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**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting
Minutes from Tuesday February 27, 2018**

Present: Archaeology and Anthropology, Animal and Poultry Science, Biology, College of Medicine, Chemistry, Computer Science, Edwards School of Business, Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Geography and Planning, History, Indigenous Graduate Student Council, Microbiology and Immunology, Kinesiology, Pharmacy and Nutrition, School of Environment and Sustainability, School of Public Health, Sociology, Soil Science, Toxicology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Executives: Ziad Ghaith (President), David Bennett (VP Finance and Operations), Ali Kiani (VP Student Affairs), Naheda Sahtout (VP External), Iloradanon Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison)

Organization of the Meeting:

The President acted as the Chairperson until Council nominated a Chairperson. The VP External acted as recording secretary for the duration of the meeting.

INVITED SPEAKER

The President welcomed everyone to the Council meeting. He informed the Councilors that today's meeting would begin with a talk about the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plan for the City of Saskatoon. He introduced our guests from the City of Saskatoon; Rob Dudiak, Project Manager BRT and Transit Plan, Chris Schulz, Special Projects Manager Growth Plan, Taha Najam, Transit Planner Saskatoon Transit, and Nathan Ziegler, Project Coordinator BRT and Transit Plan. The President thanked the guests for joining us and proceeded to invite them to the podium to begin their presentation.

The BRT project has come out of the City's growth plan to 500,000 people. Right now, we are working in the functional design phase of a change to the transit system overall, away from the current system which is a hub and spoke base model to a BRT based system. The BRT will improve the travel speed, reliability, capacity, and customer experience through enhancements to bus priority measures, stations, customer systems and running of things. The BRT strategy is to be the major organizing element of the growth plan, form the structural backbone of Saskatoon transit, and support a mode shift towards transit to support land use intensification along those major corridors where BRT is intended to be and anchor transit village developments.

Key benefits to having a BRT system include;

- Reduce transit travel time
- Improve reliability
- City building through intensification of land usage
- Increase positive customer experience
- Include responsible investments

The map shows the proposed design for College Dr. Heavy weight lines are BRT system. Blue that runs North to South, green and red that run East to West. Red / Green come on College Dr. In terms of reliability / frequency, the expected frequency for the BRT in peak hours, which is 6 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday, would be at 10 minute frequency. For College drive / 3rd Avenue downtown, locations in which there is more than one BRT line running in the same location, the frequency would be less than 10 minutes. Other lighter weight lines are proposed alterations to the local network so that they are well aligned with the BRT stations. The frequency for local lines in peak hours is 20 minutes. In comparison to the current system, this is less than what is currently available for peak-times, which vary from 30 minutes to 60 minutes depending on the route.

Five components to the BRT system:

1. **Transit signal priority measures** – interconnects the transit signals all along the BRT route to allow the bus position to be known by the system and to allow the buses that are running behind to have the signal to change slightly, either to extend the green light or shorten the red light in its pathway.
2. **Roadway geometric measures** – certain locations / intersections where you have a jump bus ahead lane so that if there is traffic congestion, the bus can pull out ahead in a separate lane and with the transit signal priority, can get ahead of the traffic so that it runs on time.
3. **Station design** – sheltered stop is larger, higher level platform that would be level with the first step of the bus so that there would be no need for the bus to kneel or lower the ram, heating on demand, as well as other features.
4. **Customer assistance** – at each bus stop would find wait finding information for the system overall and next bus information for the next bus that will be arriving. Destinations where you will information about scheduling, route next bus information, advertising and security monitor systems.
5. **Running way improvement** – the City is proposing to have dedicated lanes for buses, College Dr., 3rd avenue and Broadway.

Overall, the City is looking at using transit signal priorities at all beneficial locations, at more than 100 intersections, geometric improvements at select locations only, medium scale shelters or stations with high group lighting design themes, security monitors and standard elements, mixed traffic vs. exclusive lanes at proposed locations. There may be stations with counter-flow, in which the bus is going against the flow of traffic.

Since we are still in the functional design planning – would like to know about the current plan and things that we would like to address as graduate students that we are concerned about or would like to see incorporated that we might have missed.

Q: In terms of busses coming along College Dr, will there be buses coming into the University loop?

Plan shows that there are 3 routes proposed around campus which are part of the local network, so technically could use them without ever interconnecting to the BRT, although these would stop very frequently, as opposed to the minimal stops with the BRT, so would be losing time with travel. Two will connect through Innovation Place, around past the Cancer Centre and RUH

and the other that will make the loop around campus completely, starting in the North-East in the Aspen Ridge and Evergreen area.

Q) What is the time frame for when this will happen?

Funding and budget is available for the detailed design, BRT and transit route reconfiguration – past that the funding source will need to be identified and approved through Council. Funding from other levels of government may be a possibility in the next year to offset this. This will likely be a 3 year construction phase. Start in 2019 at the earliest and come up to 2022 before we see any of the plans in place.

Q) How will the funding effect bus prices and student passes?

The current project doesn't have a say on what prices transit chooses to charge. The current plan has been developed, reconfiguration in transit routes and changes in running hours and frequency, taking into account the operating hours of today and reconfiguring so technically there is no difference in the system beyond the capital cost between what is running today and what is being proposed. There is a big difference in the number of routes that are currently being run versus what is being proposed so there is a substantial spacing difference of how it exists today and how it would exist in the future.

Q) There will be construction to roads, would that not need to be taken into account when deciding prices?

Capital cost doesn't have to have any direct connection with the operations of the future system. If the City chose to, it could say that all the accounting should occur with Saskatoon Transit and therefore the burden of expenditure would fall in part to future fares. This is not how the City thinks of infrastructure projects and therefore would not be applied to the users of that infrastructure, although this needs to be decided by Council. Likely, Council's interest would not likely want to impact the ridership with Saskatoon Transit, with increasing fare prices. Transit does its own accounting every year to ensure that their fares are assessed well; however, we do not expect any linkage between capital cost and future cost of the service.

Q) Is there any foreseeable future to put an LRT?

Capital to do an LRT will cost about \$500 million and would likely mean that there is a larger capacity. If we were at the stage of needing a greater capacity along routes, that means the train would be more efficient. The available budget right now for the BRT would be \$120 million. The current BRT plan doesn't preclude us from going to an LRT in the future. If we have the dedicated runways along the major routes for the BRT system, they can be adjusted to an LRT system if needed.

Q) Improved reliability and how will this be guaranteed – currently, there are frequent gaps in the system.

Reliability through BRT relies on transit signal priority measures because they have the ability to control the traffic signals along the route, giving a lot more flexibility. There will be situations, such as train crossing, where the delay is inevitable. There would be a way to tell the customers waiting for the bus to understand that the bus is late – to reduce the frustration. All the measures are important for this. Some of the ideas for this BRT system are away from the hub and spoke model, with transfers occurring at designated bus malls and transit stations, to a much more

distributed model that is more grid-like with much more direct routes – moving away from terminal oriented system, and small neighborhoods. As a result, we can achieve much more reliability – staying on major roads and not going into the local or peripheral areas.

Q) Funding – does the funding come from federal / provincial – sources?

Right now the funding for the design is through the federal government through the PTIF grant– public transit infrastructure fund, a mix of City funding and federal funding. Work on this program is to use the phase 1 of PTIF program funding to prepare the design of BRT. This would prepare us for phase 2 funding. Currently we would expect 60 % funding from the City to develop the system and 40 % federal government for phase 2. The province might chose to input funding, which would lower the City's share in the development of the system.

March 7 – Engagement at Western Development Museum on the growth plan initiative. This will be a great opportunity to come out and voice your opinion so that we can get feedback from everyone on the BRT system, transit reconfiguration, transit villages, downtown core network, core planning initiative and the Triple A section network in the downtown core and corridor planning initiative.

- ***The Triple A Section Network:*** an all ages and abilities downtown cycling network that is being planned in parallel with the BRT system so as to ensure steps are taken to make sure that both plans will take into consideration the downtown network and the plan as a whole.
- ***Corridor planning initiative:*** to complement transit planning work, transit orientated redevelopment along the major transit corridors in the City so that we can accommodate a lot of the growth that is to come in the next 30 – 40 years in Saskatoon.

End of March, in collaboration with USSU and GSA, we will be on campus with more of a walk through with the BRT system.

The President thanked our guests for joining us this evening.

OPEN SESSION

Call to Order / Opening Remarks (Items 1 – 2)

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.

The President informed Council that the first item for the evening is to elect a new Chair for Council. As per our bylaws 1.10.2, 1.9.1 and 1.9.4 – upon resignation of Council Chair, a call for nomination to the members should be sent. A call for nomination was sent in early February. We received 2 nominations and invited both candidates to the Council meeting today; only one showed up today. According to the bylaws 1.9.5, the Council Chair should be elected by the majority vote of Council.

Nomination of Council Chair

The President invited Dr. Scott Adams to introduce himself prior to Council voting for him for Chair.

Dr. Adams is a current Health Sciences graduate student in the College of Medicine. Dr. Adams has been in the University for 7 years, beginning as a student in the College of Arts and Science. Having recently completed his MD, he is now completing graduate studies in medical imaging. Student leadership and academic governance has been a priority for him in the past 7 years where he has had the opportunity to serve on a number of committees. He has participated in the President's committee on Vision, Mission and Values creating a new Vision, Mission and Values statement for the University of Saskatchewan. He served as Chair of the 2014 and 2016 Health Innovation and Public Policy Conference. Dr. Adams is also a member of faculty council for the College of Medicine. He served on the USSU academic affairs committee. In the wider community, he also served as president and board chair of the Saskatoon regional science fair and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Dr. Adams believes that the Council Chair has a key role in acting as a facilitator, to make sure voices are heard of all members, whether they are members of academic councils or executives or members of the Board. Dr. Adams has the time to put the effort in and is committed. He is familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and the governance documents of the GSA.

Dr. Adams was asked to leave the room for voting to occur.

Motion to appoint Dr. Scott Adams as GSA Council Chair until the end of August 31, 2018.
Motion carried with 2 abstentions.

Dr. Adams has been appointed as Council Chair. Dr. Adams thanked the Council for the vote of confidence and looks forward to working with the Council.

