instagram: GSA Usask

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



Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from April 19, 2022, to May 30, 2022, as listed below:

1. Student Forum Meeting: April 19, 2022

We discussed with senior leaders Covid-related issues that were faced by students.

2. Meeting with Jenelyn Santos Ong, Program Coordinator, Research Excellence and Innovation: April 19, 2022

They are planning to develop an incubator program at USASK, aimed at offering educational programming and initiative to entrepreneurship program. We discussed that Jenelyn will prepare a presentation about the coming pilot program.

3. Executive Retreat 2022 Meeting with Previous President Rifat: April 20, 2022

Former president Rifat discussed about the roles and responsibilities for all of us. Rifat also discussed about all CGPS committees and GSA steering committee, and mentioned the services that GSA provided.

4. Meeting between GSA Executives and Jay Wilson, VP, TLSE: April 21, 2022

This was an introductory meeting between GSA executives and Professor Jay Wilson.

5. PEC/GSA Meeting: April 22, 2022

We introduced ourselves as a new GSA executive with PEC members and proposed our working platforms, like Introducing of Parental benefits and Emergency Graduate Child Care Bursary

6. VP Academic and Student Affairs Transition Meeting: May 1, 2022

I got access to the email of VP Academic and Student Engagement. I attend meeting with the previous GSA President and VP Academic and Student Affairs to understand the roles and responsibilities.

7. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: May 8, 2022

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

8. Academic Programs Committee Meeting: May 11, 2022

Discussed about a new program Degree-level Certificate in Precision Agriculture and a program changes of the termination M.Vet.Sci in Small Animal Clincial Sciences.

9. CGPS Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting (convo approval): May 17, 2022

10. Graduate Programs Committee Meetings: May 17, 2022

The committee reviewed the proposed new and revised programs.

11. University Council Meeting: May 19, 2022

GSA President presented report in this meeting. Also, this committee members reviewed the request from Nominations Committee, Academic Programs Committee, Governance Committee, Planning and Priorities Committee and Scholarships and Awards Committee.

12. 2022 Fall Welcome Meeting: May 25, 2022

This meeting focused on the planning session for Welcome Fall 2022. The different university stakeholders discussed the important dates with events, e.g., jumpstart, Usask welcome activities and GSA orientation, for 2022 Fall Welcome.

13. Completing Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training: May 10-13, 2022

It is mandatory training for GSA executives.

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from June 01, 2022, to June 30, 2022, as listed below:

14. APC meeting: June 01, 2022

Discussing the proposal of new Bachelor program in Dental Therapy and committee members approved this motion.

15. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: June 2, 2022

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

16. Starting to plan for Fall orientation 2022:

Exploring a new catalog of One brand partner and sorted some items for swag bags. Hopefully, we will order the items by July.

17. Attending Spring Convocation:

I attended two convocation programs on June 7 and 8 (9:00AM to 11:30PM).

18. Attended a hearing board of Academic Misconduct:

I attended a hearing board of academic misconduct on June 13th as a student volunteer. For confidentiality reasons, I cannot discuss it elaborately.

19. Meeting with Dr. Nadeem Jamali: June 13, 2022

I discussed my election platforms, e.g., parental benefits and bursary, with Dr. Jamali. He suggested me to explore the other Canadian university's graduate student benefits and prepared a plan for the parental benefits and bursary.

20. Assisted one Ph.D. student for discontinuation: June 14, 2022

One student is facing some issues related to his/her Ph.D. studies. GSA president and I met the student in-person and discussed his/her issues. For confidentiality reasons, I cannot discuss it elaborately.

21. Advocacy to one student for Academic misconduct allegation: June 20, 2022

I discussed with the student about the allegation in-person and suggested some information on how to face the hearing board. Our GSA president was the student volunteer in this allegation hearing board.

22. Meeting with Student life and technology: June 17, 2022

Committee members discussed ICT Progress Report Feedback, Student Success Initiatives and Digital Exam Feedback and Consultation. Committee members suggested using one digital exam system for future.

23. University Council Meeting: June 16, 2022

24. Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting: June 23, 2022

Here committee members proposed to design an electrical vehicle charging station in the university campus.

25. GSA Health and Dental Plan Orientation Meeting: June 23, 2022

All executives met with Robyn, Program Manager Studentcare, and discussed the GSA health and dental plan for coming orientation. I could not attend the whole meeting because I had an overlap meeting with another committee. Robyn mentioned he shared the slides to me that help to understand all benefits that are covered for graduate students.

26. GAAC Meeting: June 21, 2022

Committee members discussed the two programs changes in the College of Nursing.

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



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June 2022

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my first report to Council:

1) GSA Executive retreat

I started my role after attending the executive retreat meeting in which I learned about the structure of the GSA in general and about the duties of my position for which I would be responsible.

2) Social Media

I have been added to GSA social media as an admin and I actively participated on them (Instagram, Facebook, ...).

3) 2022-23 Student Handbook

The 2022-23 Student Handbook for GSA orientation is almost prepared with advertisements materials and messages as well as themes for the inside pages of the handbook.

4) Recording meetings

Based on by-laws, recording minutes of meetings was the responsibility of VP finance. However, now I am taking care of recording the meetings and preparing meeting minutes. I have prepared meeting minutes for GSA executives' retreat meeting and May 8, 2022, GSA executive by-weekly meetings.

5) Meetings/Events

The following is a list of meetings I have attended since I have elected:

| Meetings/Events |
|---|
| GSA executives/ Jay Wilson meeting |
| PEC/GSA meeting |
| GSC meeting |
| Interdisciplinary Student Symposium |
| CGPS Interdisciplinary Studies Committee |
| GSA Executive Meeting |
| Shared E-Scooter Program Stakeholder Workshop |
| GSA Executive Meeting |
| Convocation Ceremony |
| Convocation ceremony |
| Convocation ceremony |
| Meeting with professor Nadeem Jamali |
| |

Regards,

Ozra Mohammadi.

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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