



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 14, 2023; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Online

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

Item	Page	Action
1. Call to Order		
2. Approval of Agenda	1	<i>Decision</i>
3. GSA Executives Reports	2-4	
3.1 President's Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>
3.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>
3.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
3.4 Vice President External Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
3.5 Vice President Indigenous Engagement Report		<i>Information</i>
3.6 Questions & Answers		
4. Other Business		<i>Information</i>
5. Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>



Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from 20 April 2023 to 31 May 2023, as listed below:

1. Executive Retreat 2022 Meeting with Previous President Mostafa Kamal: 25 April 2023

Former president discussed about the roles and responsibilities for all of us.

2. PEC/GSA Meeting: 27 April 2023

We introduced ourselves as a new GSA executive with PEC members and proposed our working platforms, like increasing funding amount for grad students, introducing of maternity support.

3. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: 09 May 2023

Please see executive meeting minutes for details. The committee reviewed the proposed new and revised programs.

4. 2023 Fall Welcome Meeting: 04 May 2023

The committee members discussed the important dates for 2023 Fall Welcome. Draft plan 7th September 2023.

5. Regular meeting:

- a. CGPS Council Meeting: 27 April 2023
- b. Council meeting: 18 May 2023
- c. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee: 03 May 2023
- d. Academic Programs Committee: 03 May 2023
- e. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee: 04 May 2023
- f. Graduate Program Committee: 09 May 2023

6. Student meeting:

- a. Meeting with ISC Social group: 25 April 2023

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

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May 2023

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my report to the Council for **May 2023**:

1. The elected executives were introduced to each other, and we had our first executives' meeting on May 9, 2023. During this meeting, the VP-External proposed the date for next year's GSA gala, which will be on April 20, 2024. In relation to this, VP-External (Abas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi) initiated communication to reserve the calendars of USASK University leaders, Parliament members, and legislators. VP-External also began reaching out to two potential venues, Remi Modern and Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel.
2. The VP-External prepared the minutes of the executives' meeting and distributed them to all members for review.
3. The VP-External reviewed over 40 CGPS Thesis Award applications and attended the Adjudication meeting on May 15, 2023. The CGPS introduced and finalized the awardees from each group.
4. In collaboration with the VP of Finance and Operations, we worked on estimating the cooling systems required for GSA Common. We faced significant challenges when installing the new centralized cooling systems and had multiple interactions with USASK FMD to address the issues. I individually researched various cooling system providers, such as LG and Reliance, and had a meeting with a Reliance technician at GSA Common to assess the feasibility of installation. Due to FMD restrictions for third-party providers, we purchased five portable LG cooling systems with a capacity of 10,000 BTUs each, which were installed inside the GSA Common and are now ready to use.
5. The VP-External was notified about the GSA Students' Handbook for 2023-2024 quite late and promptly sent out over 35 sponsorship requests to local sponsors via email. We received five positive responses to the sponsorship requests. I also updated the sponsorship package form accordingly. The necessary materials for the Handbook are currently being prepared and will be finalized to meet the deadline set by CFS.

Regards,

Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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Date: June 6, 2023

To: Grad Student Association (GSA) Council Chair

From: VP of Indigenous Engagement

Subject: May 2023 Activity Report

I am writing to provide an overview of the activities and engagements I have been involved in as the Vice President of Indigenous Engagement for the GSA during May 2023.

1. Attendance at the 6th Annual māmowī āsohtētān Internal Reconciliation Forum: On April 28, I had the privilege of attending the 6th Annual māmowī āsohtētān Internal Reconciliation Forum. The event was an insightful gathering of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars, leaders, and community members. The discussions centred around advancing reconciliation efforts within academic institutions and fostering meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities. Attending this forum allowed me to gain valuable insights and perspectives to bring back to our association.
2. Participation in Red Dress Day: On May 5, I attended USASK's Red Dress Day event aimed at raising awareness about the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit individuals. It was a day of medicine and communication. As VP of Indigenous Engagement, I seek to contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding violence against Indigenous women and promote awareness among our grad student community.
3. Initiating Contact with Associations, Departments, and Leadership: During May, I proactively reached out to various associations, departments, and leadership individuals within our institution. The goal of these contacts was to strengthen relationships, foster collaborations, and advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and issues within their respective domains. By establishing these connections, I aim to create a supportive network and amplify the voices of Indigenous graduate students within our academic community.
4. Administrative Work and Gaining Perspective: Besides external engagements, I have been diligently carrying out administrative tasks related to my role. This includes attending executive board meetings, providing updates on Indigenous engagement initiatives, and collaborating with other executives on association-wide projects. I have also been actively seeking feedback from Indigenous graduate students to better understand their needs and perspectives, ensuring that our initiatives align with their priorities.

Looking ahead:

I am eagerly looking forward to attending Convocation on the Chancellor's Platform. This platform will provide an opportunity to represent the voices of Indigenous graduate students and celebrate their achievements within our academic community. Furthermore, I am committed to building a sense of community through continued research, organizing inclusive events, and supporting Indigenous student councils to provide a platform for advocacy and support.

In conclusion, May has been a month of active engagement, networking, and administrative work. By attending key events, initiating contacts, and focusing on administrative responsibilities, I am confident that we are making significant strides towards fostering Indigenous engagement within the GSA's functions. I am excited to continue this important work in the coming months and contribute to the growth and inclusivity of our grad student community.

Respectfully,

Kayla Benoit

Vice President of Indigenous Engagement Grad Student Association