



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 11, 2023; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: Online (Zoom)

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 the Agenda	1	<i>Decision</i>
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes	2-20	<i>Decision</i>
3.1 Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes		
4. Motion to Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes	21-27	<i>Information</i>
4.1 GSA Executive Meeting December 1, 2022		
4.2 GSA Executive Meeting December 15, 2022		
5. Election of GSA Chair		<i>Decision</i>
6. Election of GSA Vice-Chair		<i>Decision</i>
7. Election of GSA Recording Secretary		<i>Decision</i>
8. GSA Executives Reports	28-32	
8.1 President's Report		<i>Information</i>
8.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report		<i>Information</i>
8.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
8.4 Vice President External Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
8.5 Vice President Indigenous Engagement Report		<i>Information</i>
8.6 Questions & Answers		
9. Other Business		<i>Information</i>
10. Adjournment		<i>Decision</i>



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 13, 2023. **Online, Zoom**

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

Chair: Sadia Afrin Lema

Recording Secretary: David Ohene-Amoako

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package. The Chair of the Council officially welcomed Members of the Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:04 P. M after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Mr. David Ohene Amoako, the Recording Secretary of the Council, compiled the meeting minutes, which were recorded and sent to him, however, he was not present.

Before Approval

- The GSA chair explained to council members that GSA. Use the robbers tool supporter for its meeting, so for a decision to be passed or approved, a mover and a seconder are needed, and the vote cast is either in favor, opposed or abstain. She further said that only voting members would be allowed to vote and the majority will get a decision to be passed.

2. Approval of Agenda

The chairperson spelled out the GSA standing orders for the meeting and requested adherence from all members. The chair added that only members with voting rights are eligible to vote and reminded members of the order of votes cast.

- a) Y/Yes**
- b) N/No**
- c) A/Abstention.**

The chair called for the amendment of the agenda as circulated via mail.

Approval of the amendment. When there were no other corrections, the chair called in the voting process.

Mover: Elyse Proulx-Cullen

Second: Mostofa Kamal

Yes: 20

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Carried

The agenda for the meeting was accepted by the majority of the council members.

When there were no other corrections, the chair called for the approval of the March 2023 minutes.

Approval of previous GSA minutes

- Approval of the GSA Council Meeting **Minutes March 2023.**

The minutes of March 2023 were accepted by the majority of council members.

Mover: Mostofa Kamal

Second: Meaghan Boily

Yes: 21

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Carried

- Approval of the GSA Council Meeting **Minutes June 2023.**

The minutes of June 2023 were accepted by the majority of council members.

Mover: Sristy Sumana Nath

Seconders: Mostofa Kamal

Yes: 15

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Carried

- Approval of the GSA Council Meeting **Minutes August 2023.**

The minutes of August 2023 were accepted by the majority of council members.

Mover: Ramin Mohammadi

Seconders: Mostofa Kamal

Yes: 13

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Carried

After the approval of the March, June and August minutes, the chairperson thanked all council members for participating in the voting process.

Agenda 3 - Motion to receive GSA executive Meeting Minutes.

4.1. GSA Executive meeting December 1, 2022

4.2. GSA Executive meeting December 15, 2022

4.3. GSA Executive meeting January 5, 2023

4.4. GSA Executive meeting January 16, 2023

4.5. GSA Executive meeting February 8, 2023

4.6. GSA Executive meeting February 12, 2023

4.7. GSA Executive meeting February 22, 2023

4.8. GSA Executive meeting June 27, 2023

4.9. GSA Executive meeting July 27, 2023

4.10. GSA Executive meeting August 23, 2023

Approval of Motion to receive GSA executive Meeting Minutes.

When there were no corrections, the chair called in the voting process.

Mover: Sristy Sumana Nath

Seconded: Mostofa Kamal

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Carried

The motion to receive GSA executive Meeting minutes was approved by the majority of the council members.

