



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 15th, 2023; 17:00-19:00

Meeting Location: GSA Commons and Online

AGENDA

The GSA operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Item	Page	Action
1. Call to Order		
2. Approval of Agenda	1-2	<i>Decision</i>
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes		
3.1 Approval of October 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes	2-10	<i>Decision</i>
4. GSA Executives Reports	11-20	
4.1 President's Report		<i>Information</i>
4.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Report		<i>Information</i>
4.3 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report		<i>Information</i>
4.4 Vice President External Affairs Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>
4.5 Vice President Indigenous Engagement Report		<i>Information</i>
4.6 Questions & Answers		
5. Ratification of GSA Standing Committees	21-22	
5.1 Budget and Finance Committee		
5.2 Bursary Selection Committee		

- 5.3 Elections and Referenda Committee
- 5.4 Governance Committee
- 5.5 Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee
- 5.6 Awards Selection Committee
- 5.7 Sustainability Committee
- 5.8 Diversity Committee

6. Social Club Ratification

- 6.1 Bangladeshi Students' Association at the University of Saskatchewan (BSAUS)
- 6.2 Bridges

7. Other Business

Information

8. Adjournment

Decision



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023. **GSA Commons**

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

Attendance: See appendix A

Chair: Sadia Afrin Lema

Recording Secretary: Sara Nath

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package. The Chair of the Council officially welcomed Members of the Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:07 P. M after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Sara Nath, the Recording Secretary of the Council, compiled the meeting minutes.

Before Approval

- The GSA chair explained to council members that GSA uses the Robert's Rules of Order for its meeting, so for a decision to be passed or approved, a mover and a seconder are needed, and the vote cast is either in favor, opposed or abstain. She further said that only voting members would be allowed to vote and the majority will get a decision to be passed. Also she said, the council members who are ratified for 2023-24 sessions, only they are eligible to vote.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked about any amendments to the agenda as circulated via email. There were no amendments brought forward.

Motion to approve the amendments and agenda. (Elyse/Mostofa)

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2023

The Chair asked about any amendments to the minutes from September 13, 2023. There were no amendments brought forward.

Motion to approve the minutes from September 13, 2023, minutes. (Sristy/Tyler)

Carried

4. Motion to receive GSA executive Meeting Minutes

4.1. GSA Executive meeting September 7, 2023

4.2. GSA Executive meeting September 20, 2023

The Chair asked if there were any suggested changes before the minutes were called for approval. There were no changes brought forward.

Motion to receive the GSA executive meeting minutes. (Tyler/Kathryn)

Carried

5. Election of GSA Council Chair

Control of the meeting was handed over to the GSA President Mostofa Kamal since the current Chair was up for re-election. There were two candidates present who expressed interest in the position: Sadia Afrin Lema and Asutosh Dalai. They spoke of their studies and experience, as well as why they are interested in the position, after which they were asked to exit the meeting for a vote to appoint them to the position.

Votes:

Sadia: 5

Asutosh: 6

Abstain: 1

Based on the voting results, Asutosh Dalai was appointed to the position of GSA Council Chair.

After this, previous chair again conducted the remaining meeting.

6. Election of GSA Council Vice Chair

The Chair addressed the requirements and responsibilities for holding the position of Council Vice Chair. There was one interested candidate who expressed interest via email: Devopriya Tirtho.

Devopriya Tirtho expressed his interest for this position. He also briefly talked about his experiences and that he can engage further with the GSA and for graduate students here at Usask. After which he was asked to exit the meeting for a vote to appoint him to the position.

Votes:

Yes: 14

No: 0

Abstain: 0

As the majority of people vote in support, Devopriya Tirtho was appointed to the position of GSA Council Vice Chair.

7. Election of GSA Council Recording Secretary

The Chair addressed the requirements and responsibilities for holding the position of Council Recording Secretary. There was one interested candidate who expressed interest via email: Sara Nath.

Sara Nath expressed her interest for this position. She talked about her studies and experience, as well as why she is interested in the position, after which she was asked to exit the meeting for a vote to appoint her to the position.

