



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 8 2020. WebEx Meeting*

As Council gathers, we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Attendance: See appendix A

**WebEx Meeting: The December 8th, 2020 Council Meeting took place via WebEx due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19, where the Government of Saskatchewan made directives to practice social distancing in order to curb the spread of the virus.*

1. Call to Order

All Council Members were emailed the Agenda package, as well as the WebEx meeting link with the meeting number and password to participate online. The University of Saskatchewan sustainability strategy was also attached to the same email. The Chair of Council officially welcomed Members of Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM after quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Asiyah Suchak, the Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda as circulated. No amendments were put forward.

Motion to approve the agenda. (Gill/Inam)

Carried

3. Guest from Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) – Jesse Todd

The Chair introduced the speaker who gave his presentation.

President Inam: How would students get into contact with PSAC if they had a conflict in regard to their agreement?

PSAC Representative: Email is best. Documents can be unclear so I can help as a resource who can get students through their employment experience.

President Inam: What is the tuition consultation process for the university?

PSAC Representative: Academic and employment is separate so they would not consult PSAC, but it does directly affect us as the more tuition is, the more it takes out of the pockets of graduate students. PSAC acts as a resource because we have organizational power. We were going to host a rally about the tuition increases before Covid-19, but everything got put on pause. My email is toddj@psac-afpc.com so you can reach me here for any future questions.

4. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2020

The Chair asked if there were any suggested changes before the minutes were approved.

President Imam had a minor amendment, which the Chair assured her would be fixed right away. The Chair asked if there were any other amendments, there was none.

Motion to approve the November 10, 2020 minutes. (Mellidez/Ramin)

Carried

5. Guest from the University of Saskatchewan Office of Sustainability – Sustainability Strategy

Dr. Creed gave her presentation.

Councillor: Are you able to speak to diverse learners?

Dr. Creed: The belief is that to serve that community we need to be much more flexible in the way we deliver our programs, and the learning community is diverse.

Councillor: What are the University's goals for carbon emission reduction? The goals for carbon emissions reduction are easier made than achieved. Has there been thought put into achieving this 40% reduction goal and if there are any concrete strategies?

Dr. Creed: I am quite serious about achieving the commitments when I propose these changes. They have to be approved by the three bodies of government of the university. The first step is to work on an implementation strategy done through hiring a sustainability advisor and everyone has to come together to work with the City, Indigenous people and the Province as a whole. There are small ways such as lighting and fixtures and big ways such as changing the energy source. I have a list of ideas already, but I am also hoping graduate student will become involved.

Councillor: Will there be another round of engagement with the community, the City and the university once it is approved?

Dr. Creed: Of course. We had already planned this but Covid-19, put a pin in that so we decided to look towards approval and then again, the student body community and City once we are able to meet in public again for discussions.

The chair asked if there were any more questions. There were no further questions for Dr. Creed. The Chair thanked her for her presentation.

6. Guest from the College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies (CGPS) – Dean, Debby Burshtyn

The Chair introduced the Dean of CGPS who gave her presentation. There was a question for the Dean.

Councillor: What efforts are going to be made to include people with disabilities as a community in the university?

Dean Burshtyn: This is definitely a systemic issue, but it is not a uniform one. When it comes to Equity Diversity Inclusion (EDI) we talk about training and awareness, which is fundamental, but it is not enough. I need to learn what the barriers are that are being put up, what are the obstacles that need to be pulled down. There has been a shift towards creating an inclusive environment. It has to be a safe place for these problems to come forward and be brought out. I cannot make sweeping judgements, but I do understand that communication is a barrier. One of the strategic priorities for the Associate Dean is to consult with students and employees to find out what these barriers are and what can be done to bring them down.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions for the Dean. As there were none, she thanked the Dean for coming out to present. The Dean asked the GSA to email any problems to her. The Chair thanked her for her time and presentation.

7. Approval of minutes from November 20, 2020 from the Elections and Referenda Committee

*Motion to approve the November 20, 2020 minutes of the Elections and Referenda Committee.
(Ramin/Kroeker)*

Carried

8. Approval of Minutes from November 2020 Bursary Selection committee

Motion to approve the minutes from November 2020, Bursary Selection Committee (Mellidez/Inam)

Carried

9. Information to be received

- a. Executive meeting minutes from November 5, 2020

Motion to receive agenda item 9a (Mellidez/Gill)

- b. Executive meeting minutes from November 19, 2020

Motion to receive agenda item 9b (Gill/Ramin).