Social Club Ratification

- **Tox on tap – No representative to speak.**
- **Huskies Cricket club**

The presenter, an undergraduate student representing the newly established Huskies Cricket Club from the Universities Science department, addressed the audience. He highlighted the growing popularity of cricket worldwide and its increasing presence in Saskatoon. Urgently, the social club aims to introduce a university cricket team similar to the Huskies football club. To do this, they seek approval to compete with other universities across Canada and intend to organize indoor cricket leagues for students. The presenter mentioned that they have already formed the committee for the Huskies Cricket Club, established banking channels, and are now actively seeking sponsors to host an Indoor Cricket League for University of Saskatchewan students. They are currently awaiting sponsorship confirmation to seek permission from the University's gymnasium to host the inaugural indoor cricket league, hence their request for approval from the GSA.

Questions and Responses

Q: Is it a graduate student club or an undergraduate student club? R: It to both. We have a composition of 75% graduate students and 25% undergraduate students in the club.

Q: A GSA member asked the fraction of executive members of the club since the constitution makes provision for at least 50% of graduate students as part of the executives of the club to qualify for ratification.

R: In response, he shared that exactly 71.34% of the executive committee are graduate students, while the remaining members are undergraduates.

Q: As part of the athletic events on campus, has the committee reached out to the athletic department of the University to inquire from the Huskie manager? R: The athletic department expressed enthusiasm about having a cricket club but advised that the club needs to be ratified first before applying for recognition as the Huskies cricket club.

Q: How many members are in the club currently, and again, what fraction of the executives and members are graduate students?

R: The representative reported that we currently have a 7-member executive committee, with five (5) being graduate students. We have a total of one hundred and fifty (150) members, with over 60 being graduate students.

Q: Is there a strategy to enrol more graduate students? R: We have identified some graduate students in the club who can help guide the undergraduate members. Since the undergraduates are particularly keen on both indoor and outdoor sports, they form a significant portion of our membership.

Q: Is there a specific location where you have planned to play? R: Yes, there are already designated cricket grounds at Edison, 33rd Street, West.

Approval of the Huskies Cricket club.

The chair called for a motion to approve of the club since all questions were exhausted.

Mover: Mostofa Kamal

Second: Abbas Fazel

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstention 0

Carried

The motion to accept the Huskie's cricket club was approved by the majority of the council members.

Nepalese students Association

Deepa Sabethi, a graduate student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at USASK, introduced herself as the representative of the Nepalese Student Association. She emphasized that the association comprises students from NEPEL at USASK and serves as a vital support network for both graduate and undergraduate students, while also promoting Nepalese culture at the University of Saskatchewan. Their assistance begins right from the application process to the students' arrival at the university. Their inaugural general meeting took place on July 20, 2023. Deepa mentioned that there is a newly formed committee, and the group received ratification last year. They have submitted all necessary documents including their constitution, void cheque, and form. They are seeking re-ratification from GSA, as they have 68% graduate students and 32% undergraduate students, with all executive positions held by graduate students. Hence, they kindly request GSA to re-ratify the association.

Questions and Responses

Q: Why are you requesting re-ratification? R: While she agrees, she wants to clarify that they are seeking re-ratification due to the recent appointment of new executives for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Q: How many individuals do you represent? R: Approximately 48.

Q: Have all the new executive members completed their registration? R: Yes, they have all completed their registration.

Approval of the Nepalese Association.

The chair called for a motion to approve of the club since all were exhausted.

Mover: Landon Orenchuk

Second: Joanne Lavoie

Yes: 21

No: 0

Abstention 0

Carried

The motion to accept the Nepalese club was approved the majority of the council members.

The chairperson congratulated the Huskies cricket club and the Nepalese club for their approval.

3.0. GSA Executive Report

3.1 President's Report - GSA manager hiring update and others

The GSA president provided an update on the application process. Out of the 15 received, the committee shortlisted 5 candidates based on the highest nominations. These individuals underwent interviews conducted by the 7-member committee. Despite one committee member being unavailable, all seven essential questions were asked. Following the interviews, two candidates emerged as qualifiers. As a result, a second interview will be held to select the final candidate for the manager position, scheduled for this upcoming Friday on September 15, 2023. The new manager is set to commence duties on September 18, 2023.

Furthermore, on September 6, 2023, they met with President Peter Stewardship and his team to outline their advocacy priorities for the year. The president encouraged members to bring forth their recommendations for further advocacy efforts, both within and outside the University administration. Additionally, they announced plans to meet with representatives from the provincial government, the city mayor, and the education minister. Therefore, all submissions and recommendations are welcomed for this endeavour.