Votes:

Yes: 14

No: 0

Abstain: 0

As the majority of people vote in support, Sara Nath was appointed to the position of GSA Council Recording Secretary.

8. Social Club Ratification

- **Tox on Tap**

The presenter talked about Tox on Tap, an organization collaboratively formed by toxicology graduate students. She mentioned that the organization's primary goal is to establish a science cafe that effectively engages both the general public and members of the scientific community. She further said that this initiative operates as a non-profit, which are open to anyone to attend. They were previously ratified, now they again wanted to ratify their club for 2023-24 session.

Questions and Responses

Q: How many members are there in Tox on Tap? R: Currently, we have 8.

Q: Are there any graduate student in the club? R: All are graduate student except 1. So, 88% are graduate student.

Q: This club is for graduate students? R: It's open to both graduate and undergraduate.

Q: How about your executives? You have an executive there? R: Yes, they're listed in our ratification form myself, Hannah Mahoney and Emily Kennedy. The ratification form was sent to the proper email address.

Approval of the Tox on Tap.

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

(Mostofa/Ramin)

Carried

Yes: 15

No: 0

Abstention 0

The motion to accept the Tox on Top was approved by the majority of the council members.

- **Let's Talk Science** – No representatives to speak.

9. GSA Executive Report

9.1. President's Report

He started with saying that in the last president executive meeting, the Dean of CGPS informed that this academic year the university allocated 100 case for the paid maternity allowance, and that the announcement will go in the December. He hoped that this would bring a positive change among the graduate students who are expecting, specially for the international students. Then he also mentioned about hiring new full time office manager who joined GSA at September 26th. He asked everyone to be patient with him as he is going through some training.

9.2. Vice President Finance and Operations Report.

He began by updating members that the GSA fall bursary application began from October 16th and the deadline for this is until November 16th. After the application deadline, each of the application would be evaluated. He asked if any council members are interested to join the bursary committee, they should send an email to the GSA Chair showing interest. This time CGPS is also contributing, so they have a good number of money for the bursary. Also this time they have special section for students who are pregnant. He also announced about hiring new GSA coordinator. They were planning to hire 3 coordinators, because sometimes there are some events in the weekend/holiday. The executive team would help in this hiring process and it would start in the coming week. He also announced about hiring new office manager who completed his phd in public policy in the UofS. For any further queries directed towards the VP of Finance, members are encouraged to reach out via email at gsa.fin@usask.ca at their convenience.

9.3. Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report.

She has been actively involved in various initiatives. She mentioned that during their tenureship they received some academic misconduct and plagiarism related issues for grad students. So, they were really concerned about that and were trying to improve the awareness. So, she and the USSU Academic affairs worked with Susan Bens, Academic Integrity Strategist, regarding this. They planned to sit for it on a regular basis. Furthermore, they are also trying to improve the structures like how the new AI tools are used, also the awareness related to it and others. She also said that she communicated with the graduate academic affairs committee about improving the policy of the academic integrity online course. She mentioned about arranging event with the ISSAC and other departments in the university to improve awareness. Lastly, she talked about taking new role as the chair of the diversity committee. She was keen on sharing ideas and promoting awareness on a wide range of diversity-related topics. She encouraged people to nominate themselves or their friends as a member of the diversity committee and she was looking forward to organizing some exciting events from this committee.

9.4 Vice President, External Affairs Report.

He was not present at the meeting. President Mostofa said on his behalf that if any council members have any questions for the VP External Affairs, they can be directed to his email address at gsa.external@usask.ca at any time.

9.5 Vice president Indigenous Engagement

VP Indigenous was not present during the meeting. President Mostofa updated on her behalf about recruiting a Vice Provost in the indigenous engagement. There were three shortlisted candidates and all the executives had the opportunity to meet all of the candidates. They were asked about their background, and their motivation for this position, also what positive changes they would bring at the U of S. Based on the meeting, the GSA sent feedback to the hiring committee about all three candidates. The VP Indigenous Engagement played a very active role on that meet & greet.