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Adams asked if anyone has any changes to be added to the agenda. The VP External wished to add 2 items to the agenda:

- (1) Health and dental plan fee as item 21.
- (2) UPASS fee as item 22.

Motion to amend agenda as indicated. Moved by Naheda Sahtout. Seconded by David Bennett.

Motion carried.

Motion to adopt agenda as amended. Moved by Mari-Eve Presber.

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda (Items 4 – 10)

The Chair asked if there were any items to remove from the consent agenda. Any amendments? Any objections to receiving for information by consent?

Hearing none, items 4 – 10 have been received for information.

Ratification of a Social Club (Item 11)

The Chair asked if anyone is available to speak to the ratification of the University of Saskatchewan Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Power and Energy Society Student Branch Chapter as a GSA Social Club.

Motion to approve IEEE PES Student Branch Chapter as a GSA Social Club. Moved by Ali Kiani, Seconded by Iloradanon Efimoff.

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Report of the President (Item 12)

The President welcomed our new VP Finance and Operations, David Bennett, to the Executive team and welcomed his expertise. With regards to the GSA updates – last Thursday, we had a motion in University Council to support our request to have a seat on the University Board of Governors. There was good discussion, some opposition, but there was overwhelming support from University Council in support of the motion. The chair of the Board attended the meeting to which he will probably take back the discussion points to the Board. This support has happened after 18 months of advocating and lobbying for this change.

Updates on UPASS (Item 18)

The UPASS Survey last term was conducted and asked students whether there should be a summer UPASS: approximately 52 % said yes. We met with Saskatoon Transit to discuss potential offers. Saskatoon Transit said that the cost will be the same as with the academic term with opt-out conditions as normal. This change should be approved by a referendum, which can be approved by the Council or through a petition. If Council feels that the GSA should have a referendum to get the UPASS over the summer, as Executives we will work on that. The referendum requires a 2/3 majority vote of Council to allow for a referendum to occur, which will be sent to all our members. Based on the votes of the members, we will see whether we will go forward with a new agreement over the summer, which would be exactly as winter and fall agreements.

Q) Summer UPASS?

Cannot introduce a service without a referendum option being approved by Council. Based on the results of this, we will call a referendum. Based on the results of the referendum, this will decide whether we will have a new agreement.

Q) Will there still be an opt-out option, and how does that affect GSA finances with the services?

This is a service provided to students, and we don't pay any money for this. For the opt-out, it will be the same as fall and winter terms. If you are registered, you need to opt-out based on the same criteria that is outlined in our agreement. This will not affect course-based graduate students who do not register as graduate students and would only really affect thesis-based graduate students.

Updates on Tuition Consultation

The Dean of CGPS will conduct a tuition consultation on Thursday March 1 at 4 – 5:30 PM in Thorvaldsen. The President encourages all graduate students to attend and voice their concerns on tuition.

Updates on Elections

We are currently in the election season as graduate students will elect new Executive leaders to begin in May. The elections will happen in late March or early April, depending on the Elections committee. We would encourage those who are interested to seek information about the position from any of the current Executives.

Report of the Vice-President Finance and Operations (Item 13)

The VP Finance and Operations has updated and posted the budget on the website and will include regular updates. All members are allowed to have access to the budget and we should be transparent and responsible with the Budget. If there any questions / concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the VP Finance and Operations. We are already starting to look at next year's budget. If there any thoughts on how the money should be allocated, please voice them forward.

Presentation: Open Educational Resources (Item 14)

* See the attached sheet on Open Educational Resources.

The Gwenna Moss Centre approached the Executives to explain to us about an opportunity in which graduate students could participate in. We know that there are certain resources that are copyrighted in which the rights are held by the creator of a work (written, music, photographs, etc.) and they control what others are allowed to do with the work. This copyright lasts until 50 years after the creator's death in Canada. In order to use these resources, users must seek permission to copy, modify, build upon or etc. There is a list of various open licenses from most open to least; public domain is actually not a license. It's something that has been released from all copyright restrictions.

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them. OERs range from textbooks to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation.” - UNESCO. The U of S has been working on to implement within the courses to encourage faculty to use OER for the students.

These 5 Rs apply to any materials with an open license EXCEPT for those with a N0-Derivatives (ND) license; retain, reuse, revise, remix and redistribute. Open textbooks are instructor written, although there is potential for student contributions, adaptable and available for most 1st year courses. The idea of using OER is that it is adaptable to our needs and classroom environment, shareable and ‘free’. There is less cost to students and there is a lot of information available for faculty to see how others are using this information for their classroom. With OER, there can be major or minor adaptations, shareable with other Universities, faculty, students across countries, etc.. OER is free and would thus replace expensive commercial texts and books. Funding for this project has come from governments, foundations or institutions.

Open pedagogy is beginning to be used at the U of S. Almost 4000 students around 7 colleges have been using OER, saving more than \$800,000 since 2014/2015. For more information on open pedagogy at the U of S, visit open.usask.ca. With OER, students could help create a textbook with a professor. The professor could ask for funding for you as a graduate student, a source of income, and this would be a great opportunity to have on your CV. Graduate students can initiate projects with professors. For more information on OER, contact Heather Ross at heather.ross@usask.ca.

Q) How does the editing of the actual textbook be controlled if it is open to everyone?

There is a process and certain criteria that needs to be followed in order for someone to modify a textbook. The faculty member needs to sign up with the website, download, modify, and use it for their classrooms. If there are substantial edits, the faculty or group who made these edits can attach their names as this would become a subsequent addition to the book.

Presentation: Health and Dental Claims and Survey Results (Item 15)

At the last Council meeting, the VP External was asked about the differences in claims in the Health and Dental plan. The VP External wants to briefly outline the claims breakdown. In the 2016 / 2017, 64 % of the claims were for prescription drugs, 19 % went to paramedical, 6 % went to medical service and equipment and 11 % went to vision care. In fall 2017, 60 % of the claims were for prescription drugs, 20 % were for paramedical, 10 % were for medical service and equipment and 11 % was for vision care. This is why we don't encourage a decrease in the percentage of the coverage for prescription drugs because a lot of people claim it. In terms of the dental plan, in the 2016 / 2017 year, 37 % of claims went to diagnostic, preventative, 28 % went to periodontics, endodontics and 35 % for surgical, restorative. For the fall 2017, percentages for these three categories were 35 %, 31 % and 33 %, respectively.

Studentcare, with the consent of the GSA Executives, created a survey to gather information and feedback on the GSA Health & Dental Plan, to assist in determining the level of student satisfaction with the Plan, to gauge the health and dental care needs and preferences of our members and inform and better shape the future development and growth of the GSA Health & Dental Plan. The survey was conducted by phone from January 22, 2018 to February 7 2018, with 303 individuals completing the survey, from a random sample of 2000 eligible students from 2812 members. The survey focused on 4 main areas; communication, coverage, opts-out and networks. 49.5 % of those who completed the survey were females, 50.5 % were males; 96.6 % thought the GSA should continue to provide the plan, 64.3 % of those surveyed said it would be useful to receive more information via email. Of those surveyed, 22.3 % had opted out; 90.2 % of those who opted out found the process to be fairly simple to very simple and 32.9 % of those who opted out were covered by another Plan.

93.4 % indicated that coverage of prescription drugs was very important; 92.5 % for vision care. 97.4 % rated check-ups and clean-ups as very important; 94.7 % fillings. 52.1 % said they would increase the cost of the plan to maintain coverage; 27.6 % indicated they would increase the cost of the plan to increase coverage. 88.3 % were very – somewhat satisfied with the cost of the plan. 81.4 % satisfied – somewhat satisfied with the accessibility to network providers.

We also included a question about the Student Supervisor Agreement as follows;

A student-supervisor agreement created in collaboration with the GSA and the College of Graduate and Post-Doc Studies, is available for students to use. This document lays out the expectations for students and supervisors and is modifiable. How do you think such an agreement would impact your mental health during your graduate program?

14% of individuals said extremely positively, 71 % said somewhat positively, 3 % said somewhat negatively, 1 % said extremely negatively and 12 % said not sure.

CFS Fee Increase (Item 16)

The Canadian Federation of Students indicated that there was a 1.5 % increase in fees. Our current fees are at \$6.00, and a 1.5 % increase would make the fees go up to \$6.09. The University charges a 1 % administration fee on any external services that we provide which would increase the fee to \$6.15.

Q) Can you explain the benefits of being a part of CFS for students at the U of S.

The GSA receives funding for several of our initiatives (Gala, 3MT, Conference) and to attend conferences (such as the Reviving our Bodies and Minds) from the CFS, we get funding to attend conferences that are hosted by the CFS, to which we don't have to pay. The CFS provides services to our students, such as the handbooks, ISIC cards, campaign material and resources for lobbying.

The President reiterated that we only collect CFS fees for each of fall and winter terms and we do not collect fees for the summer term.

Motion to approve the increase of CFS fees from \$6.00 to \$6.15. Moved by Naheda Sahtout, Seconded by Jovey Sharma.

Motion carried with a few abstentions.

Office Manager Interview Committee (Item 17)

We are currently in the process of hiring a new staff member, office manager, for the GSA. We have already opened the application process and have received multiple applications. We want to conduct interviews and we would like to invite Councilors to be part of this interview process. The Executive committee approved a committee which includes the President, Vice President Finance and Operations, 2 Council members and an external Human Resource member. We see that this is the right composition to ensure that there are different thought processes on the table and that the process is transparent. We would like to invite Council members to put their names forward for this committee.

Move to approve Katherine Raes and Troy Shapley as members of the interview committee for the Office Manager position. Moved by Iloradanon Efimoff. Seconded by Marie-Eve Presber.

Carried unanimously.

Summer UPASS (Item 18)

This item has been covered in the President's report. We would like to invite the Council to think about the potential UPASS for the summer. Keep in mind that the campus is split in half with regards to having a summer UPASS. In 2014, the GSA had a referendum for a summer UPASS

and although the majority voted in favor of this, the number of abstentions failed to let the referendum pass. The survey results also showed that members are split in half and there are members who would like it and others who do not. The President asks Council to be thoughtful and to consult their colleagues to understand how and whether we should approach. This should be discussed at latest by the next Council meeting. We should also consider that the Saskatoon Transit Council would also need to approve a new agreement with us should a referendum take place and should it pass.