Regarding the childcare issue, he shared that there have been several meetings involving the Dean, CTPS, and the USSU manager. They are actively working on the necessary groundwork and are hopeful for a positive outcome. There is also a scheduled meeting with the University president, and thus far, the university has shown great cooperation and support. The Dean of CPTS has not only expressed willingness to serve as a mentor but also to actively participate in addressing the challenges faced by graduate students, particularly those with children. She has agreed to join them in discussions with the president, and the president is also on board. Additionally, during a meeting with the USSU, it was noted that all day care center structures were constructed by the university. Therefore, when the executives meet with the president, they are optimistic about receiving similar support.

Questions and Responses

Q: Will the new research communication workshop include an advanced speech component, or will it be integrated with the 3-minute thesis? Or will there be a separate workshop to assist with the 3-minute presentation? Is this a completely new initiative?

R: The research communication workshop and the 3-minute thesis event are distinct. The workshop will offer a comprehensive approach covering a broader range of communication skills. While there was a request for financial support from GDPS for the 3-minute event, it was unfortunately declined. However, there is encouragement to explore alternative sponsorship opportunities. The executive is still eager to launch this program.

Any questions for the President may be directed to the email address at gsa.pres@usask.ca at any time.

3.2 Vice President Finance and Operations Report.

He began by updating members on the GSA spring and summer bursary program. Following two calls for applications, they received a total of 33 submissions. Ultimately, all 18 applicants were granted the bursaries, and the results were officially announced on August 15, 2023. Currently, there is a budget of 90,000 allocated for the upcoming two rounds, covering both the fall and winter terms. Additionally, the GSA commons and operations area has seen a rise in activity, with a daily barbecue setup. There is an ongoing inquiry about the possibility of the president offering more bursaries, especially given the increasing number of graduate students. He also mentioned engagements with the PPC, ISSAC, and off-campus meetings with the city of Saskatoon. For any further queries directed towards the VP of Finance, members are encouraged to reach out via email at gsa.fin@usask.ca at their convenience.

Questions and Responses

Q: What is the composition of the bursary committee?

- R: There are five of us in, consisting of myself, the VP of Student Affairs, the VP of Academics and Student Affairs, two council members, and the CA. The final person is a dedicated volunteer.
- Two executives, two council members, and one representative from the general student body make up our team.

The GSA president emphasized the existence of eight standing committees, including the bursary committee, each comprising nine members, operating in accordance with established regulations. Furthermore, he emphasized that these committees are open to anyone interested in participating.

3.3. Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report.

She has been actively involved in various initiatives. This includes organizing an orientation for new graduate students, with a detailed report submitted. She's collaborated closely with the VP Finance on both the bursary and hiring committees. Additionally, the president mentioned her work on two ratification processes and an academic council ratification process.

Furthermore, she recently participated in a meeting with the VP Indigenous. From three candidates, two have been shortlisted, and interviews for the remaining candidate will be conducted next week. Her involvement with the USSU Academic Vice President has revolved around addressing the rising concerns of academic indiscipline, particularly among international students who come from diverse educational backgrounds.

Additionally, she holds the position of Chairperson for the Diversity Committee. She is keen on sharing ideas and promoting awareness on a wide range of diversity-related topics. Moreover, there are plans to establish a GSA Diversity Committee soon. These initiatives reflect her commitment to fostering inclusivity and understanding within the graduate student community. Thank you.

3.4 Vice President, External Affairs Report.

They are actively engaged in discussions with the Saskatchewan government to address pertinent issues facing graduate students, particularly in terms of funding. They are optimistic that these matters will receive proper attention by September 7th, 2023. A proposal is in the works to present to the government of Saskatchewan, and they welcome input and suggestions from all members.

In addition, they are in the process of identifying a suitable venue for the next summer games. One location under consideration is the **TCL Marku** Hall at Saskatoon Holiday Inn. They are open to receiving recommendations and comments from members regarding potential venues that would ensure the success of these events. If there are any questions for the VP External Affairs, they can be directed to their email address at external@usask.ca at any time.