10. Other Business

The president informed that he had meetings with faith leaders and student wellness center regarding the holiday hangout. They showed their interest to collaborate with GSA. So, they decided to organize the holiday hangout for four consecutive days starting from December 27th to 30th, which would create good networking opportunities among the students.

Also, he mentioned about the National Day of Action, which is a movement led by the Canadian Federation of Students, would happen in November 2023. The goal of that campaign would be to fight the fee and make post-secondary education free. A training, organized by the Canadian Federation of Students at the University of Regina, was attended by the President, VP finance and the chair of the GSA. The training was to make the campaign successful and they also provided the materials like all the posters and the souvenirs. So, he asked all the council members to join for the National Day of Action and make the movement successful. Lastly, he mentioned that if any members have any feedback regarding this, they could share their opinion.

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

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. (Elyse)

Carried

Appendix A

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	Jun 2024
Biology Graduate Student Association	Shuqi Ren Ilsa Griebel (Alternate) Lynsey Bent (Alternate)	A							
Chemistry Course Council	Nasrin Aliasgharlou Vi Phan (Alternate)	A							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology	Mary Lazell Wright Farnoosh Tabatabaieian (Alternate)	P							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Biochemistry, microbiology & Immunology	Rachel Harris – Councilor	A							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Community Health & Epidemiology	Zoe Schipper – Councilor Tachlima Chowdhury Sunna (Alternate)	A							
College of Medicine Graduate Students Society – Health Sciences	Elyse Proulx-Cullen – Councilor Shima Hozhabrimahani (Alternate)	P							
Computer Science Graduate Council (CSGC)	Thulani Hewavithana Norah Ridley Mumtahina Ahmed (Alternate)	A							

Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biological	Pabitra Chandra Das	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Blessing Ekwueme	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Maliheh Heravi Ehsan Samimi Sohrforozani (Alternate)	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Ehsan Samimi Sohrforozani Corwyn Shomachuk (Alternate)	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Mohammad Salimi Hossein Nezhadian (Alternate)	P							
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Siddhartha Gollamudi Kathryn Avery (Alternate)	P							
English Course Council	Parastoo Tahmasbi Gwen Rose (Alternate)	A							
Geography & Planning Graduate Council	Emily Ireland Prakash Sapkota (Alternate)	A							
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Kevin Mageto Karissa Johnson (Alternate)	A							
Nursing Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	Jordan Sherstobitoff Catherine Lavigne	P							

	Sarah Karwacki Solie (Alternate) Geneveave Barbo (Alternate)								
Plant Science	Sainey Ceesay Suma Ghosh- Alternate	P							
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Tyler Blanchette Carter Frerichs (Alternate)	P							
SENSSA	Chelsea Ohenewaa Nyarko Aisha Adelah (Alternate)	P							
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Somayeh Abdi Jacyn Edwards Ahmed Muftah (Alternate)	A							
Sociology GSA	Meaghan Boily Leah Houseman (Alternate) Kayla Arisman (Alternate)	A							
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Landon Orenchuk Tristan Chambers (Alternate)	A							
Animal and Poultry Science GSA	Megan Dubois Wyatt Armes	A							
ARE Graduate Student Society	Koal Sammons Josh Bourassa	P							
Toxicology Graduate Student Association (TGSA) Academic Councilor	Alexandra Cullen Emily Kennedy	A							
History Graduate Student Association	Harris Ford Catlin M. Woloschuk	A							

Academic Council	Name of Councilors and (alternates)	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	Jun 2024
Exec. President	Mostafa Kamal	P							
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ramin Mohammadi	P							
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P							
Exec. VP External Affairs	Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi	A							
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Kayla Benoit	A							



GSA President's Report (October - November 2023) to GSA Council Members

Dear GSA Council Members,

Please find the GSA President's monthly activity summary from October 15, 2023, to November 11, 2023, as listed below in order of importance of the activities.