The Chair commented that this is an important item to discuss. Email the president if you have any questions or concerns.

Ratification of General Members for the Elections and Referenda Committee (Item 19)

In the previous Council meeting, we needed to call a By-Election for the VP Finance and Operations. The Elections committee consists of Council members and General members. The Chief Electoral Officer, Katherine Raes, assisted in the process. A call for general members was sent and we received interest. The General members need to be ratified, as per our bylaws. This committee will also be in charge of the general elections as well.

Motion to approve Joshua Zimmerman, Tyler Mohart and Kaiyang Tu as general members for the Elections and Referenda Committee, as required. Moved by Naheda Sahtout, Seconded by Indianna Best.

Motion carried with some abstentions.

Ratification of General Members for the Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee (Item 20)

The committee is a standing committee. The committee consists of the Chair, as ex-officio, 2 members of Council and at least 2 general members. The Council members were approved at a previous Council meeting, Logan Pizzey and Marie-Eve Presber. A call for general members was submitted in mid-February. We received an overwhelming number of students that were interested. Students were asked to submit further details as to their experience and how they could contribute to this committee. Those who submitted the extra information showed commitment and have thus been put forth to be as general members for the committee.

Motion to approve Janine Brown, Susmitha Rallabandi, Chelsea Bodoe, Ashley Dolovich and Amy Gainer as general members for the Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee, as required. Moved by Naheda Sahtout.

Motion carried.

Health and Dental Plan Fee (Item 21)

The Government of Saskatchewan has reinstated the PST tax exemption on the Health and Dental Plan.

Motion to revoke the previous motion to approve an overall increase in 5 % to the current Health and Dental Plan cost, which was approved by Council on January 30, 2018. Moved by Naheda Sahtout. Seconded by Marie-Eve Presber.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve not changing the cost of the Health and Dental Plan and keeping costs as follows; Health Plan fee: \$222.51, Dental Plan fee: \$236.52. Moved by Naheda Sahtout, Seconded by Marie-Eve Presber.

Motion carried.

UPASS Fee (Item 22)

Our agreement with Saskatoon Transit indicates that the increase in price of the UPASS is with regards to the January CPI, which has been determined to be at 2.6% as per the Bureau of Statistics. So the increase of the UPASS fee will account for the CPI and the \$3.00 administration fee to the University and to USSU for administering the stickers. Our current UPASS is \$108.44, of which \$105.27 is remitted to Saskatoon Transit. The added 2.6% makes this fee \$108.01. The added administration fee makes this \$111.01 charged to students for the fall 2018 and winter 2019 terms.

Motion to increase the UPASS fee from \$108.44 to \$111.01 to accommodate for the 2.6 % increase in CPI, and the \$3.00 administration fee. Moved by Naheda Sahtout. Seconded by Katherine Raes.

Motion carried.

Other Business / Announcements:

VP Finance and Operations:

There are currently still academic cheques to be picked up from some Academic Councils. These can be picked up from the office.

VP External:

The deadline for award nominations for the Awards Gala is Friday March 9, 2018. Tickets are available for purchase in the office, \$25 for students. The Gala is happening on April 7, 2018 in the Delta Bessborough with a Red Carpet theme.

VP Student Affairs:

We would like to encourage graduate students to register for the 3MT and Conference, which will occur on March 15 and March 16. The 3MT is you presenting your research in 3 minutes. The conference is you explaining and presenting your research in a poster / talk. Anyone can come and anyone can participate. There are 3MT workshops on February 28, March 9 and 12.

President:

The Board Chair has requested that the President read a letter to Council on his behalf. The current Chair of the Board wants to assure Council that the Board continues to be legally constituted and fully functional after the resignation of some Board members. The Board Chair Logan Pizzy described his intention to work with Council, the Executive, and the Governance Committee to review the GSA's experience with this new governance structure to determine an optimal path forward for the GSA.

Motion to go to in-camera session. Moved by Ziad Ghaith. Seconded by Iloradanon Efimoff.

Motion carried.

Motion to move out of in-camera. Moved by David Bennett. Seconded by Marie-Eve Presber.

Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 PM. Moved by Marie-Eve Presber. Seconded by Indianna Best.

Motion carried.



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RESOURCES

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For Students: What Does OPEN Mean for Students?

Copyright

A simple definition of copyright is that it is a bunch of rights in certain creative works (literary works, artistic works, musical works, computer programs, sound recordings, films and broadcasts) which can be used to stop others from copying the creative works without permission.

The rights are granted exclusively to the copyright owner to reproduce (copy, scan, print) and communicate (email, put on Internet) the material, and for some material, the right to perform or show the work to the public. Copyright owners can prevent others from reproducing or communicating their work without their permission. Only the copyright owner can licence or sell these rights to someone else. (National Copyright Unit)

OER (Open Educational Resources) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open copyright license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge. (Based on Hewlett Foundation)

Open educational resources allow users to engage with '5R activities.'

The 5 Rs of Open








Retain	Make and own a copy
Reuse	Use in a wide range of ways
Revise	Adapt , modify, and improve
Remix	Combine two or more
Redistribute	Share with others

Open Pedagogy takes OER as a starting point for rethinking the relationship between instructors, students and knowledge. If instructors and students are able to modify their learning materials, a shift can be made from students as consumers to producers of knowledge.

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	BY NC	CC BY NC is CC BY plus "Non-Commercial" which means that you can use it with attribution, you can adapt it, but you cannot sell it or profit from it except to recuperate costs of printing for example. It is a non-profit license.
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	BY ND	CC BY ND is CC BY plus "No Derivatives" which means that you can use it with attribution but you cannot adapt it.
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Why Your Instructors May Be Using OER:

Your instructors may be using open textbooks or other OER, or integrating open pedagogy into your courses for a variety of reasons including:

- The ability to customize learning materials to make them what you really need in your course
- The opportunity to allow you to engage in the 5Rs of open by creating, collaborating with others, and sharing your own work or existing OER that you're building upon
- The opportunity to increase access to learning materials because they are available freely, in a variety of formats, whenever you need them

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University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2018

Present: President (Ziad Ghaith), VP Finance and Operations (David Bennett), VP Student Affairs (Ali Kiani), Indigenous Liason (Iloradanon Efimoff), Guest for Open Session (Indiana Best)

Regrets: None.

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The Meeting was called to order by the President at 4:39PM.

President noted that there are many important items on the agenda so that we ought to be thoughtful about our use of time in the discussions. The President welcomed member Indiana Best who will join us for the Open Session to shadow Iloradanon Efimoff as she will likely be the Liaison going forward pending the transition plans in IGSC.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was circulated in advance by the VP Finance and Operations. The President asked if there are any additions or changes. Seeing none the President asked if we are ready to approve the agenda. The agenda is moved by VP External. Seconded by VP Student Affairs. All in favour. The Agenda is hereby adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of the February 20/2018 Meeting Minutes

The President noted that the minutes were posted or circulated in advance.

The VP Student Affairs notes that there is an issue with being marked absent versus sending regrets. He notes that is marked as absent even though he sent regrets.

The VP Finance and Operations asked what time the regrets were sent in. The VP Student Affairs noted that he sent them via text message prior to the start of meeting.

The VP Finance and Operations noted that it is important to send regrets in advance.

The President asked if we are ready to approve the minutes. Moved by VP External. Seconded by the President. Two in favour. Three abstentions. Minutes are approved as modified.

4. Items for Action

4.1 Motion (E001-2018): Motion to Rescind Previously Tabled Item (4.3 February 13/2018 re: Voxco Survey Licences)

The Indigenous Liaison noted that this relates to the license for the survey software. Money that was going to be used for a Voxco License is no longer needed as through the University we can utilize the enterprise edition of Survey Monkey. We had set aside money from the New Initiatives budget line and that money can be released back.

Moved by the Indigenous Liaison. Seconded by VP Student Affairs. All in favour. Motion carries unanimously.

4.2 Motion (E002-2018): Request for Funding from ARCHAIA (Archaeology and Anthropology)

The VP External had received a request from ARCHAIA for funding. The VP Finance and Operations had circulated this via email in advance of the meeting.

The President invited Marissa Evans the representative from ARCHAIA and noted that she is a valuable GSA Council Member. He thanked her for being here and introduced her to the team and commented that this seems like an interesting event.

Marissa noted that ARCHAIA wants to set-up the event as a fundraiser to help students attend conferences as there are many conferences (CASCA, AAA, SfAA and some more regional conferences). These costs are serving as barriers to many students. The event will take the place as a 'Coffee House' at O'Brien's Event Centre. Local performance actor and improv star Marley Duckett has arranged for the venue to be given gratis and there will be artists performing. ARCHAIA seeks to provide funding for the guest artists in the form of honorariums of \$40 (x11). Tickets will be printed and sold for this event.

The VP Finance and Operations asked if the CASCA conference normally held in Canada is being held in Cuba. Marissa noted that it is and is hard to travel to where the conference venue is located in Santiago de Cuba.

The Indigenous Liaison asked if they had sought out funding from other groups. Marissa noted they had approached just their Department and the GSA. She also asked if they had considered gifts to the artists instead of cash payments. Marissa thought that paying via honorariums would be easier and serve as a respectful way to reimburse them for their time and talents.

The VP External asked who will attend. Marissa noted students and community members. O'Brien's is also advertising the event on their website.

The President asked if there was event organization experience. Marissa noted that collectively they have organized smaller events before. The President also noted that the funding from the GSA is based on our budget not the quality of the event or application. He further stated that GSA sponsorship will have to be acknowledged. Marissa noted that if the application is successful she will ensure that is taken care of.

The team thanked Marissa for attending.

A discussion followed regarding the proposal.

The President noted that there may be further funding requests and there is now only a small amount left in that particular budget line.

The VP Finance and Operations noted that he is part of the department but that Marley is very good at events and is sure the event will be successful. The Indigenous Liaison suggests coming up with a better rubric to be used in the future.

VP Student Affairs moved to contribute \$350.00. Seconded by the Indigenous Liaison. 4 in favour. 1 Abstention (VP Finance and Operations abstains). Motion carries. VP Finance will prepare a cheque and contact them shortly.

4.3 Motion (E003-2018): Whereas the Sustainability Committee hereby requests the use of the New Initiatives Budget Line to purchase reusable plastic plates, cups, bowls, and cutlery.