3.5. Vice president indigenous Engagement

She began by acknowledging the recent busyness with the powwow, various hiring committees, and other events. She informed the council that September would host Truth and Reconciliation Day, extending it into a week of reflection. She encouraged all council members to wear orange from September 22nd, 2023, onward to symbolize the significance of the week and contemplate Canada's true history. Numerous activities are planned from the 22nd to the 30th. Additionally, she mentioned an event on September 25th from 11:30 to 1 pm at the Gordon Oakes Center, where lunch will be provided. Another event, the blanket project launch in the Murray Library, is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th, at 3:30. The campus will also be illuminated in acknowledgment of TRC from September 28th to the 30th. At the College of Education, Husky Athletics will affiliate with the Truth and Reconciliation theme, with events on September 20th, 29th, and 30th. Lastly, a related event is slated for September 13th, and volunteers are sought for many of these activities.

Feel free to join us and dedicate some time to our cause. You're welcome to participate as a volunteer. Detailed information about these events can be accessed on indigenoustas.ca. With all these engagements, September promises to be a bustling month. I'm eager to make the most of it and connect with as many of you as possible. Thank you.

She began by acknowledging the recent busyness due to powwows and various hiring committee activities. She then highlighted an important event in September, Truth, and Reconciliation Day. She urged all council members to join her in wearing orange from September 22nd to 30th as a symbol of reflection on Canada's true history. During this week, there will be various activities, including the opening ceremony at the Gordon Oakes Centre on September 25th from 11:30 am to 1 pm, with lunch provided.

Additionally, she announced the launch of the Blanket Project in the Murray Library on Wednesday, September 20th at 3:30 pm. Another significant event is the campus lighting in recognition of TRC, which will take place from September 28th to the 30th. In the College of Education, there will be Husky Athletics events with a Truth and Reconciliation theme on September 29th and 30th. Volunteers are needed for many of these events, and she encouraged anyone interested to come and spend some time supporting these initiatives. Detailed information can be found on indigenoustas.ca. Despite the busy schedule, she expressed

excitement for the upcoming events in September and looked forward to seeing as many members as possible. Thank you.

Questions

Q: Will the T-shirts be provided for free? R: They can be purchased at various locations, including the USASK shop, colleges, and Fire Creek, among others.

Any Other Business/ Announcement

The president informed that there are T-shirts available for both students and GSA executives. Council members are encouraged to share this information widely, and a general announcement will also be made.

President proposed 2 ideas.

The President proposed the establishment of a notice board exclusively dedicated to graduate students. This platform would facilitate the sharing of essential information such as accommodation options and other pertinent matters. He cited the University of Waterloo's successful implementation of a similar notice board and emphasized its potential benefits. The President assured that incorporating this feature into the graduate hub on our website would incur no additional cost.

The second suggestion put forth was to create opportunities for graduate students to engage in babysitting services, thereby generating employment within our student community. While acknowledging the existence of other babysitting applications, the President noted their associated costs. By integrating this service into our website, graduate students could secure part-time positions in both residential and event settings. Additionally, individuals possessing relevant qualifications or certificates would be eligible to participate. This initiative holds the potential to serve as a revenue-generating venture for both the GSA and our student body.

- **The recording secretary submitted that it is a great idea, and he thinks should be acted on faster to create job opportunities for our students as well as a source of revenue for GSA.**

Sara asked when the ratification of new associations would be done.

President answered that it would be communicated in our emails and that the association should do their homework because ratification is ongoing.

The chairperson responded that they don't need to do anything for ratification.

The GSA president informed council members that the GSA Executive election procedure is posted on the GSA website, so members are encouraged to visit the website for any information. The next council meeting information will be sent.

Adjournment

Mover: Elyse Proulx-Cullen

Carried

All council members unanimously accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023 (AGM)	June 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Oliver Xuan – Councilor Juan-Diego Paspuezan Chafuel – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Animal and Poultry Science	Corissa Wilcox – Councilor Erika Cornand – Alternate	P	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
ARCHAIA	Sarah Pocha-Tait – Councilor Angela Burant – Alternate	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	P
Biology Graduate Student Association	Shuqi Ren – Councillor Kayla Caruso – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Chemistry Course Council	Loza Taghavi – Councilor Srikant Singh – Alternate	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Arshdeep Jagait – Councillor Kundanika Mukherjee (Alternate)	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P

