

# Graduate Students' Association Special General Meeting Agenda



## University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Special General Meeting Minutes Monday June 2, 2014 12:17 pm – 2:40 pm

### **Attendees:**

Jennifer Briere, David Bennett, Samer Assaf, Dena Burnett, Ansel Clarke, Mary Deutscher, Isaac Pratt, Mylyne Tham, Phil Lagace, Alex Stoddart, Xin Lu, Siyuan Yang, Heemel Datta, Jessica DeWitt, C. Michelle, Desveaux, Frances Reily, Laura Hopkins, Dustin McNicole, Glenn Icetur, Keila Caudillo, Mostafa Ajhbolughy, Balazs Toro, Koza Kmmiz, David Vasoughi, Mitchell Anderson, Ashton Reimer, Mathew Wessel, Lindsay Goodwin, Jason Ho, Gareth Perry, Brendan Elash, Philip Garvey, Sara Worsham, Julian Kimmig, S. Dasgupta, M. Tootosis, Kelly Anne Butler, Kumkum Azad, Adrienne Bangsund, Christopher West, Sarah Purdy, David Smith, Yojuke Yamamoto, Mercedes Martinson, Justin Botterill, Kyle Brymer, Dan Ferguson, Wesam Younis, Abdus Sattar Mia, Farhad Fathieh, Mohsen Sanayli, Nicolas Marlatte, Kayla Lindenback, Anhao Wang, Yunfei Jiang, Dustin Maclean, Samantha Purchase, Dmitry Chesnarov, Marianne Possberg, Maily Huynh, Adar Charlton, Micheal Horzeki, Martin Wingeit, Parisa Ashtijoo, Hamid Alchiar, Ali Sonboli, Seth Duet, Muuen Komale, Dana Carriere, Sepeh Ubteir, Akbar Rohollaho, Jules Hamara, Origauyi Edinsiugh, Laulina Cholango Martinez, Reanne Ridsdale, Cinnaty Loi, Silvia Beschin, Marco Milani, Tuhin Paul, Mousen Shausurt, Bogdan Latainnu, Jessica Cam, Anne Baycroft, Terrance Campbell.

### **Executives:**

President, Izabela Vlahu;  
VP External, Rahwa Osman;  
VP Finance, Mohammad Rafati;  
VP Student Affairs, Ranjat Chakravarty;  
VP Academic, Ranjan Datta;  
Aboriginal Liaison, Dana Carriere.

### **1.0 Call to order - 12:13 pm**

**Student:** Point of Information - According to the non-profit corporations act code of conduct, the GSA is to give 15 days' notice of meetings.

**President Izabela Vlahu:** Proper notice was given considering full house of students. Roberts Rules of order allow the GSA to interpret the constitution when there is no detail. Proper notice was given.

**Student:** Appeal the Chair because provincial Law is being violated.  
Seconded: Ashton Reimer  
Appeal fails.

**President Izabela Vlahu:** Motion is debatable. The Chair has the final say that Robert's Rule of Order does allow the GSA to interpret our bylaws. The GSA is following its bylaws wherever there is something not spelled out as to how we need to handle it. The GSA bylaws leave room for interpretation, which is certainly allowing Robert's Rule of Order. The GSA did have previous AGMs following not a minimum of 15 days of notice. This means it has become a common practise of the GSA to follow its bylaws to understand that the distribution of the agenda to also indicate notice of the meeting. It's up to the room to decide whether this meeting is in order or not.

**All in favour that the meeting is in order.**

## **2.0 Approval of the Agenda**

### **2.1 Motion to approve a chair for the meeting.**

- Moved by Jennifer Briere, seconded by Julian Kimming.
- Motion passes. Add motion to the agenda: "Be it resolved that \_\_\_\_ is appointed as chair person for this meeting".

### **2.2 Izabela suggests remove the CFS item from the agenda, since we don't have the CFS presentation.**

The room approves to remove the CFS item from the agenda.

### **2.3 Motion to add a motion to Agenda:**

WHEREAS the GSA engages in contractual obligations with internal and external bodies (e.g., The City of Saskatoon), and

WHEREAS the GSA has not had prior professional legal consultation on any matters that may require legal consultation (e.g., ensuring good standing with Non-Profit Corporations Act, contractual consultation for U-PASS);

BE IT RESOLVED that the VP Finance, VP External, and VP Student Affairs investigate options for legal consultation with intent to hire professional legal council who is familiar with the Non-Profit Corporations Act for the GSA,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amount of \$12,000 from the GSA reserve fund to be allotted for legal consultation costs for the 2014/2015 fiscal year,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tasks that are critical to GSA operations, such as contractual obligations and ensuring good standing under the Non-Profit Corporations Act, be given priority for legal consultation,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GSA Executive, the Constitution Review Committee, and the Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee also be given priority for GSA-related legal consultation should the need arise.

- Moved by Mohammad Rafati, seconded by Rahwa Osman
- Motion passes, and becomes 8.4 on the Agenda.

### **2.4 Motion to approve the agenda.**

Moved by Sara Worsham, seconded by Rajat Chakravarty.  
All in favour, motion passes.