VP External based on her role in the GSA Sustainability Committee suggests we purchase more sustainable plates, cups, utensils, etc. that are reusable and recyclable. As opposed to throwing out the paper plates and disposable plastic cups as we do now. She suggests that this is a new initiative and we use up to \$200 from the New Initiatives Budget Line.

The President asked what kind of things we would buy. The VP External notes that these are still plastic but reusable and they can be recycled. The Indigenous Liaison noted that this will help minimize waste.

VP Finance and Operations stated that this was more of a commons supply expense than a new initiative. He further noted we have lots of inventory so there shouldn't be a rush to buy these items.

The Commons Supply line is already overspent so the President suggested that we need to utilize the New Initiatives budget line for this.

The VP External moved that the GSA utilize up to \$200 from the New Initiatives Budget Line for this. Seconded by the Indigenous Liaison. All in favour. Motion carries unanimously.

4.4 Motion (E004-2018): Whereas GSA bylaws 5.2.4 restricts expenditure amounts above certain amounts or percentages of budget lines without a majority vote of the Executive. BIRT the following expenditures be authorized:

- Honorarium Payments of 533.33 to Z.G, A.K., N.S., and I.E. on Feb. 27/2018
- Reimbursement to N.S. for airfare to ROBAM Conference in the amount of 544.41 Feb. 21/2018
- Payment to the USSU in the amount of 18,246.90 for GPASS Administration (6350.40 this year, 5896.80 2015, 5999.70 2016) on Mar 3/2018
- Payment to Bursary Recipients (GSA Contribution Only) in the amount of 7000.00 (7 X 1000) on March 9/2018.

VP Finance and Operations note that pursuant to bylaws these amounts must be approved. He is unsure why this was not being done prior to his by-election.

The President noted that this is too align with our bylaws and thanked VP Finance and Operations for bringing it forward. He suggests that the Governance Committee find a way to address this issue going forward.

Moved by VP Finance and Operations. Seconded by the President. All in favour. Motion carries unanimously.

5. Items for Information

5.1 Update on GSA Survey

The Indigenous Liaison noted this was almost finalized but asked if we should have section regarding parents and parenting. There were no parents as part of the survey committee. VP External noted that there was likely another survey out there on this topic from the Parents on Campus group. The Indigenous Liaison thanked the President for the feedback he provided. A discussion on gift certificates or cash rewards for survey participants took place.

VP Finance and Operations suggested we use funding from the New Initiative Budget Line for this. The President noted that gift cards would be good inducements to get more survey participants.

The Indigenous Liaison asked whether it was better to have one high value gift card to be won via draw or several in smaller amounts. The President suggested more gift cards would be best for our purposes and that we get gift cards for valuable places for students (i.e. Superstore).

The Indigenous Liaison spoke about the possibility of an ethical amendment but noted this will back up the research. Following more discussion on gift cards it was determined the Indigenous Liaison and VP Student Affairs will take the lead and spend up to \$235 from the New Initiatives Budget line on this.

So moved by the Indigenous Liaison. Seconded by the VP Student Affairs. All in favour. Motion passes unanimously.

The President suggests a special email communique about the survey and the possibility of winning gift cards.

5.2 Update on the GSA Bursary Committee

The VP Finance and Operations announced that the Bursary Funding for the year is completed. The last round saw 22 successful applicants based out of 103 completed applications. The recipients have been notified.

President noted he will add more in camera about funding for this in the coming years in camera.

5.3 GSA Diversity Launch Event

This event comes from the VP External and the Diversity Committee. There was/is a planned Diversity Launch on March 28th. At this point she is unsure if it is going to happen. It is a major challenge to find speakers and there is a lack of RSVPs. The event may have to be cancelled.

VP Finance and Operations notes that we no longer have any funding for this event as we have used up the New Initiatives funding in previous motions this evening. VP External noted that she doesn't want an event without good speakers or a limited turnout as this would be too much work for such a small payout. She will further consult with members of the Diversity Committee.

5.3.a Flags for the GSA Commons

Also stemming from the Diversity Committee. The VP Finance and Operations noted he would be pleased to donate a Pride Flag to the GSA Commons to be hung alongside the existing GSA flag. There was a brief discussion about the need for Indigenous Artwork in the Commons. The Indigenous Liaison is working on this.

The Indigenous Liaison queried if the Queer community is okay with this. VP Finance and Operations notes he has never heard any complaints about this from the Community.

5.4 GSA Election for 2018-2019

The Chairperson noted in his discussion with the President that the election is coming up soon. Likely in early April. The Chair and Elections Committee intend to have multiple

information sessions. The President invites the current Executive Team to make sure they are able to attend these and answer questions and provide information about what the position entails and so on and so forth. He notes that we ought to make ourselves available and assist students who show interest. It is part of our responsibility to engage in new leaders who come into the GSA.

5.5 GSA Executive Annual Reports

The President noted that the Executive must provide annual reports to be presented in AGM. These should include achievements and plans for future. The President will also compile an annual report for the whole GSA. He invites Executive members to send specifics they would like included. This report will also include nice graphics, etc. so please feel free to send those in as well.

5.6 GSA Gala Update

The VP External noted that the gala planning process is well underway and going well. She needs a commitment from the Executive Team to sell tickets for the event in order to ensure success is maximized. She noted there are many important dignitaries coming to the event. She is in the process of seeing if we can hire a classical musician like a violinist or cellist for the dinner.

The Indigenous Liaison noted she can sell some tickets.

VP External wants us each to try and sell ten tickets. Free tickets have already been given to sponsors so absolutely no free tickets can be given out. She will provide tickets to sell us to sell and we must note any dietary restrictions.

President noted that many will buy their tickets last minute.

5.7 GSA Bookkeeper

The VP Finance and Operations reported that our current bookkeeper can no longer fit the GSA in her schedule. She has recommended a colleague and a meeting is in the process of being set up. VP Finance and Operations further notes that this this is very unfortunate timing with financial year end coming up but it is what it is.

6. Other Business

VP External noted that we might not have therapy dogs, as the dogs are very busy :(

An Art Therapy event is next Friday. She requests that we promote this event.

7. Confidential Session

8. In Camera Session

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The Meeting was Adjourned at 6:22PM.

GSA Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2018

Attendance: Naheda Sahtout (VP External), Franklyn De Silva, David Bennett, Ashley Dolovich, Darcia Roache

Regrets: Iloradanon Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison), Nikisha Khare

1. Call for meeting at 5:05 PM.

2. Reclaiming our Bodies and Minds Conference

Naheda received notification of this conference from CFS, who indicated that there was potential funding to send an individual from our Local. Naheda emailed the Diversity Committee members to see if there was anybody interested in attending. Darcia Roache indicated that she was interested. Darcia has a background with special needs children and is currently a PhD student in Educational Administration. The GSA applied and received funding from CFS to send Darcia Roache to attend the ROBAM conference held at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. The conference was held from March 2-3, 2018. This is the second year that ROBAM has been hosted by Ryerson University and it is intended to address issues of Disability and minorities within our campus. The intent of sending an individual from our GSA is so that we could bring back ideas to incorporate into our GSA.

Darcia informed us that the conference was inspirational, rewarding and emotional. Some of the activities of the day were cancelled on Friday because they started late. On March 2 and 3, there were various topics and concurrent sessions. Although the sessions were concurrent, the presentations will be accessible to all members of the Diversity committee. Most of the presenters were students presenting their dissertation topics. Sessions that Darcia attended were;

- ***Aesthetic Mental Health:*** important for persons to understand their place in society and the need for self-care movement. It was also said that persons with mental challenges need to take care of themselves. You might have to do a lot of meditation, exercise, do something fun – collective care.
- ***International human rights and women with disabilities:*** dissertation topic cited examples of situations where people with disabilities are often looked down upon by society. Self-representation in human rights and the importance of identifying challenges and the risks that are faced and the detriment that might be associated with it. She looked at the feminist disability theory, the theoretical framework that was guiding her studies, which says that a disabled woman is troubled because of dominant society, opposition of disabled society versus abled body. If the feminist theory, to some extent, looks at persons with disabilities – it is important that these individuals declare who they are at the beginning so that others know who they are. You should be able to declare and say who you are without the need for emotions. Human rights, diversity, and equity were presented as well. Important to protect human rights and this involves a moral element.
- ***Adapting knowledge mobilisation to disability communities:*** looks about how knowledge mobility can help communities; knowledge from research. A holistic approach about whether knowledge can be shared within communities.

Q) Is there anything that we could implement or use moving forward?

- Disability justice committee as a potential support system that can assist students with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are often marginalized which affects them emotionally.
- Educate the public about how to treat peoples with disabilities. Sometimes persons are mentally challenged and it is not right for us to look down upon them and make them feel inferior.
- Definitely recommends that this is something that we ask for sponsorship for to send a student every year.
- Conference theme – equality / diversity – organize a conference with the theme and make this a Western provinces centred. Probe into colleges / university departments and across universities. Mental health / disabilities / gender equality / human rights. No concurrent sessions. Perhaps connect the college system with the university system. Maybe we can pull in from the College of Law / College of Education. Perhaps seek interest from SIAST. Switching conference between the provinces.

Darcia will send a report to Naheda about this conference.

3. Terms of References

Naheda will resend the final draft. If any corrections are needed, please email them to Naheda so that we can provide these to the AGM to be incorporated so that the Diversity Committee can become a standing committee.

4. Website

Diversity tab that could incorporate the video links. Seek ideas on what to put. Resources on how to access AES, Multi-faith Council of Saskatchewan, FLC, student services... The purpose of this committee and a means to engage students. Use pictures instead of paragraphs. Flowchart of some sort. Example; Do you have a disability? Are you from a minority group? Then put the terms of reference. People are more attracted with visuals. Perhaps a tab for each standing committee on the website. Naheda to work on this and send a copy

5. University Policies

In the previous meeting, it was mentioned that there were certain policies that needed to be altered. Please send Naheda recommendations that she can then bring forth to the Director of Student Services / AES.

6. Diversity Launch

The date for this has been set to March 28 @ 3:30 PM, with light supper provided.

List of tasks;

- Naheda will contact Vice-Provost Teaching, Learning and Student Experience.
- Naheda will contact a lecturer in the Department of English.
- Naheda will contact an individual from AES.
- Naheda will reach out to the Pride Centre / ISSAC.
- Iloradanon to perhaps reach out to the Indigenous students.
- Ashley will reach out to the Anti-racism student society to invite and participate in helping us with activities (10 – 15 minutes of activities, 2 or 3).
- Franklyn will contact Dr. Martha Smith-Norris.
- Ashley will contact Engineering professor with hidden disability.

- Franklyn will send the email to the graduate secretary of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.
- Ashley will send the email within the College of Education.
- Naheda will draft an email and send to the other members.
- Naheda will look into purchasing the Multi-faith calendar from the Multi-Cultural Council of Saskatchewan.
- David will donate a gay pride flag to have at the GSA Commons.

7. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

**GSA Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2018**

Attendance: Iloradanon Efimoff, Somtochuku Ufondu, Naheda Sahtout, Jaylene Murray

Regrets: Michelle Wauchope-Thompson, Kristen Hargis

Absent : Palash Sanyal

Student-run Solar Farm on Campus

- A class in SENS is currently creating a Solar Farm project and are requesting a referendum from the GSA and the USSU. The referendum is required because a new student fee is being requested.
- A group of 28 students in the environment and sustainability 401 class called the solar group, undergraduate students that are actively working on the feasibility of implementing a solar farm on campus. The solar farm would enhance the image of the University, and is a strong incentive for pushing towards green, educational platform towards research, innovation and indigenization.
- There is a survey that is out getting an understanding of whether students would be willing to contribute towards a green fund towards a sustainable future; sustainability in action.
- Phase 1 – development of the project. what is it and why.
- Potential stakeholders: U of S, SaskPower, City, research...
- Phase 2- implement 100 kwatt per hour solar power every year, in increments towards a 1 megawatt. Contacted number of people within the City, and University (engineering, office of sustainability, ...)
- Phase 3- stepping stone, multidimensional for students to learn about sustainability and format in energy systems, agriculture, and design and policy expansion.
- Vision 2057: doesn't have any solar or renewable energy in the report but we are hoping that students will be able to implement this project within this. STARRS rating – we are currently at the silver level. With this project could potentially push this to a platinum / gold. Great incentive to making this project happen.
- University is a research institute – we do not currently have a renewable energy research centre. Perhaps we could be one of the first to try and help northern communities learn about renewable energy development and policies that could provide energy. ***Potential location for the project?***
- Block N / block F on university land. Numbers will be presented at the actual Council meeting. Survey was sent and the majority of students are willing to add 10 / term over the course of 4 years. Survey was sent to college of engineering, department of geography and planning but has also been on PAWS and facebook. There have been 126 answers and responses.
- Project has been carried over for 2 years now and will be carried over with the next generation of students.
- Our university, our choice our greener future is the motto. Opportunity for younger generation to learn about the solar panels.

- They have had discussions with SaskPower. Saskpower is hoping to have 50% of their renewable energy commitments, with community based projects. A community based personnel from the College of Engineering wants to put this project on the forefront. – Important to showcase the number of support people / stakeholders. Helping community based projects and funding potential.
- This is a new project. Started from the John Mitchell solar panels. This is being proposed – funding is being requested after a proposal will be made.
- Event March 22nd at convocation hall. More discussions, more details. Concert and speakers and 11 30 am to 1 pm.

Comments:

- Call for council items will be early next week so it is important to know how to be able to present this to council.
- Money coming from a student fee – language should be made clear.
- The GSA could share the survey on Facebook / twitter / email communication.
- When talking about the land, University land / endowment land – acknowledge that this is on treaty 6 territory. Find a better word to mention this.
- Technical terminology – try to give an example of how much the energy actually represents. Try to contextualize and use accessible language.
- In terms of a Council item – Jaylene will be putting the motion forward.
- Continuity – perhaps a committee between USSU and GSA representatives should be formed to coordinate this.
- How this will look like to graduate students – there should be some sort of accountability of funds and structured formalized body that manages that money. Where will this be put, who will be in charge – determine where and thoroughly discuss with the USSU, GSA and President's Sustainability Committee.
- When meeting with the GSA and the USSU a formal proposal should be well laid out.
- Perhaps at this stage, this can be a point of information at the Council meeting; a means to seek how people can help with the project and keep it moving forward.
- Potential stakeholder was SaskPower – in the future, is this something that would be competitive with other power organisations.
- Important to showcase who you've already talked to and what potential there is
- Random sampling for the survey is important – do not want to have this biased.
- Why is the university not putting any money towards this – is there seed money.
- Why are undergrads presenting – the rationale for graduate students to participate in this / benefit from this – here to present because we want graduate student participation.
- How do we encourage undergrads / grads to participate?

University of Saskatchewan President's Sustainability Council

Motion: Whereby the GSA Sustainability Committee hereby appoints Kristen Hargis to the President's Sustainability Council, University of Saskatchewan.

Unanimous approval by quorum.

Food Sovereignty and Tuberculosis ITraP

- The Vet Med College is hosting a one day panel discussion in June. Iloradanon has forwarded names of panelists who are Indigenous / Metis. If anyone has any other panelists in mind they should email Arinjay.

GSA Sustainability Committee Yearly Plan Recap

- The sustainability slam was well attended; however, it was difficult to engage the community and attract participants. Perhaps we should switch our attention for this group to include a clause that says one sustainability event / initiative per academic year.

Motions: Whereby the GSA Sustainability Committee hereby requests the use of the New Initiative Fund budget line to purchase reusable plastic plates, cups, bowls and cutlery.

Unanimous approval by quorum

- Naheda will see where reusable plastic plates / cups / bowls and cutlery can be purchased.
- Iloradanon will send the finalized terms of reference to the committee for approval. This will then be included in the AGM for approval for incorporation into the governing documents.
- Iloradanon to send out a doodle poll for a final meeting, beginning of April.
- Iloradanon will email non-attending members.

Bursary Selection Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 6, 2018 - Session One:

Members Present: D. Bennett (VP Finance and Operations), D. Fansher (Council Member), A. Kiani (VP Student Affairs)

Regrets: T. Shapely (Council Member), C. Marquez (Council Member)

The VP Finance and Operations called the meeting to order at 1:00PM and thanked all those present for taking time out of their busy day to attend and assist in this vital process. He noted that timbits were available for committee members to snack on. It was also noted that a lunch will be provided for the volunteers.

The VP Finance and Operations and all committee members present signed confidentiality documents to ensure all bursary applicants privacy rights are protected. It was reiterated by all present that if you know or have any type of relationship you are not able to evaluate that application. Each member will review and rank the applications according to the accepted criteria we then use a second member will review the application. It was agreed by consensus that incomplete applications will not be reviewed and any applications that score well-below a minimum threshold will not receive a second review.

The Committee managed to get through a sizeable number of the applications but there were still some remaining. VP Finance will reconvene with several Committee Members to finish the remaining applications and ensure they get a second review.

The Meeting was temporarily adjourned at 4:00PM.

Wednesday March 7, 2018 - Session Two:

Members Present: D. Bennett (VP Finance and Operations), C. Marquez (Council Member)

VP Finance and Operations reconvened the meeting at 4:30PM. He again reiterated thanks for all those in attendance for the help they are offering the GSA. He reminded the members present that they cannot review anyone they are familiar with. The Committee then proceeded in cross-reviewing the remaining applications that hadn't yet had a second review.

It was confirmed with the GSA President that 15 bursaries funded by CGPS will be provided and 7 funded directly via GSA this round for a total of 22.

Following the review and cross-checking of all applications and the applications were sorted according to score. There were a number of applications that were tied for the final few bursaries. The determination was made to re-sort the remaining applications by a selected deciding factor. This still left two applications with the same score. A second deciding factor was used to determine which applicant would receive the bursary.

All agreed that there were a great many qualified and deserving applicants (total number of applicants) and those that don't receive bursaries is likely due to the lack of available funding and is not a reflection upon their applications or needs.

VP Finance and Operations will circulate the minutes and pending approval will contact the recipients of the bursaries.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05PM.

Brazilian Students Association of the University of Saskatchewan (BRASA UofS) CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be Brazilian Students Association (BRASA UofS). This organization will utilize the acronym "BRASA UofS" in all publicity materials and correspondence. BRASA UofS is affiliated with the Brazilian Association of Saskatoon (BRASA).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The BRASA UofS is established for the purpose of aiding incoming and present Brazilian students at the UofS, to support the Brazilian student community in Saskatoon and to promote cultural and political awareness across campus.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is open to currently registered U of S students of any nationality, who are subjected to the payment of an annual fee, currently set at \$5.00.

Section 2. Members of the BRASA UofS will be automatically considered members of BRASA.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD OF MEMBERS

The executive board of members will consist of:

- A. President: shall preside at all meetings of the organization and shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees; attends BRASA meetings when necessary.
- B. Vice-president: shall serve as an aide to the President and shall perform the duties of the President in her/his absence or inability to serve. Liaison between BRASA UofS and BRASA.
- C. Treasurer: shall receive all monies of BRASA U of S; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall pay out local funds in accordance with the approved budget as authorized by the organization; holds co-signing authority for the group. The Treasurer shall present a financial statement at every meeting of BRASA UofS and at other times when requested by the President.
- D. Secretary: shall record the minutes of all meetings of BRASA UofS and shall perform other duties as delegated by the President. Maintains a record of all events (including relevant expenses, personnel, quotes, etc); responsible for sending a reminder of upcoming events.
- E. Officer of Communications: manages the association's social media accounts, email, and digital calendar; develops an annual calendar of events; responsible for informing of upcoming BRASA UofS events.

During the first mandate, the co-founders agreed to preside as co-presidents since no elections were held for executive positions that year. Following the first mandate, only one president shall be elected.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the association must be elected from and by the membership by a majority vote.

Section 2. The election shall be held by ballot.

The Board of Directors shall be elected by majority vote during the beginning of the academic year, wherein students who wish to apply for officer positions shall necessarily be present. In addition to two other officers, the previous president must be present at the meeting. New officers shall begin their mandate immediately after the elections. Candidate must be part of the previous committee in order to run for president. The positions of President, and Vice President shall be for one (1) year term. The positions of Treasurer and Secretary shall be for (1) year term. All positions must be relinquished as soon as the holder ceases to be a student at the UoFS.