College of Medicine Graduate Students Society –Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Rachel Harris – Councilor Maddie Stewart – Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Nahin Shakurum	P	P	P	P	p	P	P	P
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councillor Sara Dalkilic – Alternate	P	P	P	P	p	P	A	P
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia A. Orji - Councillor Subroto Nag Pinku - Councillor	P	P	A	P	p	P	A	P

1.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	June 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Amin Babaeighazvini Divyapratim Das -Alternate	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	A
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Akinola Ogbeyemi - Alternate	A	P	A	P	p	P	A	P
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Zahra Teimouri Shahab Minaei (Alternate)	P	P	A	A	A	A	A	A
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Emily Cline	A	P	A	P	p	P	A	P
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Shahabodin Afrasiabi Sarah Allahmoradi (Alternate)	A	P	A	P	A	A	A	P
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Vahid Hosseini Amirreza Mahmoudi-Alternate	P	P	A		A	A	P	P
English Course Council	Gwen Rose – Councillor Challen Gladman - Councillor Miguel Dela Pena - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Geography & Planning Graduate Council		A	A	P	A	A	A	A	A

Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Carlene Shaw Candice Minott (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Danielle Cormier Kevin Mageto (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P

2.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	June 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023
Physical and Engineering Physics -PEGASUS	Nicholas Simonson – Councillor Yasaman Yousefi - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Sarah Crawford Ayat Zagzoog (Alternate)	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P
Plant Science	Brianna Senetza – Councillor Kaylie Krys - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Joanna Lavoie - Councillor Henry Francisco – Alternate	P	P	P	P	p	A	A	P
SENSSA		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Aashana Patel Somayeh Abdi Richa Tikoo (Alternate)	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	P
Sociology GSA	Kayla Arisman - Councillor Grace Rath -Alternate Leah Houseman – Alternate Devin Prachler – Alternate Sara Leavin - Alternate	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P

Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Quinn Hlus Catherine Chavez (Alternate)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Hannah Mahoney – Councillor Emily Kennedy - Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) GSA	Jennifer Abi Younes - Councillor Jade Sands – Alternate Christopher Zinck - Alternate	A	P	A	A	A	P	A	P

3.

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Feb (emer) 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	June 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
Exec. President	Mostafa Kamal	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ramin Mohammadi	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP External Affairs	Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Kayla Benoit	N/A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P



I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Meeting September 7, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi, Ramin Mohammadi, Kayla Benoit, Sristy Sumana Nath

Regret: none

Guest: none

Land Acknowledgment:

GSA President Mostofa Kamal

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5:19 PM by GSA President Kamal.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP-External (Abbas Fazel)

Seconded: (VP-Finance-Ramin Mohammadi)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

President:

1. Approval of executive meeting minutes (August 23, 2023)

Move: VP-External (Abbas Fazel)

2nd: Ramin

2. Meeting with USASK president Peter Stoicheff, Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning, and Vice-President University Relation:

President Mostofa Kamal proposed to meet all the University VPs to meet and discuss about the GSA concerns and our needs. Due to time shortage on every PEC meeting, the GSA needs to talk with university leaders to share the GSA updates.

VP-Teaching has priority to meet to discuss about the wellness doctors and maternity leave for graduate students. GSA also share and will talk about the completion date faster to help with university ranking. For an example, the graduated students who already graduated from Canadian universities, they have to pass several courses as the Ph.D. degree requirement. Removing the duplicate courses completion will reduce the graduate studies completion years.

3. Meeting with the Postdoctoral Society (PDS):

Postdoctoral society has more than 150 members at USASK, and they are following the same directions to achieve the PDS rights including the childcare. The CGPS dean suggested to invite PDS president to start the initiatives based on GSA and PDS priorities for childcare center for graduate students and Postdoctoral fellows. GSA/PDS unitedly will support each other and lobbying for childcare when they mutually meet the USASK president. This motion will be aligned with the GSA visions.

Move: VP-Finance (Ramin Mohammadi)

2nd: VP-External (Abbas Fazel)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

4. Elevated Speech Competition:

This event rescheduled to October 17 from 15-17 p.m.

5. GSA manager hiring:

The GSA office manager hiring committee ended up to rank two best candidates (Fateme Sedighipour and Paul Trujillo). The hiring committee decided to schedule second round of interview with these two candidates.

