



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 23, 2021. 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 February 23, 2021 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 newly elected Chair of Council welcomed the 2020/2021 Members of Councilors to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM after quorum for the meeting had been met. Ms. Asiyah Suchak, the Secretary of Council compiled the meeting minutes. The Chair thanked Member of Council for electing him.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Motion to approve the Agenda. (Gannon/Gill)

Carried

3. Guest: Provost and VP Academic

The Provost and VP Academic, Dr. Airini, thanked the Chair for the introduction and greeted everyone in many of the language's representative of the graduate student body. Dr. Airini thanked the executives for their warm welcome and the good work of the GSA. She introduced with her was, Dr. Patti McDougall the Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience. Dr. McDougall thanked the executives, for their dedication to the GSA and all the work they have done to look out for the student body.

Question from Council Member, Proulx-Cullen:

What do you see the challenges to be for graduate students in the midst of this pandemic and the future with so many uncertainties as well as looking at the UN's suggested sustainability goals?

Answer from Dr. Airini:

I am uplifted by her concern and thoughts about the sustainability goals of the UN and the planet amidst all that is happening. I believe that the planet has had a chance to rest and breathe as much as there has been challenges and it has been challenging. There has been a chance as well to think ahead and it is a combination to gather up the stamina we have and being able to be kind and be of community to take that forward in a positive way.

And for the university it looks like taking an expanded view of what it's like to learn in the university world to be sensitive and compassionate and to have a sense of calling to make good of teaching and learning through this pandemic.

It has been year of the challenges and we have to find space and look at rights for ourselves, the health space and to give ourselves the space to switch of and decompress and do what we need to do for ourselves. We have a challenge to honor everything to do with equity, diversity and inclusion and ensuring that we move towards reconciliation in our community. In our university it feels as if we are in the right place, we have four principles that look towards connectivity, diversity, community, and sustainability.

The Chair asked if there were any additional questions. Seeing as there were none, the Chair thanked the Provost and VP Academic and the Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience for being there.

Guest: Huskie Athletics

The Chair introduced guests from Huskie Athletics: Libby Epoch who plays for the women's basketball is the president of the Huskie Athletic Council. Epoch shared that student athletes and volunteers act as a voice between athletes and administration who orchestrate a lot of volunteer activities. Epoch hoped to build a relationship between the GSA and Huskie Athletics by giving an idea of who they are and what they do.

Tanner Lischynsky who plays men's hockey, works in community engagement for the Huskie Athletic Council. Lischynsky went over the various community engagement programs and charities they work with. Micha Strueby talked about Huskie Athletics grass root programming and summer camps and gave statistics on attendance. Strueby shared that Huskie Athletics provides an opportunity for students and community to come together and celebrate.

In the field of play they have a role in the community such as volunteering, coaching, fundraising, mentoring, and advocating for charities. Looking at financials they can give us specifics and connect us with their chief financial officer. Strueby added that they bring in around \$20 million dollars which goes back into the community. Within alumni and philanthropy there are some major donors as well as corporate sponsors. As well Huskie Athletics has one of the premier sports

programs in the country with a large number of All Academic Athletes.

Addison Dewar the VP of student engagement of Huskie Athletic Council presented options for collaboration between the GSA and Huskie Athletics to take a productive step in furthering their relationship with the GSA in the future after going over a list of potential ways to collaborate.

Question from President Inam:

Are there any statistics on graduate student attendance and participation as you went over student engagement?

Answer from Huskie Athletics, (Epoch):

It is hard to reach graduate students, as we don't have the numbers on hand. We did have numbers about graduate student employment, but we also want to increase graduate student engagement.

Question from Council Member, Harris:

Are there any Huskie athletes who are graduate students?

Answer from Huskie Athletics (Epoch):

Being both is very time consuming, but I know of a couple of students in dentistry and medicine.

Question from President Inam:

What do the Huskie Athletics look like with the pandemic as games are on hold. Where are the fees we are paying going?

Answer from Huskie Athletics (Epoch):

We were practicing as if the season was still on and then they were shut down in December. We are now on hold since March, but some are still allowed training and physiotherapy is still opened.

The Chair thanked the members from Huskie Athletics for their presentation and wished them the best.

4. Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2021

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

Motion to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes. (Cullen/Gill).

Carried

5. Information to be received

- a. January 28, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes

Motion to receive agenda item 5a (Gannon/Sajid)

Carried

6. 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 new Vice President Finance and Operations presented her report to Council. There were no questions for VP Mendoza.

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 Marquez Mellidez.

d. Vice President External Affairs Report

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

e. Vice President Indigenous Engagement (Verbal Report)

The Vice President Indigenous Engagement was not in attendance and the President issued apologies on her behalf.

7. Motion: Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) fees (details attached)

VP Mendoza was invited to speak on the motion after which the Chair opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Question from Council Member, Sajid:

Why is it being increased?

Answer from VP Mendoza:

It increases every year based on the cities expenses and the consumer price index (CPI).

The Chair asked if there were any other questions. There were no questions.

Motion to approve the increase to the CFS fees from \$6.35 to \$6.44 per term (Mendoza/Inam)

Carried

8. Student with Disabilities: Academic, Accommodation and Access (AES) Policy Review (details attached)

President Inam asked for anyone interested in consulting to email her as it is a review of policies that impacts students with disabilities on campus.

The Chair asked if there were any questions.

Question from Council Member, Proulx-Cullen:

When the term disability is used, is it all encompassing? This word is meant to include all categories, right? There is no one being excluded?

Answer from President Inam:

That is correct.

The Chair asked for any other questions, there were none.

9. GSA Fees for 2021 – 2022 Academic year

- a. GSA Membership Fee
- b. Health and Dental Plan Fees

President Inam shared that the GSA membership fee and the health and dental plan fees will not be changing.

10. Graduate Research Conference (GRC)

President Inam informed Council that the GRC was discussed, and it is cancelled due to the transition period of waiting to fill the VP Finance and Operations position, who had resigned. Thus the conference could not be arranged and organized in time.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Question from Council Member, Sajid:

Will there be any event to make up for this conference?

Answer from President Inam:

Apologies for that, there will be nothing to replace it, but it can be related to the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

The Chair asked if there are any more question. None were raised.

11. Other Business/Announcement

No other business was brought up.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:04 pm. (Sajid/Holt)

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	P	P				
ARCHAIA	Taylor Eagle (Angela Burant)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	A	A				
Biology Graduate Student Association	Mercy Harris (Dylan Baloun) (Joseph Abrams)	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Chemistry Course Council	Iyanu Kumayon Doug Fansher	N/A	P	P	A	P	P				
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Kayla J. Cropper (Kushagra Parolia)	N/A	P	P	P	A	P				
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	Gabrielle Mercier (Ashley Sutherland)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P				
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Amanda Gannon (Azadeh Nazeran)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P				
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen (Una Goncin)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P				
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Fidelia Orji Saikat Mondal (Sristy Sumana Nath)	A	P	P	P	P	P				

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

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

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