Carried

10. GSA Executives Report

a. President's Report

The President presented her report to Council. There were no questions for President Inam.

b. Vice President Finance and Operations Report

The Vice President Finance and Operations presented his report to Council. There were no questions for VP Ramin.

c. Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report

The Vice President Academic and Student Affairs presented her report to Council. There were no questions for VP Mellidez.

d. Vice President External Affairs Report

The Vice President External Affairs presented his report to Council. There were no questions for VP Gill.

11. Other Business/Announcement

Councillor: It relates to the UPASS. I'm with the Soil Science Student Graduate Association (SSGSA) and my student group feels like there should be a better way to opt out for students in SK.

President Inam: Although it is not ideal, it is the compromise that had to be made in order to serve all students as SaskTransit made it challenging. This was the best compromise that we could come up with. I would be happy to discuss it further over email via gsa.pres@usask.ca

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:32 pm. (Gill/Sajid)

Carried

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councillors and (alternates)	Sep.22 2020	Oct.10 2019	Nov.10 2020	Dec.8 2020	Jan.26 2021	Feb.23 2021	Mar.16 2021	Apr.6 2021	Jun. 2021	Aug. 2021
Agricultural and Resources Economics (ARE) Graduate Student Association	Darnell Holt (Chloe Smith Lopez)	N/A	N/A	P	P						
ARCHAIA	Taylor Eagle (Angela Burant)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P						
Biology Graduate Student Association	Mercy Harris (Dylan Baloun) (Joseph Abrams)	P	P	P	P						
Chemistry Course Council	Iyanu Kumayon Doug Fansher	N/A	P	P	A						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kayla J. Cropper (Kushagra Parolia)	N/A	P	P	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Gabrielle Mercier (Ashley Sutherland)	N/A	P	P	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon (Azadeh Nazeran)	N/A	P	P	P						
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen (Una Goncin)	N/A	P	P	P						
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji Saikat Mondal (Sristy Sumana Nath)	A	P	P	P						

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Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Ninu Kallingal Mohandas (Tahereh Najib)	N/A	P	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Arman Haghaniyar (Alizadeh Sardroud)	N/A	P	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Fahimeh Esmi (Khaled, Zoroufchi Benis)	N/A	P	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Ajay Shrinivas Muthukumar (Hamed Beiranvand Mohammad)	N/A	P	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Karim Shahbazi (Mahdiyar Molahasani)	N/A	P	P	P						
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Tonye Jack (Alireza Razmavar)	N/A	P	P	P						
English Course Council	Tricia Monsour (Darius Simonot) (Amanda Burrows)	N/A	P	R	P						
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Students' Association	Brady Kroeker (Ahmed Abunada)	N/A	A	P	P						
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Natalie Houser (KC Hall)	P	P	P	P						

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Physical and Engineering Physics -PEGASUS	Kimberlee Dube (Nicholas Simonson)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P						
Pharmacy & Nutrition Graduate Students' Council	Sukanya Pati (Ayat Zagzoog)	N/A	N/A	P	R						
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Matthew Reichert Cherise Schlekewy	N/A	N/A	P	P						
SENSA	Mostofa Kamal Mariana Campos (Jaclyn Porter) (Rory Wheat)	N/A	P	A	A						
SPHSA	Aisha Sajid Maha Khan (Maggie Coupland) (Daniel Medina)	N/A	P	P	P						
Sociology GSA	Connor Morrison Maria Cruz (Alana Demkiw)	P	P	A	P						
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Amy Jimmo (Aimée Schryer)	N/A	P	A	P						
Toxicology Graduate Students' Association	Alana Weber (Jensen Cherewyk)	A	R	P	P						
Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVI) GSA	Miranda Zwiefelhofer Michelle Tucker Jennifer Abi Younes	P	P	A	P						

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Exec. President	Humaira Inam	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Hadi Ramin	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Carmen Marquez Mellidez	R	P	R	P						
Exec. VP External Affairs	Qasim Shahzad Gill	P	P	P	P						
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Tina Alexis	N/A	N/A	N/A	P						