Motion: Having another hiring meeting for both candidates:

Move: VP-Finance (Ramin Mohammadi)

2nd: VP-Academic (Sristy Suman)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

6. **GSA representative to Vice-Provost Indigenous and engagement hiring committee:**
Kayla Benoit VP-Indigenous will be the GSA representative for Vice-Provost Indigenous and engagement hiring committee.

VP-Finance:

1. **Confirm the research conference date and time:**

The research conference schedule will be November 9, 2023, at 10-17

2. Three cheques for getting approval, two of them for student care (330,304.95 CAD and 150,000.00 CAD) and other ones for orientation T-shirts (6,355.32 CAD):

Move: VP-Indigenous (Kayla Benoit)

2nd: President (Mostofa Kamal)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:26

- a. Move: VP-Finance (Ramin Mohammadi)



I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

GSA Meeting September 20, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Attendance: Mostofa Kamal, Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi, Ramin Mohammadi, Kayla Benoit, Sristy Sumana Nath

Regret: None

Guest: None

Land Acknowledgment:

GSA President Mostofa Kamal.

3. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 PM by GSA President Kamal.

4. Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: VP-Academic (Sristy Sumana)

Seconded: VP-External (Abbas Fazel)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

President:

1. GSA Office Manager Starting Date:

The start time for office manager will be September 22, 2023, and the contract will be signed the same day.

2. GSA Office Manager Contract Letter Review by Executives:

- Office manager salary will be: 45,000.00 CAD for one-year full-time contract from September 22, 2023, until September 21, 2024. The contract may extend based on the expected qualifications.

Move: VP-Academic (Sristy Sumana)

2nd: VP-External (Abbas Fazel)

Vote: All in Favour

Motion Carried.

- Some amendments added to the Office manager contract which are:
 1. The office manager will attend to meetings that GSA has with companies and stakeholders like Studentcare, City of Saskatoon and related meetings for U-pass. In any circumstances, if the GSA executives were unable to attend the meetings, the office manager is responsible for attending the meetings requested by executives.
 2. GSA office manager MUST report any serious incidents to both GSA president and VP-Finance.
 3. Office manager is responsible for any external official communication under the supervision of VP-External. (Ex. Government, MPs and etc.)
 4. GSA office manager is responsible for asking, collecting, and compiling of GSA handbooks materials including the university leaders, companies, government, MPs.
- All GSA executives have access to parking pass only, and it is not included to office manager's contract.

3. GSA Representative to University's Governance Committee

All GSA executives have to attend the university governance committees assigned for.

4. Writing Feedback for VPIE candidates

VP-Indigenous, Kayla will prepare the VPIE feedback on behalf of the GSA executives and the GSA president will send the feedback to the university president's office.

5. Graduate Research Conference Venue selection, Prize Money, Format:

GSA research conference will be held on November 9, 2023.

Venue: Convocation Hall

Prize: 2,000.00 CAD (500.00 CAD each-4 winners)

Refreshments: 1,000 CAD

Format: Poster (100)

6. Elevated Speech Competition Venue, Prize Money & Quantity determination

The GSA elevated speech postponed to October 17, 2023.

Venue: GSA Commons

Prize: 1st: 300, 2nd: 250, and 3rd: 200

Refreshments: snacks, 100 sandwiches

Attraction: distributing thirst to everyone

Full budget 2,000 CAD

7. Request for 500 CAD funding for computer science council:

Move: VP=External (Abbas Fazel)

2nd: VP-Indigenous (Kayla Benoit)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

VP-Academic:

1. Distribution of leftover t-shirts:

Due to late arrival of some parts of GSA T-shirts, the GSA executive committee decided to keep the T-shirts and wait for winter orientation and our events and then we make a flyer to distribute the leftovers later.

Move: VP-External (Abbas Fazel)

2nd: President (Mostofa Kamal)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

VP-External:

1. Distribution of GSA handbooks to EGCC Conference:

GSA executive committee approved to pass 50 GSA handbooks to EGCC Conference for September 28, 2023, which will be held in the engineering college.

Move: President (Mostofa Kamal)

2nd: VP-Academic (Sristy Sumana)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42

Move: VP-Academic (Sristy Sumana)



Report from the VP Finance and Operations (October 2023)

Hello GSA Councillors,

I am pleased to provide an update on my endeavors in my position as the current Vice-President of Finance and Operations.