ARTICLE VI. BRASA ADVISOR

A BRASA advisor will be appointed by the executive to serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The advisor shall be nominated by the officers and will serve a term of one (1) academic year. In the event that the advisor is unable to continue in their position, officers may nominate a replacement at any time, to be confirmed by a majority vote of the members. To best fill this role, the BRASA Advisor shall be a member of BRASA's executive and member of any of the UoFS union bargaining associations. The Advisor does not need to retain a membership with BRASA UoFS nor holds voting rights.

ARTICLE VII. HANDLING OF FUNDS

Section 1. The finances of BRASA UoFS will be handled exclusively by the association. All funds collected will be deposited in the BRASA UoFS account within BRASA's account. An annual budget will be produced and a record of finances will be kept.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall be the primary officer and the president shall be the secondary officer designated to handle organization finances.

Section 3. BRASA UoFS will also raise funds through social and academic events that promote cultural awareness on and off campus.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. At least three (3) general meetings shall be held during the academic year, including

the Annual General Meeting.

Section 2. Quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the membership body; of which 50% of the executive members must be present.

ARTICLE IX. IMPEACHMENT

Section 1. A motion to remove a member of the association must be signed by at least five percent of the regular members of the association.

Section 2. The motion shall be presented in writing at a regular meeting of the association where it shall be inscribed on the agenda of the next meeting of the association, whereupon the impeached individual will be given the right to defend his/her actions.

Section 3. Once a motion for impeachment is presented and defended, impeachment may occur by a majority vote from the remaining members of the executive.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Amendments to this constitution may be made at any regular meetings of BRASA UofS provided that notice of the proposed amendment was given two weeks prior to a vote. Amendments require a three-fourths vote of the executive members in attendance at the meeting.

ARTICLE XII. AFFILIATION

The association is not an agent of BRASA and the Graduate Students Association of the University of Saskatchewan (GSA). The association's views and actions do not represent those of BRASA and GSA.

Constitution of Pakistani Students' Association (PKSA), University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Article 1 – Name

The official name of the club shall be “***Pakistani Students' Association (PKSA), University of Saskatchewan***”. No other name shall be used in the advertisement or representation of the club.

Article 2 – Purpose of the association:

The primary purposes/objectives of this association are to:

- 2.1 Provide a concrete platform to gather all Pakistani students and others at U of S under one umbrella.
- 2.2 Host social events to provide entertainment outlets for current students and to promote Pakistani culture and heritage at U of S and Saskatoon.
- 2.3 Assist new Pakistani students with pre/post arrival matters to make their transition in life of Saskatoon as smooth as possible.

Article 3 – Membership

- 3.1 PKSA **General membership** is open to all current Graduate and Undergraduate students.
 - General members will enjoy the privilege for:
 - Voting to elect new executive members
 - Participating to be elected as an executive
 - Participating in general meeting
 - Suggesting changes in constitution
 - Getting alerts for events being organized/managed by PKSA along with provision of discounted ticket price
- 3.2 PKSA **Associate membership** is open to all alumni, faculty and staff members at U of S as well as Pakistani community members of Saskatoon.
 - Associate members will enjoy the privilege for:
 - Participating as a member of advisory committee, responsible for holding elections in collaboration with the acting president
 - Advisory committee will consist of three (3) associate members, residents of Saskatoon who will be selected by

Executive Committee.

- Getting alerts for events being organized/managed by PKSA along with provision of discounted ticket price

Article 4 – Executive

4.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- a) President
- b) Vice-President
- c) General Secretary
- d) Treasurer

Article 5 – Eligibility and Duties of the Executive

5.1 President

Eligibility:

Any general member, who has been a member of the association for at least six months prior to the Election Day, is eligible for election to this office.

Responsibilities:

- Oversee all affairs of the association (PKSA)
- Represent association (PKSA) being the chief spokesperson
- Lead the executive committee and coordinate with them
- Call the meeting of executives and general meeting
- Co-sign all financial/legal matters
- Liaise with U of S student union and other student associations

5.2 Vice-President

Eligibility:

Any general member, who has been a member of the association for at least six months prior to the Election Day, is eligible for election to this office.

Responsibilities:

- Assist the President in performing his/her duties
- Assumes all powers of the President in his/her absence
- Co-sign all financial/legal matters
- Liaise with other executives and members of the association
- Maintain and update all the information/records of the association

5.3 General Secretary

Eligibility:

Any general member, who has been a member of the association for at least three months prior to the Election Day, is eligible for election to this office.

Responsibilities:

- Writes the minutes of the meetings and circulate to the members
- Facilitate President/Vice President in performing the duties
- Coordinate with social secretary and Secretary-event & sports for planning and execution of events
- Maintain and update official website of the association and maintain the social media accounts
- Plan and execute strategies to raise membership of the club
- Plan social activities in accompanying with secretary- events & sport
- Participate in planning, management and execution of the events
- Develop strategies for promoting Pakistani culture and heritage
- Other duties as assigned by the President

5.4 Treasurer

Eligibility:

Any general member, who has been a member of the association for at least three months prior to the Election Day, is eligible for election to this office.

Responsibilities:

- Deal with financial matters of the association
- Keeps complete record of all financial transactions
- Holds co-signing authority for all financial matters
- Other duties as assigned by the President

Article 6 – Finances

- 6.1 The finances of the organization must be handled exclusively by the organization and kept separate from any other club.
- 6.2 Any surplus resulting from the yearly operation of the club should be transferred to reserve for future use and no part of the surplus shall be payable to any member.

- 6.3 In the event of the dissolution of the club, all surplus and assets should be transferred to a similar group with the same membership and purpose.

Article 7 – Meetings

- 7.1 At least two (2) general meetings shall be held during the academic year, including the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.2 Members must be informed of each meeting at least seven (7) days in advance.
- 7.3 Quorum shall consist of sixty percent (60%) of the members.
- 7.4 President can call executive member's meeting for any agenda at any time, by giving three (3) days prior notice.

Article 8 – Elections

- 8.1 The Executive Committee of the club must be elected by the majority vote of the general association members.
- 8.2 The election shall be held by secret ballot.
- 8.3 The election shall be held each year in first General meeting of the year (January) under the supervision of advisory committee, which will be facilitated by the acting President, Vice President, General Secretary and Social secretary.
- 8.4 Any General Member can nominate himself/herself for any executive position, however, advisory committee will determine if they meet the prescribed criteria for the position.
- 8.5 One person cannot contest in more than one position in the election.
- 8.6 In case of any executive member is unable to perform his/her duties for any reason, president in consultation with other executives can assign a temporary replacement for that position for up to two months then the elections will be held to choose a permanent executive.
- 8.7 The office will be handed over to the new elected members of the Executive Committee in an annual ceremony after 1st week of election. The past committee is solely responsible to hand over all necessary documents to the newly elected Executive Committee members; those were inherited and maintained by them.

Article 9 – Amendments

- 9.1 Amendments to the constitution can be made at the General Meeting.
- 9.2 Amendments to the constitution must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present.

Article 10 – Impeachment

- 10.1 A motion to remove a member of the club must be signed by at least five percent

(5%) and for any executive member motion should be signed by at least twenty five percent (25%) of the members of the club.

- 10.2 The motion can be presented in writing at a regular meeting or can be submitted to the President/ Vice-President or to advisory committee of the club, which shall be inscribed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the club, whereupon the impeached individual will be given the right to defend his/her actions.
- 10.3 A quorum of one half (1/2) of the voting members of the club is required to consider a motion to remove a member/executive of the club.
- 10.4 A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present shall be required to remove a member of the club and any responsibilities or privileges associated with such.

ARTICLE 11 - Privacy Act

The information provided to PKSA will be maintained in a confidential and secure manner and will only be utilized for which they were collected.

Article 12 – Agency

The club is not an agent of the GSA and the club's views and actions do not represent those of the GSA.

University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

GSA President Report – March, 2018

It is my great pleasure to provide the GSA Council members with some updates on the GSA activities and initiatives over last month.

The GSA is pleased with the level of our graduate student engagement in important discussion regarding tuition and other important topics. In this month's report, I will focus on two main topics.

I. Graduate Student Representation on the University Board of Governors

As I reported to the Council in February, the University of Saskatchewan Council has support in principle the GSA stance in the importance of having graduate student representation on the University Board. We are working to build on this momentum to ensure this proposal will be on the right track as this is the very first time in recent GSA memory that such a statement has been made in such a clear and positive manner by the University Council, which is clearly general agreement on the importance of having graduate student voice at the highest level of Governance at the University as a research-intensive university.

II. Tuition Consultation with graduate students and graduate student funding

On March 1st, the CGPS organized a tuition consultation session with graduate student. Graduate student feedback in such meeting play important role in University tuition setting. The GSA has communicated its stance with all stockholders that graduate tuition fees should always ensure affordability and accessibility for graduate education in the University, that includes differential fees for international graduate student.

Ziad Ghaith,

President, Graduate Students' Association

Monthly Report from the VP Finance and Operations (March 2018)

Good Day GSA members,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on my activities as the Vice-President Finance and Operations. Attached to this report please find an updated FY 17/18 Operational Budget (also updated and posted on the GSA website).

First, let me congratulate Edgar Martínez Soberanes and VP Ali Kiani for the successful 3MT event. My hearty congratulations to all the participants and winners.

Since my successful by-election things have been moving at a frenetic pace. I am relieved to report that virtually all of the outstanding work in this portfolio has been completed (with the generous assistance of our VP External Naheda Sahtout). Payments to all major partners including StudentCare (the Health and Dental Provider), The Canadian Federation of Students, along with the City of Saskatoon Transit Division (UPASS provider) are now up to date. My main focus going forward for the remainder of the term will be on our year-end financials, engagement reviews with the auditors, the 2018/19 Budget, and an upcoming Tax Clinic (see section four below).

In addition to completing these important tasks I have been trying to bring about a more philosophical change regarding GSA spending. An increased degree of strictness in regards to our spending needs to be adopted and current levels of inventory/need must be better taken into account before any expenditures. I have had the chance to conduct a basic inventory of the Commons and I have observed that things had been and were being ordered even though there was already an ample supply. This oversupply is particularly problematic when it comes to perishable items. Regrettably, due to expiry dates, the GSA has had to and will have to dispose of substantial amounts of perishable goods that were purchased for the Fall Orientation. This is a disappointing write-off of the GSA's limited resources. As mentioned, in the future any inventory ordering will have to be done with a high degree of stringency. Unused perishable items must be returned the day of or day after the event in order to prevent this from happening in the future.

1. Bursaries:

The Bursary Committee met over a period of two days to review 103 completed applications. Based on the funds that we have available we were able to distribute 22 bursaries. All successful recipients have been contacted. I would encourage those who were unsuccessful to consider applying again in the future as you not being selected was likely more in part due to our funding constraints versus the quality of your application.

The Honourable GSA President and Executive Team continue to lobby the University Administration for more match funding for our bursaries. The Budget Committee is also examining ways to increase our funding for bursaries.

2. Supporting our Members:

Council Funding cheques for the Geology and MBA Councils are available for pickup in the main GSA office or contact me via email at gsa.fin@mail.usask.ca and I would be glad to provide them to you. The Executive of the GSA has made a decision that stale-dated cheques from previous year(s) will not be reissued.

The GSA was pleased to be able to offer support to ARCHAIA for their Coffee House Special Event and we wish them success.

3. The GSA Budget for FY 2018/29:

As I noted, the GSA Finance and Budget Committee had its first meeting of the year with the aim to present the FY 2018/19 Operational Budget to both the GSA Council and GSA Board in April. Budget lines will now match up with the chart of accounting codes provided by our bookkeeper and that are used in our Quickbooks accounting software. I hope that this new procedure will aid in record keeping going forward and allow for better comparisons going forward.

Our Bylaws state that the budget is to be approved via the Board. But, there is nothing to preclude our GSA Council from also approving it in an effort to be more open and collaborative.

GSA Executives and general members have provided feedback about potential areas that need more funding or potential new budget lines going forward and I welcome feedback, ideas, or questions from all GSA members.

4. Tax Clinic

The GSA will be hosting a “Free Tax Clinic” event coming up the first week of April. (April 2, 3, 4, and 6th) from 4:00PM to 7:00PM in the Commons. What this event entails is a group of trained volunteers helping graduate students with their basic Canadian Income Tax returns. All graduate students are eligible to participate provided they have: A Social Insurance Number, and/or/ Individual Taxation Number, and/or Temporary taxation number.

The volunteer training is provided by webinars under the Canada Volunteer Income Tax Program (part of the Canada Revenue Agency).

5. Other Updates:

Our previous Bookkeeper was no longer able to fit the GSA into her schedule. She gave us a referral to a colleague and will facilitate that transition. The President and I are looking forward to meeting her the Week of March 19th.

As the President noted in a previous Council Meeting, a committee of Executives, Councillors and an outside advisor from University HR was formed to recruit a new office manager. CVs were diligently reviewed, candidates shortlisted and interviews were conducted. This was a time consuming and intensive process. We had to make a very challenging decision as there were many strong candidates. At the time of writing this report we are in the process of finalizing this process and look forward to having a new team member in the near future.

In addition to our regular Executive Committee meeting I was honoured to represent the GSA the Global Villages Event where the slogan was “Celebrating Cultures Beyond Borders.” I noted that the GSA is an organization that really represents the internationalization that our University values. The GSA is a very diverse and international organization, we have leaders and members from across the world and about 35% of our graduate student members are international. I also attended and presented the GSA address at the University Council Meeting on March 15th, I also attended the MoU Signing between the University and the City of Saskatoon April 28th, the Graduate Tuition Consultation on March 1st (where our members performed admirably in a challenging environment), I also worked several shifts in the main office.

As per GSA Bylaw Section 5.3.4 and 5.3.6 I declare that each Executive member will be given an honorarium of \$533.33 for the month of March. The Honoraria rate of the GSA Executive is now posted on the website in accordance with our bylaws. Further, each GSA Executive member will received approximately \$1300.00 from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for the month of March in the form of GSFs.

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

Sincerely,

David Bennett

Vice-President Finance and Operations.
Graduate Students' Association

Graduate Students' Association 2017-18 Budget Revenues

	Fee-Based	2017-18 Budgeted	2017-18 YtD Actual	Variance + (-)	
1	GSA Membership Fees	215,000.00	215,609.47	609.47	
2	UPASS Administration	11,000.00	11490.82	490.82	
	Fundraising/Sales Based				
3	GSA Commons Bookings	13,000.00	9512.50	(3487.50)	
4	GSA/CFS Handbook Advertisement Sales	700.00	900.00	200.00	
5	Orientation Fundraising/Support	1,500.00	1600.00	100	
6	3MT and GSA Conference Fundraising/Support	-	5000.00	5000.00	
7	GSA Awards Gala Fundraising / Sponsorship	-	28,700.00	28,700.00	
8	GSA Awards Gala Ticket Sales	-			
	Other Revenues				
9	USASK Cold Beverage Agreement	6,000.00	0.00	(6000.00)	
10	H&D Continuum Revenues	-	266.12	266.62	
11	GSA Event Sales	-	1717.25	1717.25	
12	ISIC Card Sales	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	
13	Notary Services	100.00	90.00	(10.00)	
14	Donations	15,000.00	12,000.00	(3000.00)	1000 for CFS Travel, 5000 for AV, 6000 for Audit
15	Health Chats	500.00	500.00	0	
17*	GSA Sustainability Slam		695.67	695.67	
	TOTAL	262,900.00	287,931.83		
			252514.48		
			(number w/ no flow through donations)		

Graduate Students' Association 2017-18 Budget Expenses

	Staff Salaries and Executive Honoraria	2017-18 Budgeted	2017-18 YtD Actual	Variance + (-)	
16	Office Staff & Coordinators	70,000.00	49571.95	20428.05	
17	Indigenous Liason Honorarium	6400.00	5333.33	1066.70	
18	President's Honorarium	7000.00	5783.30	1216.70	
19	VP External Honorarium	6400.00	4799.97	1600.03	
20	VP Student Affairs Honorarium	6400.00	5333.33	1066.70	
21	VP Operations and Finance	6400.00	4827.63	1572.37	
22	Bookkeeper	6000.00	6127.20	(127.20)	
	Executive Operations				
23	Executive Travel	4000.00	3092.51	97.49	+1000 from CFS
24	Executive Business Cards & Name tags	250.00	268.66	(18.66)	
25	Executive Meeting & Retreat Expenses	250.00	167.12	82.88	
26	President's Discretionary Fund	400.00	283.42	116.58	
27	VP External Discretionary Fund	400.00	200.59	199.41	
28	VP Student Affairs Discretionary Fund	400.00	30.62	369.38	
29	VP Operations and Finance Discretionary Fund	400.00	148.45	251.55	
30	Indigenous Liason Discretionary Fund	400.00	35.00	365.00	
	GSA Financial Expenses				
31	Historic and Annual Financial Audits	14,000.00	5883.00	8117.00	
32	Internal Audits and Legal Costs	25,000.00	17487.54	7512.46	
33	Banking and Credit Fees	1,100.00	609.36	490.64	
	GSA Operating Costs				
34	Commons Renewal and Repair	1500.00	572.59	927.41	
35	Commons Liability Insurance	4500.00	4373.00	127.00	
36	GSA D&O Insurance	2400.00	1088.00	1312.00	
37	Telephone, Fax, and Internet Costs	2000.00	1495.39	504.65	
38	Building Lease	15.00	12.60	2.40	
39	Incorporation, ISC, and WCB Fees	250.00	196.99	53.01	
40	ICT Tech Support	250.00	175.99	74.01	
41	A/V System and Projector Replacement	5000.00	0.00	5000.00	
	GSA Equipment and Supplies				
42	Commons Supplies	1500.00	1761.83	(261.83)	
43	Postage and Courier	300.00	274.59	25.41	
44	Office Supplies and Stationary	1300.00	1151.58	148.42	
45	Electronic Equipment, Software, and Batteries	800.00	994.49	(193.49)	

	Staff Salaries and Executive Honoraria	2017-18 Budgeted	2017-18 YtD Actual	Variance + (-)	
	GSA Council and Board Operations				
46	GSA Academic Council Funding	5000.00	4,410.67	589.33	
47	GSA Academic Council Food & Beverage	3000.00	2779.20	221.00	
48	Townhall Food & Beverage	0.00	0.00	500.00	
49	Standing Committees Food & Beverage	1000.00	394.85	692.00	
50	GSA Chairperson Honorarium	800.00	412.89	387.11	
51	GSA Recording Secretary Honorarium	1000.00	546.05	453.95	
52	GSA Returning/Electoral Officer Honorarium & Election Expenses	1250.00	772.42	477.58	
	GSA Services				
53	UPASS Administration Fee	11,000.00	12077.10	(1077.10)	
54	GSA Handbook Services	5000.00	3580.50	1419.50	
	GSA Events				
55	GSA Awards Gala	28,700*	4036.61	23663.39	
56	GSA 3MT & Conference	5000*	21.99	4978.01	
57	GSA Fall Orientation	7000.00	8431.62	(1431.62)	
58	GSA Winter Orientation	800.00	743.18	56.82	
59	GSA Campus Rec./Intramural Sports	600.00	150.00	450.00	
60	GSA Social Events	500.00	1219.79	(719.79)	
61	GSA Workshops	500.00	293.69	206.31	
62	GSA New Initiatives	435.00	0.00	435.00	
63	GSA Health Chats	500.00	513.77	(13.77)	
77*	GSA Sustainability Slam		695.67	(695.67)	
	Student Support and Bursaries				
65	Graduate Student Club Funding	5,000.00	4350.00	650.00	
66	GSA Needs-based Bursary	22,000.00	22,000.00	0	
67	U of S Travel Award Contribution	7,000.00	7000.00	0	
68	U of S Crisis Program Loan/Grant Contribution	5,000.00	5,000.00	0	
69	GSA Financial & Legal Contingency Fund	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	
	TOTAL	262,400.00	201,510.03		



Graduate Students' Association
Ali Kiani
VP Student Affairs Report
March 20th, 2018

Fellow GSA Council Members,

I am pleased to report that the 2018 Three Minute Thesis took place on March 15. More than 40 participants were present in this event. In addition, we had great audience in the GSA common and they had a positive feedback about this event. There was also four panel judges. Panel judges were from different area such as government, business and university. For the opening session, we had two-guest speaker: Mayor Clark and Dr. Trever Deans of CGPS. The Three Minute Thesis had three winners. These winners will received money prize and one free ticket to the 2018 GSA Gala held on April 7. There were also four honourable mentions who each received one free ticket to the GSA Gala.

For the 3MT we raised funds from two colleges. The first was The College of Medicine in the amount of \$500 dollars. The second was The College of Engineering in the amount of \$500 dollars.

In summary the Three Minute Thesis and Graduate Student Research Conference was a rewarding and successful event. However, as with all events held at an institution as diverse and busy as The University of Saskatchewan there is room for improvement.

We are working on Student Survey and trying to send out soon as possible. I am trying to meet with ethic office at the university regarding this matter.

Workshops

We had three workshop for the 3MT and it was great turn out. Lots of students had a question about the event and they were trying to practice for the day of 3MT event.

We will have a workshop on April about work permit in Canada. This is second workshop in this year about this subject because of the needs we felt between grad students. The workshop is for international students to help them to understand the process and requirements to apply for postgraduate work permit as well as to keep their status in Canada.

Academic Advocacy

There are few active academic issues that I am dealing with. I had several meeting with CGPS and students to help about student's issue. CGPS have amazing help in this matter.

Regular Committee Meetings

I have been participating in different meetings with the following committees:

- GSA exec meeting
- President breakfast
- Bursary committee
- Student Forum
- Contacting with students' clubs regarding their applications
- Student advocating
- Working on Graduate student survey



Iloradanon Efimoff
Monthly Report
March 13, 2018

To whom it may concern:

The following is a list of the meetings I have attended since February 16th 2018.

Date	Meetings
Feb 28 th	Breakfast with the President
March 1 st	CGPS Tuition consultation
March 5 th	Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee Meeting
March 8 th	GSA Sustainability Committee Meeting

This month has been quite busy with a variety of activities and initiatives. Namely, Indigenous students on campus are organizing under a new call for an Indigenous Students' Union. As part of this, many Indigenous students are engaging in non-participation in the University's work on Indigenization and Reconciliation. Please see the attached Indigenous Graduate Students' Council report on the matter.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Háw'aa (thank you),

Iloradanon Efimoff



Iloradanon Efimoff
Progress on Annual Plan
March 13, 2018

Indigenization Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indigenous student community is currently engaged in a call for non-participation in University Reconciliation and Indigenization work. Please see attached Indigenous Graduate Students' Council statement.
GSA Guppies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As VP External is captain of the guppies futsal team, she has taken on email responsibilities.
Sustainability Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted money GSA Sustainability meeting with help of VP External.
GSA Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding final touches with Ethics and should be out for students soon.
GSA Twitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to advertise GSA events and initiatives.
Health Chats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to advertise these via Twitter.
GSA Graduate Student Achievement Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selling tickets.
Social Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action (out of town for February social).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Háw'aa (thank you),

Iloradanon Efimoff

March 4th, 2018

The Indigenous Graduate Students' Council (IGSC) is in support of the Indigenous Student Council's statement released on Wednesday, February 28th. **We will be non-participating in any work at University of Saskatchewan related to Indigenization and Reconciliation.** We call upon the University and its affiliates to give Indigenous students time to strategize and discuss the creation of an Indigenous Students' Union (ISU). **In our perspective, any current conversation by the University of Saskatchewan on Indigenization and Reconciliation is occurring without consultation and without the consent of Indigenous students.** As students, we will work with the University in order to formalize our relationship and transcend the colonial boundaries and structures currently in place.

We call on other Indigenous graduate students to also engage in the call for non-participation. This does not extend to any thesis or research related endeavours regarding Indigenization and Reconciliation; as graduate students ourselves, we greatly understand the importance of your graduate work. The IGSC has taken this stance because the vast majority of Indigenous students on campus are not represented in any formal way. We are divided across campus in different departments and colleges, and have limited capacity to making our voices heard. This not only inhibits us from discussing our concerns and opinions regarding the University's process towards Indigenization and Reconciliation, but also prevents us from forming important connections with our community during difficult times. In days after the Stanley and Cormier verdicts, the culture on campus changed, and now more than ever we need our community.

Many colonial systems exist on our campus and continue to negatively impact us. From our experience as graduate students, Western ways of knowing and structures are valued over Indigenous ones. This inevitably subjugates our culture and denigrates our self-empowerment. It is through our community that Indigenous students connect, heal, and have the opportunity to represent ourselves on our own terms. **We call for the creation of an Indigenous Students' Union (ISU).** An ISU is a way to address these issues through recognizing and establishing Indigenous self-governance at the University, and for Indigenous students across campus to continue important work with, by, and for Indigenous communities.

True Indigenization and Reconciliation can only be attained if Indigenous students are provided space to fully express and embody their identities. Part of Indigenous identity is self-governance and self-determination. If the university is genuine in their attempts to Indigenize and Reconcile, we hope that they will make space for all aspects of Indigenous students' identities, including the need to self-govern.

Our executive council is 75% women, who have discussed this topic extensively. We believe in the strength of our women, our men, our two-spirited folks, and our community to come together and move forward with hope and good relations. Although we represent Indigenous graduate students, it is our responsibility to come together and support our entire Indigenous student community.

Many have been asking us about the plan for an ISU and immediately dismissing the idea due to seemingly insurmountable barriers Indigenous people face because of colonialism. We are strong and resilient, and we stand in the presence of our ancestors. **Even though each student involved has only been here for a short time, collectively we have been here for hundreds of years** – our institutional knowledge is long, and we believe we are working towards a feasible and favourable alternative. As Indigenous graduate students, we work closely with and understand that many members of our Indigenous community are currently employed at the University of Saskatchewan as staff, faculty, or administration. We acknowledge their positionality in the process of creating an ISU, and believe in their ability and commitment to the self-governance of Indigenous students. We will continue to work with our entire community and the University of Saskatchewan to move forward in a good way. A call for non-participation will give us needed time and space to strategize as a community.

Kinanaskomitin, Hāw'aa, Miigwetch, Maarcii, Oleonid, Thank you.
The Indigenous Graduate Students' Council Executive.



March 2018

RE: VP External Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

I sincerely apologize for not having a report written for the February Council Meeting. Please find below my March report to Council.

1) Diversity Launch

The Diversity Committee has invested its time in organizing a Diversity and Equity launch with the sole purpose of ensuring that our members feel safe and engaged. The GSA acknowledges that we are a diverse group of students and it is important that our members feel comfortable approaching us with their problems and concerns. The launch will occur on March 28, 2018 @ 3:30 PM. We will be having speakers and activities and light supper will be provided.

2) Health and Wellness

The GSA has continued to host Health Chat sessions this term, starting with a Self Defence session on February 1st. On February 26 we hosted a nutrition session, and although there were no attendees, the popcorn was distributed to the on-campus community. On March 23, we will be hosting an Art Therapy session.

3) Annual Awards Gala

The GSA has received generous donations amounting to CAD 29,200 for the Gala. Members of senior administration and several government dignitaries have confirmed their attendance. This will be an evening of celebrating our graduate students. Door prizes are being solicited. Tickets are being sold in the GSA Commons or by contacting gsa.external@usask.ca.

4) Work on supporting the efforts of ThinkGrad.

As secretary of ThinkGrad, I am carefully working with the host institution for April's meeting to relay information to members with regards to the specifics.

5) Reclaiming our Bodies and Minds Conference

The GSA was fortunate to receive funding from CFS to send a member of the Diversity Committee to attend this conference in Toronto, Ontario.

As well, I will continue to play my part in the multiple committees that I participate in, both at the GSA, CGPS and University level.



Graduate Students' Association
University of Saskatchewan

1337 College Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 0W6
Phone: (306) 966-8471 Fax: (306) 966-8598
Email: gsa.admn@usask.ca

The following is an updated list of meetings I have attended, since the January report.

Date	Meeting
January 22, 2018	GSA Sustainability Committee Meeting
January 23, 2018	GSA Executive Meeting
January 24, 2018	International Activities Committee Meeting GSA Health and Dental Committee Meeting GSA Board Meeting
January 25, 2018	Presidents Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting ThinkGrad Conference Call Conference Call with Auditor Meeting with Director of Student Services Faith Leadership Council
January 26, 2018	Co-curricular records GSA Health and Dental Committee Meeting
January 28, 2018	Canadian Federation of Students, Saskatchewan Conference Call
January 29, 2018	Meeting with Bookkeeper
January 30, 2018	Co-curricular Records Meeting GSA Council Meeting
January 31, 2018	Academic Programs Committee Meeting
February 1, 2018	CGPS Equity and International Committee Meeting
February 6, 2018	University Rankings Working Group
February 7, 2018	Planning and Priorities Committee
February 12, 2018	GSA Sustainability Committee Meeting
February 13, 2018	GSA Executive Meeting
February 15, 2018	Career Meet-Up Sustainability Slam
February 16, 2018	GSA Finance and Budget Committee Meeting GSA Valentine's Social
February 20, 2018	GSA Executive Meeting
February 21, 2018	Saskatchewan Student Coalition International Activities Committee
February 26, 2018	CGPS Interdisciplinary Committee
February 27, 2018	GSA Council Meeting
February 28, 2018	Presidents Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting
February 29, 2018	Academic Programs Committee
March 1, 2018	Conference ROBAM Meeting Meeting with Facilities Management Division Tuition Consolation with Dean, CGPS
March 5, 2018	Lunch Meeting with Director of Student Services Faith Leadership Council Interview
March 6, 2018	Meeting with Residence ThinkGrad Conference Call
March 7, 2018	Delta Bessborough Meeting for Gala



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March 8, 2018	GSA Diversity Committee Meeting Vice-Dean Faculty Relations Search Committee GSA Sustainability Committee Meeting
March 12, 2018	GSA Awards Committee Meeting
March 13, 2018	GSA Executive Meeting
March 14, 2018	One Day for Students Luncheon GSA Awards Committee Meeting
March 15, 2018	CGPS Equity and International Committee University Council 3MT Competition
March 16, 2018	GSA Awards Committee