**3.0 Motion - Be it resolved that Samer Assaf is appointed as chair person for this meeting.**

Moved by Phil Lagace, seconded by S. Dasgudpta.

Discussions:

- Mohammad Rafati suggests Samer Assaf to introduce himself to the room.
  - Samer Asaaf is impartial and familiar with both the bylaws and the Robert's Rule of Order. He would facilitate the debate in the meeting.

Motion passes. Samer Assaf serves as temporary Chair.

**4.0 The room stood in silent tribute to Mark Kroeker.**

**5.0 Motion to approve the last GSA AGM minutes.**

- Moved by Rahwa Osman, Seconded by Sara Worsham.
- Motion passes.

**6.0 Motion 8.1 - Motion to appoint Xin Lu for VP Operations and Communications**

WHEREAS Krystal Caldwell resigned from the VP Operations and Communications position on May 2nd, 2014, and

WHEREAS the GSA Constitution Section 2.2.3 states that "In the absence or unavailability of any one member of the Executive the remaining Executive members may appoint a replacement, who is an association member, subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the GSA Council present and voting at a meeting where notice of a motion of approval has been duly given", and

WHEREAS Xin Lu is a graduate student and member of the GSA

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Xin Lu be appointed to the position of VP Operations and Communications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this appointment be effective on June 1, 2014.

- Moved by the GSA President, Izabela Vlahu, seconded by Koza Kmmiz.
- Motion passes.

Discussions:

- Xin shows the interest for the position, as she is the runner-up for VP Operations. She worked for the previous executives as a minute-taker, volunteered for the Graduate Research Conference. She is experienced and diligent.
- Gareth Perry asked for reasons why the previous VP Operations resigned.
  - The then elected VP Operations Krystal Caldwell sent an email after the previous AGM explicitly asked for the resignation reasons not to be revealed.
- Motion to move the effective date to June 2 from June 1.
  - Moved by David Bennett, seconded by Izabela Vlahu.
  - Motion passes.

**7.0 Motion 8.2 - Motion to approve financial auditor**

WHEREAS the GSA constitution requires a financial audit to be completed each fiscal year, and

WHEREAS the Non-profit Corporation Act, section 149 (1) states that "members of a corporation, by ordinary resolution, at the first annual meeting of members and at

each succeeding annual meeting or meeting mentioned in subsection 123(2), shall appoint an auditor to hold office until the close of the next annual meeting”, and

WHEREAS the GSA Council approved Breen & Associates, CA, (according to GSA constitution 7.2.2) to conduct the audit for the GSA 2011-2012 fiscal year

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Breen & Associates, CA, is hired to conduct the audit for the GSA 2011-2012 fiscal years

Relevant sections from the Non-profit Corporations Act:

149(1) Subject to sections 150 and 151, members of a corporation, by ordinary resolution, at the first annual meeting of members and at each succeeding annual meeting or meeting mentioned in subsection 123(2), shall appoint an auditor to hold office until the close of the next annual meeting.

(2) An auditor appointed pursuant to section 91 is eligible for appointment pursuant to subsection (1).

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), if an auditor is not appointed at a meeting of members, the incumbent auditor continues in office until his or her successor is appointed.

(4) The remuneration of the auditor may be fixed by ordinary resolution of the members or, if not so fixed, may be fixed by the directors.

- Moved by Mohammad Rafati, seconded by Ashton.
- Motion passes

## **8.0 Motion 8.3 - Motion of non-confidence in the program prioritization process known as TransformUS**

WHEREAS the validity of the reason for undertaking the Program Prioritization Process known as TransformUS has been brought into disrepute in light of recent events, and

WHEREAS the debate on TransformUS has been in direct conflict with Academic Freedom, which in turn has jeopardized the transparency of the process, and

WHEREAS the entire process has been instrumental in ruining the reputation of the University of Saskatchewan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Students' Association of the University of Saskatchewan publicly declare non-confidence in the Program Prioritization Process known as TransformUS.

Susan Kimm:

- Motion to make an amendment: change TransformUS to Program prioritization Process: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Students' Association of the University of Saskatchewan publicly declare non-confidence in the Program Prioritization Process.

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- Secunder: Rahwa Osman

Sudipta:

- Motion to make an amendment: change TransformUS to Program prioritization Process in the "WHEREAS" part as well.
- All in favour, motion passes.

Sara:

- Motion to pass a non-confidence vote as a separate motion.

- 25 in favour, 26 oppose, motion rejected.

**Motion 8.3**

- Moved by Izabela Vlahu, seconded by Rhawa Osman.
- Motion passes.

Discussions:

Izabela Vlahu:

- The current program prioritization process known as TransformUS is not transparent. Therefore, students are questioning and reacting to this process. We are not staying passive. Instead, students want to have a voice in governance and want a process they can be a part of.
- At this point, we are only publicly expressing that the GSA doesn't trust the program prioritization process. Decisions can change upon future updates.

**9.0 Quorum is lost. Chair calls to adjourn at 2:40.**