1. **Fall Semester CGPS-GSA Need-Based Bursary**

The CGPS-GSA Fall bursary application period is set to be open from October 16 to November 16. Subsequently, the bursary committee will convene after the deadline. During this round, there exists a substantial opportunity for a considerable number of students to be eligible for this bursary.

2. **Hiring of New GSA Coordinators**

In my role as the VP of Finance and Operations, I will oversee the preparation for hiring coordinators from the graduate student body for GSA. The entire GSA executive membership will participate in the hiring committee, and the initiation of the hiring process is scheduled for the upcoming weeks. The GSA coordinators will be available to serve the GSA from 4:30 PM until 7:30 PM, Monday to Friday. These coordinators will allocate additional hours to students for the use of the GSA common space.

3. **Introduction and Training of the New Office Manager**

It is with pride that I announce the successful conclusion of an extensive and precise selection process for our newly appointed office manager. Fortunately, Paul was a former graduate student within our institution who has successfully completed a PhD in the field of public policy. He has already commenced training in IT and Finance systems, although a demanding training schedule is anticipated to ensure his seamless integration into our team.

4. **GSA Commons and GSA Operations**

The GSA remains fully operational in its commitment to serving graduate students, with the GSA Commons providing an exceptional study environment and hosting various income-generating events. Recently, ratified club funds have been disbursed, and as soon as other clubs complete their processes, they will receive their respective allocations. Noteworthy efforts have been directed towards negotiating students' rights with Student Care, aiming to enhance the quality of service.

In my capacity as the VP of Finance, my responsibilities encompass a diverse range of vital functions aimed at maintaining the operational efficiency of the GSA. These include coordinating the orientation and scheduling of the new office manager and coordinators to ensure the seamless functioning of the GSA, overseeing contract management and invoice collection for GSA bookings, as well as meticulously managing all payments and supplements related to the GSA Commons.

Additionally, I conduct regular inspections of the GSA Commons post-events to ensure the proper functionality and upkeep of GSA assets. I further oversee the performance of coordinators and the

office manager, ensuring their alignment with the GSA's mission of delivering the highest possible quality of service to the students. Furthermore, I am responsible for student health and dental care, as well as Saskatoon bus transit operations, meticulously monitoring expenses and adhering to our approved budget.

In summary, my role as VP Finance is pivotal to the successful functioning of the GSA. Consequently, I devote my best efforts to overcome the challenges and fulfill my responsibilities effectively. Furthermore, I actively contribute to various committees aimed at enhancing the overall experience of graduate students, both within and beyond the campus. An overview of some significant committee meetings I have attended in fulfillment of my duties is provided below:

Meetings

Awards Committee
Executive Retreat Meeting
PRT/PEC/USSU/GSA Meeting
Studentcare
PPC (Planning and priority Committee)
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,

Ramin Mohammadi

Vice-President Finance and Operations

Graduate Students' Association

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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 September 06, 2023, to October 05, 2023, as listed below:

1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: September 07 & 20 and October 02, 2022

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

2. GSA Office manager hiring process:

1st round interview (6th September 2023): The GSA office manager hiring committee members short-listed five candidates based on their job experience and educational background. After the 1st round interview, we selected two best candidates for the 2nd round interview.

2nd round interview (15th September 2023): In this interview, hiring committee members selected Paul Trujillo as a permanent GSA Office Manager. He completed his PhD studies in Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan.

3. Meeting with the Candidates Vice-President Indigenous Engagement:

- a. Manon Tremblay: September 11, 2023**
- b. Melanie Griffith Brice: September 13, 2023**
- c. Angela Jaime: September 18, 2023**

The GSA executives discussed the most important issues of our election platform, e.g., funding amount, maternity leave, indigenous student issues and equity issues, with three candidates.