1. University of Saskatchewan Senate Meeting (November 4, 2023)

The GSA president presented GSA's half-yearly activity report (available [HERE](#)) to the University of Saskatchewan Senate meeting on November 4, 2023. GSA presidents discussed GSA's past events and provided information about upcoming events. Further, the GSA president discussed GSA's ongoing advocacy priorities and planned service expansion. The GSA president also requested senators to advocate for the local, provincial, and federal governments to allocate more funding for post-secondary education.

2. PEC/GSA Executives monthly meeting (November 2, 2023)

The GSA executives discussed the following two issues with the President's Executive Team.

- I. Part-time graduate study opportunities coupled with part-time tuition fee options for part-time students.
- II. Chronic Electricity Outage Problem at the Souris Hall at the McEown Park Residential Area

3. GSA Executives by-weekly meeting (November 1, 2023)

- I. GSA Coordinator Hiring
- II. GSA Research Conference 2023
- III. GSA-CGPS Fall 2023 Need-Based Bursary
- IV. Iranian Student Council Funding Approval (decision)
- V. PEC/GSA Executive Committee Meeting Agenda Item selection
- VI. GSA Holiday Hangout event review (post-event reflection and survey approval)

The detailed executive committee meeting minutes will be made available in the next council meeting.

4. Fall Convocation (November 8, 2023)

The GSA president attended the Chancellor's Platform Party of the Fall 2023 Convocation to celebrate graduate students' accomplishments.

5. National Day of Action (November 8, 2023)

On November 8, 2023, students from post-secondary institutions across Canada marched for the

National Day of Action campaign under the leadership of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), demanding Free and Accessible Post Secondary Education. The campaign's objective was to demand the Government of Canada to prioritize accessible education for all. The University of Saskatchewan GSA strongly supported the movement and organized a march on November 8, 2023, from 11:45 pm to 12:45 pm here at the University of Saskatchewan.



6. GSA Executive Team meeting with USASK Faculty Association External Relations Committee

The GSA executive team meets with the USASK Faculty Association External Relations Committee each term. This meeting aims to inform the faculty association about GSA's ongoing advocacy work and request their support on various university committees. For example, GSA advocates for paid parental leave for thesis-based graduate program students. So, GSA expects the faculty association to endorse our advocacy work and request acceptance. The GSA executive discussed the following advocacy priorities for the 2023-2024 Fiscal year and invited all council members to save a copy of this list so that GSA academic council members can advocate each of these issues in their respective department's faculty council. GSA Advocacy Priorities for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year:

- I. To advocate for a minimum guaranteed funding for all thesis-based graduate students not less than the equivalent of Saskatchewan's minimum wage salary.
- II. To advocate ensuring a university-wide minimum guaranteed scholarship/stipend for thesis-based graduate students for a duration compatible with the median degree completion time of the

University of Saskatchewan graduates.

III. Advocacy for the introduction of a universal "Parental Leave Bursary" for graduate students like other U15 universities. For example, the University of Waterloo offers an eight-month Parental Leave Bursary (including adoption) to eligible graduate students. Details can be found [HERE](#).

IV. Advocacy for the introduction of walk-in clinic service at the student wellness center.

V. Advocacy for the introduction of part-time study opportunities coupled with part-time tuition fee options for part-time students.

VI. Advocacy for the removal of international tuition differential for master's students.

VII. Advocacy for a seat on the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors.

VIII. Expanding the anti-racism and anti-oppression training beyond top-level university leaders, especially for faculty members, managers, and directors of different university services.

IX. Advocacy for broader and faster adoption of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles across the university.

7. Fall 2023 GSA-CGPS Need-Based Bursary Application

The GSA started accepting applications for the 2023 Fall Term GSA-CGPS need-based bursaries. Please visit [HERE](#) for the GSA-CGPS need-based bursary application.

Application Open: October 16, 2023

Application Close: November 16, 2023,

Results: December 4, 2023

8. Call for GSA Coordinator Recruitment Application.

The GSA started accepting applications for the GSA coordinator positions. The coordinator manages office hours after regular office hours and operates GSA Commons booking during the weekend. Please visit [HERE](#) for the GSA coordinator recruitment application. The hiring committee consists of all five GSA executives and the GSA president will serve as the hiring committee chair.

Application Open: October 31, 2023

Application Close: November 14, 2023,

9. Pop Talk/ Elevated Speech Competition 2023 (November 30, 2023)

The GSA is scheduled to organize the first Pop Talk/ Elevated Speech Competition (in-person presentation) on November 30, 2023. This competition aims to help graduate students share their research in less than one minute in a situation like a family reunion, a dinner party, a bar, conspiracy theorist, or teenagers at a science fair. The GSA president leads in organizing this event. The event details can be found [HERE](#).

Registration Open: November 13, 2023

Registration Close: November 28, 2023

Competition Date: November 30, 2023

Location & Time: GSA Commons, 10 am to 12 pm.

Best Pop Talk Prizes: Three Prizes (First Prize: \$500, Second Prize: \$300, Third Prize: \$200)

10. Graduate Research Conference 2023

The GSA is scheduled to organize the 2023 Graduate Research Conference on December 14, 2023,

from 10 am to 5 pm.

Registration Due Date: December 7, 2023

Research Conference Poster Presentation: December 14, 2023

Best Poster Awards: Four prizes in total, \$500 each

11. Election of new Council Chair, Vice Chair, and Recording Secretary

The GSA elected its Council Chair, Vice Chair, and Recording Secretary at the October 18, 2023 council meeting. The GSA president served as the election commissioner as the GSA council chair herself was a candidate for the Council Chair position.

GSA Council Chair: Asutosh Dalai, Master's Student, Chemical Engineering

GSA Vice-Chair: Devopriya Tirtho, Masters Student, Computer Science

GSA Council Recording Secretary: Sara Nath, Masters Student, Chemical Engineering

12. GSA Holiday Hangout Event (December 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2023)

The GSA organized a very successful holiday hangout event on December 28, 2022. The holiday hangout was open to all graduate students. Two hundred fifty graduate students attended the event. Because of 99 occupancy limits at a time at the GSA commons, the event was split into two sessions: 1) 10 am to 2 pm and 2) 3 pm to 8 pm. Snacks, lunch, and dinner were provided among all graduate students. Students participated in many indoor games, including Uno, monopoly, dart board, carom, etc. Students highly appreciate the event and sincerely requested to continue organizing the Holiday Hangout event during the long holiday break of Christmas 2023 and New Year 2024. Thus, the GSA plans to organize the 2023 Holiday Hangout event for four days, December 27, 28, 29, and 30, during the 2023 holiday session in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan Faith Leaders Council and Student Wellness Centre. The GSA plans to keep the GSA Commons open from 1 pm to 9 pm each day and provide all attendees late afternoon snacks and dinner. Like the 2022 Holiday Hangout events, students will have opportunities to participate in various indoor games listed above.

13. Governance Committee Meeting (December 6, 2022)

The GSA president attended the Governance Committee Meeting and discussed policies about graduate student representatives to the department faculty council. The GSA president insisted that the department's graduate representative to the faculty council should be nominated by the elected representative of each department's student association, not the department's chair/head.

14. Search Committee Member for the University of Saskatchewan CGPS Associate Dean (November 6, 2023)

The GSA president serves as a search committee member for the Associate Dean of the University of Saskatchewan's College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies. The GSA President attended the meeting on November 6, 2023, and contributed to the discussion.

15. GSA Meet & Greet with reps from A&S Dean's Office (October 30, 2023)

The GSA executives met with the newly appointed dean of Arts and Science, Professor Brooke Milne, and discussed GSA's list of advocacy and priorities for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The GSA executive specifically requested the dean to increase graduate student funding for thesis-based programs and implement universal paid parental leave (including adoption). The GSA executives also requested to bring down International Masters student tuition to a domestic level similar to that of Ph.D. students.

16. Monthly meeting GSA Executive/Vice-Provost, Students and Learning (October 25, 2023)

The GSA executives met the newly appointed Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning, Professor Jerome Cranston, and discussed the following issues:

- I. Student Wellness Centre Service Efficiency
- II. Access and Equity Office service delay
- III. PAWS Announcement
- IV. Campus Food Security
- V. Monthly Tuition Fees Payment Option
- VI. Introduction to Mandatory Ethics and EDI Courses
- VII. Holiday Hangout Event Organizing Support

17. Planning Holiday Hangout (October 18, 2023)

The GSA President met with Rita Hanoski and Jocelyn Orb of the Student Wellness Centre to discuss jointly organizing the Holiday Hangout event 2023. Although the GSA initially planned to organize the 2023 Holiday Hangout event for two days, the GSA decided to extend the event for four days, provided that the Student Wellness Centre will provide financial assistance for two more days. The student wellness center also agreed to offer three volunteers each day to coordinate the event.

18. World Cup Cricket 2023 Final Match Watch Party (November 19, 2023)

The GSA, in partnership with the Huskies Cricket Club, is scheduled to organize the World Cup Cricket 2023 final match watch party for graduate students on November 19, 2023, at the GSA Commons. The watch party will be open to all University of Saskatchewan graduate students. The GSA will sponsor the food and drink for the attendees.

Mostofa Kamal

President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, SK, CANADA

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Report from the VP Finance and Operations (November 15)

Hello GSA Councillors,

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

1. Fall Semester CGPS-GSA Need-Based Bursary

The application window for the CGPS-GSA Fall bursary is open from October 16 to November 16. Following this period, the bursary committee will convene to assess applications. This round presents a significant opportunity for a substantial number of students to qualify for this financial support.

2. Hiring of New GSA Coordinators

As the VP of Finance and Operations, I am overseeing the preparation for hiring GSA coordinators from the graduate student body. The entire GSA executive membership will participate in the hiring committee. GSA coordinators will be available to serve the GSA from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Monday to Friday, with the provision of additional hours for students to utilize the GSA common space.

- Application Open: October 31, 2023
- Application Close: November 14, 2023

3. Fall Convocation (November 8, 2023)

I attended the Fall 2023 Convocation on November 8, 2023, to celebrate the achievements of our graduate students.

4. Graduate Research Conference 2023

As VP of Finance and Operations, I am scheduled to organize the 2023 Graduate Research Conference on December 14, 2023, from 10 am to 5 pm.

- Registration Due Date: December 7, 2023
- Research Conference Poster Presentation: December 14, 2023
- Best Poster Awards: Four prizes in total, \$500 each

5. GSA Commons and GSA Operations

The GSA is fully operational, dedicated to serving graduate students. The GSA Commons provides an outstanding study environment and hosts various income-generating events. Recently, ratified club funds have been distributed, and efforts are ongoing to negotiate students' rights with Student Care to enhance service quality.

In my role as VP of Finance, my responsibilities extend to coordinating the orientation and scheduling of the new office manager and coordinators, ensuring the seamless functioning of the GSA. I oversee contract management and invoice collection for GSA bookings and meticulously manage all payments and supplements related to the GSA Commons.

An overview of some significant committee meetings I have attended in fulfillment of my duties is provided below:

Meetings

Awards Committee
Executive Retreat Meeting
PRT/PEC/USSU/GSA Meeting
PPC (Planning and priority Committee)
GSA-PSAC
Meeting with the City of Saskatoon
GSA Executive Meeting
PEC/Student Executives meeting
Fee Review Committee

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

Sincerely,

Ramin Mohammadi
VP Finance and Operations, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)
University of Saskatchewan



Email: gsa.fin@usask.ca | Web: gsa.usask.ca
Facebook: [UsaskGSA](#) Twitter: [GSA_USask](#) Instagram: [GSA_Usask](#)
Address: 1337 College Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6

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

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Monthly Activity Report from VP Academic and Student Affairs

Dear Council Members,

Please find the VP Academic and Student Affairs monthly activity summary from October 02, 2022, to November 03, 2023, as listed below:

1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: October 04 and 18, November 01, 2023

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

2. Meeting with Dean and Associate Dean of College of Arts and Science: October 30, 2023

We, GSA Executives, met with Dean and Associate Dean of College of Arts and Science. We discussed about minimum funding issues, maternity leave benefits, lengthy graduation time for MSc and PhD students and equity & access service, those are our priority advocacy awards.

3. Meeting with Vice-Provost of Students and Learning: October 25, 2023

We, GSA Executives, met with Dr. Jerome Cranston, Vice-Provost, Students and Learning and we discussed with the below agenda:

- a. Student Wellness Centre Service Efficiency
- b. Access and Equity Office service delay
- c. Monthly Tuition Fees Payment Option
- d. Introduction to Mandatory Ethics and EDI Courses

4. Attended regular meetings of my portfolio:

- a. *GSA Council Meeting: October 10, 2023*
- b. *Academic Program Committee: October 16 & 29, November 01 2023*
- c. *University council meeting: October 18, 2023*
- d. *CGPS Faculty Council (GPSFC) Meeting: October 12, 2023*
- e. *Graduate Programs Committee: October 25, 2023*
- f. *Graduate Academic Affairs Committee: October 30, 2023*
- g. *PEC/Student Executives meeting: November 01, 2023*
 - i. *Part-time graduate study opportunities coupled with part-time tuition fee options for part-time students.*
 - ii. *Chronic Electricity Outage Problem at the Souris Hall at the McEown Park Residential Area.*

5. Planning academic integrity consultation for grad students:

I met with Susan Bens, Academic Integrity Strategist and she interested in meetings with grad students to talk about the kinds of supports they need for meeting academic integrity expectations. That will be multiple (online or in-person) sessions and according to our discussion we came up with below topics:

- a. What are students' questions and concerns about ChatGPT and other GenAI tools?
- b. When students are accused of academic misconduct, what would a fair process look like? What kinds of help would a student need?
- c. What kinds of situations or pressures do students face that can explain some academic misconduct?

d. What kinds of teaching and assessment practices best support students' academic integrity?

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

a. Placement-related issues with a M.Sc. student: October 17, 2023

Regards,
Sristy Sumana Nath
VP Academic and Student Affairs
Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan

As the Vice President of Indigenous Engagement for the Graduate Student Association at USASK, October 2023 has been a month of significant involvement and pivotal contributions.

Ohpahotân Symposium - October 20th, 2023:

The month's highlight was the [Ohpahotân \(Let's Fly Up Together\)](#) Symposium, which took place on October 20th at Marquis Hall. This event was a platform to embrace Indigenous knowledge and perspectives and the [USASK plan for Indigenization](#). It was an educational moment to view the strategic vision through an image that encapsulated our goals of unity, growth, and mutual understanding. The symposium was a testament to fostering a community that values inclusivity and diversity, setting the stage for future collaborative initiatives. We have marked our calendars for the next symposium on **April 19th, 2024**, promising another enriching experience.

Advising CGPS on ISLA Criteria and Requirements:

An enjoyable lunch hour was spent advising CGPS on the [Indigenous Student Leadership Award \(ISLA\)](#). We worked diligently to refine the criteria and requirements, ensuring they align with the values of recognition, empowerment, and support for Indigenous student leaders. It's a step forward in acknowledging and celebrating the remarkable contributions of Indigenous students within the academic community through a lens that allows for a more holistic view of student leadership.

Committee Engagements:

I actively participated in the [CGPS Executive & Coordinating Committee](#), contributing insights and strategies to enhance the overall graduate student experience. Additionally, involvement in the Dean's Grad Student Advisory Committee and the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee continued to ensure that Indigenous perspectives are integral in decision-making processes and policies.

Edwards Event Support for MMIWG2S+:

Supporting the [Edwards](#) event on October 27th, dedicated to [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+](#), was of utmost importance. It's imperative to stand in solidarity and advocate for awareness, justice, and change. Looking ahead, Edwards will be hosting their next event on **December 6th, focusing on 'Treaties 101'**, a significant step towards educating and fostering understanding of historical and contemporary treaty relationships.

October has been a month brimming with engagements to foster a more inclusive, supportive, and culturally rich environment within the academic community. We are looking forward to continuing these efforts in the upcoming months, remaining dedicated to the advancement of Indigenous representation and support within our academic landscape.

Best Regards,
Kayla Benoit
Vice President of Indigenous Engagement
Graduate Student Association, USASK

GSA Standing Committees:

1. Budget and Finance Committee
 - 1.1 VP Finance and Operations as Chair - Ramin Mohammadi
 - 1.2 President - Mostofa Kamal
 - 1.3 Sadia Afrin Lema
 - 1.4 Rafat Mahbub
 - 1.5 Md Shamin Yeasir
 - 1.6 Manpreet Singh
 - 1.7 Kaneta Eya Lam Lam
 - 1.8 Need a Council Member
 - 1.9 Need a Regular Member

2. Bursary Selection Committee
 - 2.1 VP Finance and Operations as Chair - Ramin Mohammadi
 - 2.2 VP Academic and Student Affairs - Sristy Sumana Nath
 - 2.3 Kiegan Lloyd
 - 2.4 Roya Khoshnoodi
 - 2.5 Zahra Ghaderpanah
 - 2.6 Jessica Lam
 - 2.7 Need 3 Council Members

3. Elections and Referenda Committee
 - 3.1 Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer - Asutosh Dalai
 - 3.2 Nahin Shakurun
 - 3.3 Saba Kamran
 - 3.4 Md Shamin Yeasir
 - 3.5 Rafat Mahbub
 - 3.6 Sandhya Chandran
 - 3.7 Arash Amanlou
 - 3.8 Kaneta Eya Lam Lam
 - 3.9 Need a Council Member

4. Governance Committee
 - 4.1 President – Mostofa Kamal
 - 4.2 VP Academic and Student Affairs - Sristy Sumana Nath
 - 4.3 Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer - Asutosh Dalai
 - 4.4 Council Member -Suma Ghosh
 - 4.5 Christopher Florizone
 - 4.6 Manpreet Singh
 - 4.7 Lecia Ellis
 - 4.8 Need 2 more member.

5. Code of Ethics and Discipline Committee

5.1 Council Chair & Chief Electoral Officer - Asutosh Dalai

5.2 Rafat Mahbub

5.3 Lecia Ellis

5.4 Kaneta Eya Lam Lam

5.5 Md Shamin Yeasir

5.6 Manpreet Singh

5.7 Need a Council Member

6. Awards Selection Committee

6.1 VP External Affairs as Chair - Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi

6.2 President – Mostofa Kamal

6.3 Samira Khoz

6.4 Sai Kumar

6.5 Shabnam Abdi

6.6 Pezhman Zolfaghari

6.7 Kiegan Lloyd

6.8 Jessica Lam

6.9 Need a Council Member

7. Sustainability Committee

7.1 VP Indigenous Engagement as Chair - Kayla Benoit

7.2 VP External Affairs - Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi

7.3 Council Member - Nasrin Aliasgharlou

7.4 Sadia Afrin Lema

7.5 Prince George

7.6 Mahesh Rachamalla

7.7 Saba Kamran

7.8 Sandhya Chandran

7.9 Md Shamin Yeasir

8. Diversity Committee

8.1 VP Academic and Student Affairs as Chair - Sristy Sumana Nath

8.2 VP Indigenous Engagement - Kayla Benoit

8.3 Somtochukwu Obiora

8.4 Arash Amanlou

8.5 Lecia Ellis

8.6 Sandhya Chandran

8.7 Need a Council Memeber

8.8 Need two Regular Members (Preference will be given to students with diverse cultural or geographical backgrounds)