4. Student advocacy related academic and non-academic issues:

- a. Academic issues with a M.Sc. student: September 28, 2023
- b. Non-academic issues with PhD student: September 29, 2023

5. Meeting with Susan Bens, Academic Integrity Strategist: September 26, 2023

The GSA VP Academic and Student Affairs and USSU Academic Affairs met with Susan Bens to discuss academic integrity strategies to improve awareness among USAK students. I attached the discussion agenda below:

① academic integrity
topics that students want
to advise the
university about

undergrads	grad students
- AM regulations are <u>very</u> stressful to participate in - Students do not know what to expect how to prepare - Stress is a barrier to participating - programs with 'placements' and professional codes confuse the matter - distressing ↳ combines with other biases - need to feel listened to, heard ↳ "they blew me off" - Gen AI - need to learn to cite, paraphrase - need help near due date → help? - need to tell you about fear ↳ approachability - TA grading schemes can seem unfair and not	- international students need an <u>indepth</u> orientation - lack of knowledge for USAK - requests for extensions that are denied add to students stress can lead to AM - need specific guidance about on-line, Gen AI tools - pressures related ↓ funding → ↑ work → time pressure - students may share examples of their work to help each other, then a receiving student → Amy

reg. - who/when should I tell about problem

ethical just what if you about a TA

trust TA

rubric TA struggle

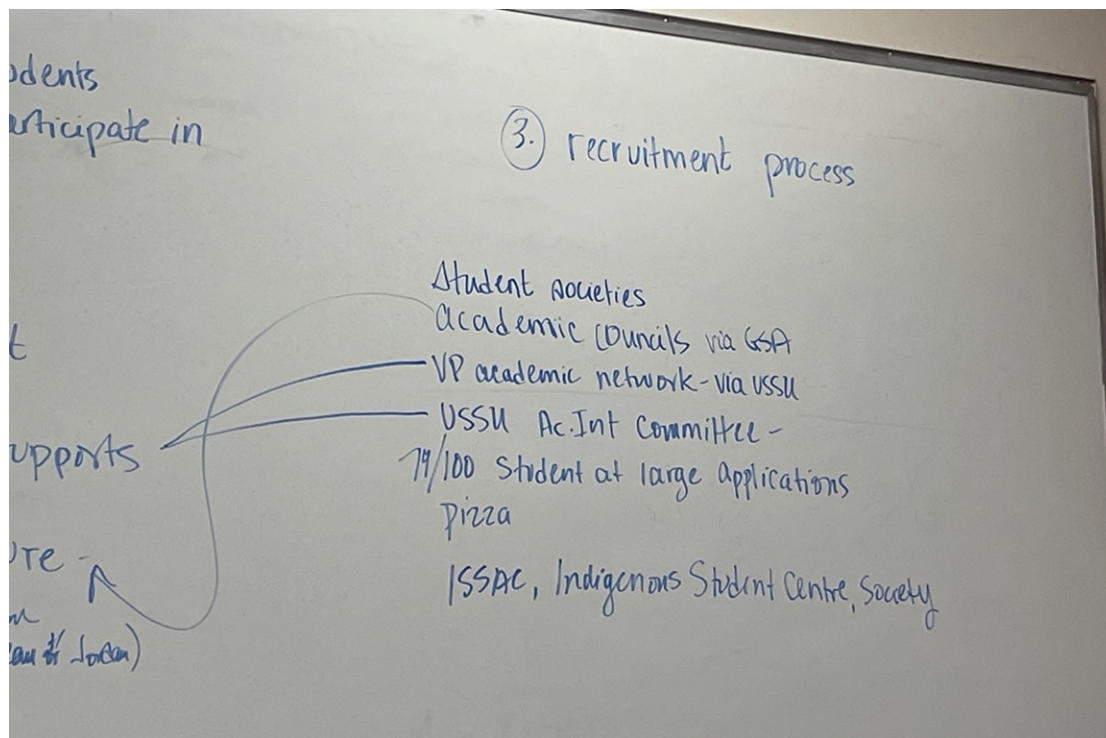
student pressures

② Structure that students would want to participate in

1. Gen AI
2. Ethical Assmt
3. Regulations/Supports
4. Role of pressure
 - ↳ someone from outreach (Beau & Jordan)

student pressures

pressure work ent → Amy



6. Attended regular meetings of my portfolio:

- a. *Academic Program Committee (APC)*: September 06 and 20, 2023
- b. *Graduate Program Committee (GPC)*: September 07 and 27, 2023
- c. *Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC)*: September 20, 2023
- d. *GSA Council Meeting*: September 28, 2022

I presented my monthly activities in previous months on behalf of GSA President.

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan