



University of Saskatchewan- Graduate Students' Association
Wednesday, January 10th, 2024; 17:00-18:30 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	3-4	<i>Decision</i>
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes		
3.1 Postpone the Approval of December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes	4-7	Decision
4. Motion to Receive GSA Executive Meeting Minutes	8-11	<i>Information</i>
4.1 GSA Executive Meeting December 20, 2023		
5. Election of GSA Chair		<i>Decision</i>
6. Motion to recommend Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous and Engagement) as the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association President		<i>Decision</i>
7. Motion to recommend to repurpose the GSA Common building as "GSA Childcare" to the council members		<i>Decision</i>
8. Motion to recommending to the council to amend the budget to allow for an increase in budget that allows the Executive to increase the office manager's salary.		<i>Decision</i>
9. Social Club Ratification		<i>Decision</i>
9.1 University of Saskatchewan Working for Inclusivity in Chemistry (USASK-WIC)		
10. GSA Executives Reports	11-22	
10.1 Vice President Finance & Operations Report (Verbal)		<i>Information</i>

10.2 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs Report

Information

10.3 Vice President External Affairs Report

Information

10.4 Vice President Indigenous Engagement Report

Information

10.5 Questions & Answers

11. Other Business

Information

12. Adjournment

Decision



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 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

Council Chair: Asutosh Dalai
Recording Secretary: Sara Nath

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package and posted on the GSA website as well. The Chair of the Council, Asutosh Dalai officially welcomed the Members of the Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM after the quorum for the meeting had been met. Sara Nath, the Recording Secretary 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 favour, opposed or abstain. She further said that only voting members would be allowed to vote and the majority would get a decision to be passed.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked for amendments to the agenda as circulated via email. There was an amendment from the VP of Indigenous, Kayla Benoit, that she wanted to add it to the agenda as item 4.

Motion to approve the amendments and agenda. (Seconder-Abbas)

Total in-person voted in favour: 7

Total online voted in favour: 12

Hence, the total voted in favour: 19

Since the majority of the votes were in favour, this has been passed as our agenda in that day's meeting as circulated.

Carried

Appendix A

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

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

Plant Science	Sainey Ceesay Suma Ghosh- Alternate	P	P	P					
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Tyler Blanchette Carter Frerichs (Alternate)	P	P	P					
SENSSA	Chelsea Ohenewaa Nyarko Aisha Adelah (Alternate)	P	P	P					
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Somayeh Abdi Jaclyn Edwards Ahmed Muftah (Alternate)	A	P	P					
Sociology GSA	Meaghan Boily Leah Houseman (Alternate) Kayla Arisman (Alternate)	P	P	P					
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Landon Orenchuk Tristan Chambers (Alternate)	P	P	P					
Animal and Poultry Science GSA	Megan Dubois Wyatt Armes	A	P	P					
ARE Graduate Student Society	Koal Sammons Josh Bourassa	P	P	P					
Toxicology Graduate Student Association (TGSA) Academic Councilor	Alexandra Cullen Emily Kennedy	P	P	P					
History Graduate Student Association	Kiegan Lloyd Catlin M. Woloschuk	A	P	P					
Physics & Engineering Physics (PEGASUS)	Jeisson A. Vanegas Carranza Nicholas Simonson	N/A	N/A	P					
Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Student Association	Harjot Tu Bazal Khalid	N/A	P	P					

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



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.

GSA Meeting December 20, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Attendance: Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi, Ramin Mohammadi, Kayla Benoit, Sristy Sumana Nath

Regret: none

Guest: Lecia Ellis

Land Acknowledgment:

Kayla Benoit

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Kayla Benoit called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Kayla Benoit asked whether there were any amendments to the plan as circulated. There was no amendment.

Motion: To approve the current agenda

Moved: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

Seconded: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

Vote: All in Favour,

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of November 22, 2023.

The meeting minutes were approved except for Agenda Item number two, which belongs to **“GSA chair election legitimacy issue and Voting council allocations for Engineering and Medicine graduates councils.”**

Move: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

2nd: Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous)

Abstain: Sristy Sumana Nath (VP-Academic)

In favor: Ramin, Abbas and Kayla.

4. Agenda Items: (Discussion and Decision)

- **Motion: Recommending Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous and Engagement) as the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students’ Association President.**

The GSA executives are recommending Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous and Engagement) for the GSA President position for the rest of the GSA term until April 30, 2024, to council members.

Move: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

2nd: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

Vote: all in favour

- **Motion: Recommending to the council to amend the budget to allow for an increase in budget that allows the Executive to increase the office manager's salary. Increase the salary to match the University of Saskatchewan standard salary for the manager position.**

The GSA executives are recommending that the council members amend the budget line to increase the GSA office manager's salary to the University of Saskatchewan salary standards. GSA executives received a verbal request and had a discussion with the current GSA manager to increase the GSA office manager salary to USASK standard level. The GSA executives will discover how much is the standard salary level and will inform the council members to decide on this motion.

Move: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)

2nd: Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)

Vote: all in favour

- **Motion: Recommending the Re-election for 2023-2024 chair position to council members.**

In the 2023 October council meeting, the council chair election was announced without any public announcement, and two candidates nominated themselves in that meeting, and the election was concluded. During the election process and right after the election, several complaints were received from general and council members, and the council members discussed the results in the November council meeting again to figure out why the EGCC council had more than two counted votes. In the December council meeting, the former council chair brought another complaint to the meeting and provided the details of why the election results were invalid. Hence, due to the lack of election transparency for the GSA council chair position and based on GSA policy and bylaw, the election results must be revoked, and a new election is

required based on GSA policy and bylaw. Hence, the GSA executives are recommending to the council members to run another election for the GSA Council Chair position.

Move: *Abbas Fazel (VP-External)*

2nd: *Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous)*

Vote: all in favour

- **Update on the bursary for the Fall of 2023.**

GSA VP-Finance reported that the bursary committee concluded the list of CGPS-GSA bursary awardees and will announce the results to CGPS by December 28, 2023. More than 370 applications were received in this round of applications, and 175 applications were valid for review. After careful review by bursary committee members, 43 applications awarded for Fall bursary needs. Each candidate will receive 1,000.00 CAD by direct deposit from CGPS.

- **Processing the hiring coordinators.**

GSA is looking for several office coordinators to hire. GSA received 22 applications, and the GSA executives will review the applications and invite 5 top candidates for interview. The office coordinator hiring results will be concluded before January 15, 2024.

- **Adjusting the date and platform for the holiday hangout.**

The GSA-ISSAC-Wellness holiday hangout is supposed to be for 4 days. GSA and other partners committed to organizing the hangout only for two days on December 27 and 28, 2023, at GSA Common. GSA will also contribute 2,000.00 CAD for food, snacks and games.

- **Update on GSA Childcare establishment (Meeting with Greg Fowler)**

The GSA executives had a meeting with Greg Fowler, the Vice-President of Finance and Resources, and discussed the university's support for establishing new childcare for graduate students. In this meeting, several options were discussed, including the reconstruction of spare spaces on campus. GSA committed to preparing a feasibility study for the GSA childcare center, and the office of the president of Finance and Resources will share some documents for the establishment and running of the GSA childcare center.

- **Motion: Recommending repurposing the GSA Common building as "GSA Childcare" to the council members.**

Based on the GSA missions and visions, we are committed to establish a new childcare center for USASK students. Currently, the GSA common (Emmanuel & St. Chad Bldg) used to be a church, and this building space could be used for GSA childcare. The GSA executives are recommending the council members to start the legal and technical procedures to repurpose the GSA Common for childcare.

Move: *Ramin Mohammadi (VP-Finance)*

2nd: *Abbas Fazel (VP-External)*

Vote: In favour (Abbas, Ramin, Kayla) Abstain (Sristy)

- **Winter Orientation update**

The Winter orientation will be on January 9, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The registration info will be shared on social media platforms and the GSA website.

- **GSA Photos and video storage.**

The GSA office manager will request IT to provide OneDrive access for GSA accounts to store the documents.

- **Issuing certificate of appreciation for Elevator Pitch and Research Conference Judges.**

For GSA events, including the Elevator Pitch and Research Conference, the GSA will issue certificates of appreciation for judges.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 19:36

a. Move: Abbas Fazel (VP-External)



Report from the VP Finance and Operations (December 2023)

Dear GSA Councillors,

I am delighted to share an update on my activities as the current Vice-President of Finance and Operations.

1. CGPS-GSA Need-Based Bursary for Fall Semester:

The bursary committee and I meticulously evaluated approximately 320 applications received for this round. By December 22, 2023, we announced 43 successful applicants. The round was exceptionally competitive due to the high number of submissions.

2. Graduate Research Conference 2023:

On December 14, I organized the GSA Research Conference in collaboration with other executives, particularly VP-External Mr. Abbas Fazel. The event showcased over 45 presentations across two sessions and recognized five graduate students with a monetary award of 500.00 CAD each.

3. Discussion on Establishing GSA Daycare Center: December 19, 2023

GSA executives met with Greg Fowler, Vice-President of Administration and Chief Operating Officer, to explore the possibility of a GSA-led Childcare center. Attendees included Associate Vice-President, Services, Professor Wade Epp, Deputy Provost, Professor Patti McDougall. At the end of our meeting, I also proposed the idea of utilizing GSA common space for a GSA-Childcare, benefitting all GSA members directly and contributing significantly to our association.

4. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: December 20, 2023

Please refer to the executive meeting minutes for detailed information.

5. Holiday Hangout hosted by GSA/ISSAC/Wellness:

On December 27, GSA provided the venue and contributed 2,000.00 CAD for snacks and food. Wellness and ISSAC managed registration and announcements, while ISSAC coordinated food orders for both days. Wellness contributed 1,000.00 CAD, making the total budget 3,000.00 CAD.

6. Lunch Meeting with GSA Executives and CGPS Members: December 22, 2023

Dean of CGPS, Debby Burstyn, organized a lunch meeting with GSA executives to discuss future plans with the CGPS team.

7. GSA Commons and GSA Operations:

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

In my capacity as VP of Finance, I oversee the orientation and scheduling of the new office manager and coordinators, ensuring the seamless functioning of the GSA. I also handle contract management, invoice collection for GSA bookings, and diligently manage all payments and supplements related to the GSA Commons.

Below is an overview of some significant committee meetings I have attended in fulfillment of my responsibilities.

Meetings

PPC (Planning and priority Committee)

GSA Executive Meeting

PEC/Student Executives meeting

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



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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 December 03, 2023, to December 31, 2023, as listed below:

1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting: December 20, 2023

Please see executive meeting minutes for details.

2. Meeting with VP Students and Learning: December 18, 2023

In the monthly meeting with Dr. Jerome Cranston, we, GSA Executives, discussed about the incident happened in GSA council meeting to remove Mostofa Kamal from GSA President position. We did follow up about last meeting for TA complaint in Department of Computer Science and discussed TA issues we received from grad students at College of Engineering. Also, we invite him to Annual Gala award.

3. Meeting discussion about establishing GSA Daycare center: December 19, 2023

The GSA executives meet with Greg Fowler, Vice-President of Administration and Chief Operating Officer, to discuss the proposed Childcare center under GSA's leadership team. Greg Fowler invited Associate Vice-President, Services, Professor Wade Epp, Deputy Provost, Professor Patti McDougall. We discussed about the space in the university, initial cost for setup a daycare. They gave us facility cost idea: With original costs of \$4.795m capital and \$144k operating, based on CPI since 2015 (and estimate 3% CPI in 2024/2025) future costs are roughly estimated at: \$6.3m capital / \$190k annual operating.

4. Meeting with Student Outreach: December 18, 2023

Shalisse, one of the Student Support and Outreach Coordinators invited me a meeting regarding December GSA Council meeting issue. After discussion, I will invite her to join the winter 2024 orientation event and give a short talk to new grad students about student academic and outreach program.

5. Winter'24 orientation program:

Under my portfolio, VP academic and student affairs need to organize the orientation event for grad students. I planned to order pizza, drinks and invite guests from cross campus.

6. Attended GSA Research Conference: December 14, 2023



7. Meeting with Safety Resource officer: December 20, 2023

I met with Elise Bird, safety resource officer usask. We shared some information, and she is invited to join in the winter orientation program. She will be there with some free popcorn for new grad students.

8. GSA Bursary committee meeting: December 20, 2023

The GSA bursary committee organized an introductory meeting and distributed the applicants. Some more suggestions came from the committee members about application rubric. The GSA executives agreed with the changes, so we will implement some changes in the rubric for next bursary process.

9. Attended holiday hangout: December 27 and 28, 2023

Last year, holiday hangout was organized collaborately by GSA, Wellness and ISSAC for grad and under grad students. My main responsibility was organized indoor game. Participants played UNO, cards, Zenga, Poker and monopoly games.



10. Attended lunch meeting with GSA executives and CGPS members: December 22, 2023

Last year, Dean of CGPS, Debby Burstyn organized a lunch meeting with GSA executives. We will discuss our next plan with CGPS team.

11. Attended regular meetings of my portfolio:

- a. *Academic Program Committee*: December 13, 2023
- b. *Graduate Programs Committee*: December 19, 2023

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

- a. Complaint about not getting TA job: 12 December 2023

Regards,

Sristy Sumana Nath

VP Academic and Student Affairs

Graduate Student's Association, University of Saskatchewan



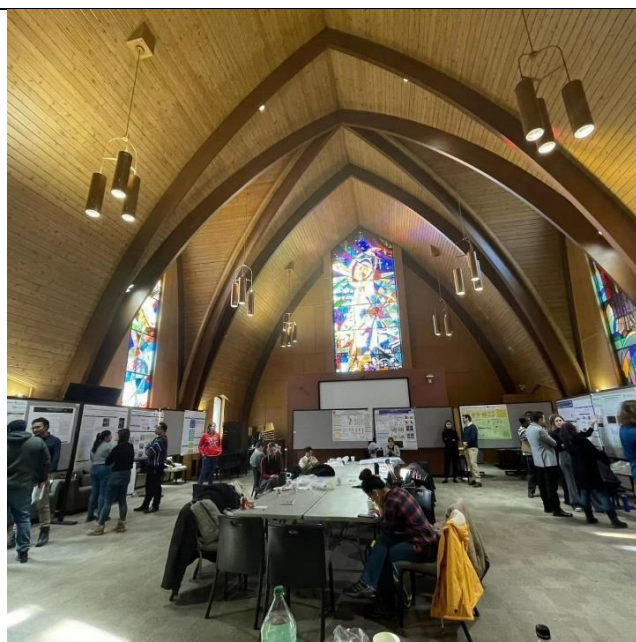
December 2023

RE: VP External's Report to Council

Dear Council Members,

Please find below my report to the Council for **December 2023**:

1. GSA executives actively engaged in daily and routine activities related to GSA priorities, such as assessing the feasibility of childcare, organizing the Research Conference, reviewing coordinator applications, and planning the GSA Holiday Hangout.
2. On December 7, I represented the GSA at the USASK Scholarships and Awards Committee meeting, discussing new guidelines for undergraduate student scholarships. During the meeting, I highlighted key points to consider for a diverse range of scholarships and meticulously reviewed 75 full applications. I shortlisted the top 12 candidates and promptly informed the USASK Award coordinator. The entire review process spanned five full business days.
3. On December 7, GSA executives and I attended a Student Care meeting at GSA Common to discuss the upcoming year's contract, fees, and coverage.
4. On December 14, GSA executives and I organized the GSA Research Conference. The event featured more than 45 presentations in two sessions and recognized five graduate students with a monetary award of 500.00 CAD each. My role included managing score sheets, compiling scores from each judge into a datasheet, and determining the winners.
5. On December 18, GSA executives and I participated in the Monthly Meeting with GSA Executive/Vice-Provost, Students, and Learning. The primary focus was the removal of the GSA president during the GSA Council meeting on December 13.
6. On December 19, GSA executives and I met with Greg Fowler (Vice-President Administration), Patricia McDougall, and Wade Epp to discuss the Childcare initiative.
7. On December 27 and 28, GSA/ISSAC/Wellness jointly hosted the Holiday Hangout. GSA provided the venue and contributed 2,000.00 CAD for snacks and food. Wellness and ISSAC managed registration and announcements, while ISSAC coordinated food orders for both days. Wellness contributed 1,000.00 CAD, making the total budget 3,000.00 CAD.
8. The VP-External actively worked on preparing meeting agendas for executives, documented meeting minutes, managed social media for event announcements, and responded to messages from followers.



GSA Research Conference (Dec. 14, 2023)





GSA/ISSAC/Wellness Holiday Hangout (Dec. 27 and 28, 2023)

Regards,

Abbas Fazel Anvari-Yazdi

Vice-President External Affairs

Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

University of Saskatchewan

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Address: 1337 College Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6

Update: December 2023 - Vice President of Indigenous Engagement, USASK GSA

Subject: December 2023 VP Indigenous Engagement Report

Dear Council members,

I'm pleased to share a summary of my activities as VP Indigenous Engagement at GSA, USASK, in December 2023:

Reconciliation Task Force:

1. Engaged in strategic discussions and initiatives for meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities.
2. Advocated for the implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations.

Graduate Research Conference:

1. Successfully hosted the conference, emphasizing Indigenous research perspectives.
2. Facilitated interdisciplinary dialogue and showcased graduate research projects.

Hiring Committee for Associate Dean at CGPS:

1. Contributed to the selection process with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2. Advocated for candidates committed to Indigenous representation in academic leadership.

Holiday Hang Out:

1. Collaborated with GSA for a festive Holiday Hang Out to foster community and inclusivity.
2. Provided a relaxed atmosphere for students to share experiences during the holiday season.

Ongoing Initiatives:

1. Advocated for increased cultural competency training for staff and faculty.
2. Collaborated with Indigenous student groups and promoted the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in curriculum development.

Looking ahead, I am committed to advancing Indigenous engagement and welcome feedback to strengthen our initiatives.

Best regards,

Kayla Benoit

VP Indigenous Engagement



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2024. **Zoom 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

Vice-Chair: Devopriya Tirtho

Recording Secretary: Sara Nath

1. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

All Council Members were emailed the agenda package. The Vice-Chair of the Council officially welcomed Members of the Council to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:09 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/Alex)

Carried

Yes: 14

No: 0

Abstention: 0

The agenda for the meeting was accepted by the majority of the council members.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Postpone the Approval of December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The minutes from December council meeting needs major revision and will be forwarded to the next Council meeting, so the chair asked about any amendments to the agenda. There was a question from a council member.

Q (Elyse): GSA council members have received an email from the past president to have the list of his faults officially listed. Would that be part of the minutes? What are the procedures and the bylaws?

A (Abbas): The previous meeting, where a major decision was made, was not recorded online because the past president asked the chair to stop the recording. This led to missing information, especially from council members' discussions. Attempts were made to find the recording, and IT supported the initiative, but the chair resigned during the investigations. Consequently, access to email was lost, leading to the postponement of approving the minutes. Devopriya, now the vice-chair, had to be educated to manage the current meeting, and as a result, the approval of December's meeting minutes was also postponed.

A (Kayla): The motion that she presented in the last meeting is to be included in the minute. But, as mentioned, the minutes presented to the executives are lacking, prompting a need to ensure accurate reflection of the meeting proceedings. An email from the previous President addressing potential bylaw breaches due to missing content on the website has also been received. However, given the abnormal situation, a request is made to the council members for some humility, acknowledging the human aspect and ongoing changes. Emphasis is placed on the commitment to open transparency, with a plea to ensure proper and unbiased communication. Despite recognizing the urgency, appreciation is expressed for everyone's patience, with a reassurance of prioritizing the best interests of grad students, the executive, and the Council. Communication of updates is anticipated by the next council meeting or sooner.

Q (Sainey): Since the previous President is not in the position anymore, if there is going to be any replacement to this position? And the previous chair had mentioned in the email that he resigned because of the lack of trust. Why there was a need to contact to IT support to search on his account?

A (Kayla): Today's agenda includes a motion from another executive, to appoint her as President for the remaining term. Further discussion will take place when the motion is presented, and the final decision will be determined by the council votes.

Addressing the second question, Abbas had previously mentioned that the meeting recording had stopped, leading to inaccurate minutes. However, she (Kayla) distinctly remembers waiting for the Zoom message confirming the end of the recording before speaking at the last meeting. So, to verify the recording's existence, IT support was contacted, but no recording was found. Although she strongly believes it was intentionally deleted, acknowledging the inability to provide any proof. While understanding the potential invasion of privacy for the previous chair, verifying the recording was crucial for accurate meeting minutes. The request for IT support was not meant to be invasive but was necessary to confirm the absence of the recording.

Since there was not any more questions from the participants, the vice-chair asked for a mover and a seconder to postpone the approval of the December 13, 2023, meeting.

Motion to postpone the minutes from December 13, 2023, meeting. (Ramin/Alex)

Carried

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstention: 0

The motion to postpone the approval of the December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes was approved by the majority of the council members.

4. Motion to receive GSA executive Meeting Minutes

4.1. GSA Executive meeting December 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. (Emily)

Carried

Yes: 15

No: 0

Abstention: 0

The motion to receive GSA executive Meeting minutes was approved by the majority of the council members.

5. Election of GSA Council Chair

The Vice-Chair addressed the requirements and responsibilities for holding the position of Council Chair. There were two candidates who expressed their interest in the position earlier: Sarah Allahmoradi and Shahabodin Afrasiabi. However, they were absent from the meeting. The chair invited attendees from the floor to express interest in the position, but no one stepped forward.

A motion is being presented by Abbas, VP External to the Council to nominate Devopriya, the current vice-chair, for the position of Council Chair. If agreed upon by council members, Devopriya can be appointed to the role; otherwise, the nomination will need to be announced again.

Motion to appoint the current vice-chair as the GSA council chair. (Elyse/Alex)

Carried

Yes: 12

No: 0

Abstention: 1

As the majority of the member voted in favor, Devopriya Tirtho was appointed as the new GSA Council Chair.

Q (Elyse): Will we need to appoint a new Vice Chair?

A (Abbas): The presence of the vice chair is crucial in any circumstance, and the election for the position can be conducted during the next council meeting. A review of the policy bylaw is necessary to determine the relevant procedures, and time is required for this process. The council members will be updated on social media or through email communication.

6. Motion to recommend Kayla Benoit (VP-Indigenous and Engagement) as the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association President

The chair urged the mover of this motion, VP finance, Ramin, to explain the motion to the council members.

Emphasizing the critical role of leadership in any organization or team and recognizing Kayla Benoit's demonstrated potential and background in effective leadership and teamwork, Ramin brought forth a motion to recommend Kayla as the new president. The motion is rooted in his close observation of Kayla's leadership activities and his confidence in her capabilities.

There were some questions in the chat box regarding the motion.

Q (Rachel): Will we have a new VP for Indigenous and Engagement upon this promotion, or will you be filling both roles?

A (Kayla): If the motion is accepted, I will need to resign from my VP Indigenous role. This opens the option to either elect a new person or conduct a by-election for the position.

Q (Kevin): Isn't the president voted in by the student body?

A (Kayla): Yes, the President is elected by the student body, but according to our bylaws (2.9.4.1 and 2.9.4.2), if there are 4 months or less left in the term, a by-election is not required. In such cases, the council can appoint an individual from the executive through a majority vote.

Q (Pabitra): Why any circular was not circulated for this post? President should be elected by the vote of university students, though I don't have idea about the by-laws.

A (Kayla): As per our bylaws, we had the option of a by-election or following Ramin's recommendation for an appointment from the executive team. The current recommendation emphasizes the need for someone in the president role for the remaining 4 months, avoiding the typical learning curve of 4 to 6 months for a new executive. Ramin suggested that someone closely involved with the GSA, with nearly a year's experience on the council, would be a sensible choice for the position. Over the next 4 months, we have ambitious goals and events to plan. To ensure smooth progress, we need someone in the President role who would not require extensive onboarding. That is the idea behind Ramin's motion.

A (Abbas): After the December thirteenth meeting, I requested the council chair to announce the election since it had been over 4 months. If not announced within the specified timeframe, we would have to elect among the executives. Due to the holiday vacation and the chair's resignation, we couldn't find the chair to make the announcement, leading to the decision to appoint Kayla as the President.

Q (Jeisson): I want to know what are the priorities of the GSA after president is elected.

Q (Chelsea): Can Kayla also tell us how she will lead GSA and how she will be different?

A (Kayla): If elected President, I will also need to carry the responsibilities of VP Indigenous without the associated pay. Any duties vacated by resigning executives automatically fall to the President. While recognizing the added responsibilities for the next 4 months, my goal is to foster a collaborative team environment, involving the executives, a practice not observed since starting as my role, VP Indigenous in May 2023. Despite recent changes, we have been working closely together, and I anticipate continued collaborative efforts for the next 4 months. I want to make sure the GSA is doing well, and grad students feel comfortable. We are open, working together, and acting like a team. Our main focus is on what the GSA stands for and what's important for our grad students.

Q (Taylor): What will happen if the past president goes to take any legal steps after receiving the GSA council meeting minutes after next GSA council meeting?

A (Kayla): We are ready for the situation, and we anticipate some form of retaliation. However, before presenting the motion, we conducted our due diligence, collecting evidence. We are well-prepared and confident that we followed our bylaws and processes thoroughly. If issues arise, we commit to open and transparent communication with the council members.

Q (Pabitra): I have noticed that when our previous chair resigned, there was an immediate posting to fill the position, but the same hasn't happened for the President role. Can you please clarify this discrepancy?

A (Abbas): The chair of the Council leads the executive elections, serving as the head of the Electoral Committee. Consequently, the absence of the chair has prevented the execution of election of president post.

Q (Sainey): Since the motion that remove the previous president was brought forward by Kayla, wouldn't that be a conflict of interest? Also, at the same time being president and VP Indigenous, how effectively would you be able to run these two posts?

A (Kayla): I don't see it as a conflict of interest. Although I proposed the motion, it wasn't just me who spoke on it. Another executive member and some council members also spoke to the motion. Regarding the second question, before my term, the VP Indigenous role was maintained for 6 months by the previous executive, following a 2-year vacancy. Mustafa, the current president, took on all responsibilities during that time. While it's possible to manage all tasks, I don't want to bear that burden alone. My plan is to collaborate with my team, distributing responsibilities among the executives over the next 4 months, acknowledging the brevity of the timeframe. We've already begun delegating tasks among ourselves and aim to move forward this way, considering the swift turnover and being mindful of the incoming executives for the next year. My focus is on creating a turnover plan with internal process documents to guide the new executives on things like event planning, timelines, and contacts for smoother transitions. Council member's decisions are crucial here for appointing myself (Kayla) as president for the four months; the executives are merely providing recommendations.

A (Ramin): The motion to remove the previous president was supported by two-thirds of the executives and by majority of the Council. The decision to recommend Kayla's replacement also came from the Executive, as evident in the meeting minutes published in the December 20 agenda. Considering Kayla's service as an Indigenous VP aligns with the university's commitment to indigenization of leadership. Having her as a woman leader is a significant honor for us.

Q (Koal): Would we be able to receive clarification on if this is an interim role? How long is the period that Kayla will serve as president if she is accepted in this role?

A (Kayla): Yeah, I will serve as interim president until the end of April, a short timeframe.

Q (Chelsea): I have an unrelated question on how the agenda is done. We always receive emails for the meeting, but we don't receive any email on if we have any items to be added to the agenda. (maybe I don't understand it properly)

A (Alex): The onus is on council members to bring forward agenda items prior to the meeting or to state them at the beginning (when the chair asks if anyone has amendments to the agenda) - there isn't a prompt to send them in.

Some discussions among the council members over chat box:

Taylor: The transparency of elections of GSA president is questionable. It should be open to all students and must be announced using all GSA communication channels until next GSA council meeting.

Alex: I think the executives have been pretty transparent, there are only 4 months of the academic year left and to run a byelection, elect a new GSA president, and have them make meaningful progress before the end of April is doubtful. It would be an interim presidency.

Motion to recommend Kayla Benoit as the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association President. (Kiegan/Alex)

Carried

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstention: 0

As the majority of the member voted in favor, Kayla Benoit was appointed as the new president of the GSA.

Q (Elyse): I have just a thought your tenure in the VP indigenous position, would there have been people that you might want to recommend forward for that Position in the future?

A (Kayla): I'm reluctant to leave the position vacant, given the connections and opportunities it has brought. I've made valuable connections across campus, especially with indigenous counterparts. Although I have a few individuals in mind, I encourage council members to recommend any qualified indigenous graduate students for the role to ensure a smooth turnover and election process for the next 3 to 4 months. Please reach out to me or anyone on the Executive if you have suggestions.

Elyse: As a long-time counselor and former chair of the Governance Committee, I have seen the effort put into filling this position. The current momentum is strong, and I encourage any

initiatives that we, as counselors, can support to keep it going. Please inform us of ways we can assist the executives.

7. Motion to recommend to repurpose the GSA Common building as “GSA Childcare” to the council members

The chair urged the mover of this motion, VP finance, Ramin, to explain the motion to the council members.

Kayla wanted to start first. She said they propose repurposing the GSA Commons as a childcare space, a dream they have pursued over the last few months. Previous efforts to secure a dedicated building amounted to a \$5 million investment. However, renewing their agreement with Grad CGPS for the GSA Commons presents an opportunity; prefeasibility projects indicate a potential 22-fold increase in revenue by using GSA Common. An initial investment of \$120,000 is estimated to kickstart the daycare, significantly lower than the previously quoted \$5 million. Opportunities, such as the USask Startup Office Program and available grants, could support project design and funding applications.

Then Abbas added; in a meeting with Greg Fowler, Vice President of Administration, they explored using spare spaces on campus for a graduate student childcare facility. However, the university's priority is to expand departments, making the childcare initiative a lower priority. The university suggested a 5 to 10-year process and significant investment for childcare establishment. The idea to repurpose the GSA Commons as a childcare facility arose during discussions by VP finance Ramin as this location is close to the university. This motion is brought forth for council discussion as it aligns with the university's goals and addresses the immediate need for childcare. The council member's support and input are crucial in making this important decision.

Ramin talked about the numbers mostly. Last year, the GSA Commons generated \$12,000 in rental income, but the prefeasibility plan suggests a potential net income of \$120,000 to \$150,000 annually from the GSA Childcare initiative. This initiative directly benefits graduate students with children and provides a substantial income source for the association. This financial boost could support additional scholarships and bursaries. Therefore, they recommend to the council members to consider this opportunity.

Kiegan: Kayla, have there been "bids" or "proposals" for how much it will cost to help renovate the GSA Commons for childcare?

Elyse: What would the annual projected profit be? (Revenue - operating costs)

Catherine: Is there already a daycare on campus?

Wyatt: Would it be the whole facility? Where will GSA have for social events?

Taylor: The GSA commons building is a university property which is temporarily given to GSA for office usage with no authorization to change physical structures as it is a heritage property. Will the university permit to open a childcare center on it?

Ramin: In the coming weeks, the GSA will sign a license agreement, and we aim to incorporate childcare provisions into it. This addition is crucial for the next five years. Your approval will greatly assist us in discussions with the university, allowing us to confidently recommend the daycare initiative to the council and seek their support. With your approval, we can approach the university, seeking their assistance in utilizing this opportunity for a daycare facility.

Alex: There is a daycare on campus, but it is extremely difficult to get your child into (super long wait list!)

Chelsea: Will it be discounted for graduate students with kids? If we compare it with outside day care, how would GSA's be different?

Ramin: Yes, the graduate students will receive a specific subsidy from the daycare, offering unique advantages compared to other daycare options.

Elyse: Which entity would hold the educational care certification?

Megan: Is it possible for the executives to provide a more detailed plan via email before we vote on this today? I think this is a great idea, but it seems like a huge project with a lot of small details that need to be fleshed out first.

Jordan: A proposal with details would be great.

Jeisson: I like the proposal, but this is a motions must be accompany with slides showing up the pros and cons of this idea. The information presented here by the executives must be added to these slides to follow the evolution of the motion.

Catherine: Along with the pre-feasibility study, does the GSA have a business plan to share?

Pabitra: It's a great idea to have a GSA childcare.

Koal: I would like to add, I have heard from multiple graduate students that access to childcare would be a great addition to the campus. Would there be any involvement with post-doc researchers?

Wyatt: What will the cost or impacts of this motion be?

Elyse: I support the initiative for a childcare facility to address the needs of graduate student parents. However, it might be beneficial to approach the motion in two steps. First, pass a motion endorsing the principle of the idea. Subsequently, in the next meeting, present a more detailed proposal with concrete numbers, addressing aspects such as entity structure, permits, revenue, operational costs, staffing, and initial capacity. This phased approach will allow for a comprehensive and well-informed decision-making process.

Wyatt Armes: Elyse, do you suggest a second vote after the budget and plan is provided?

Ramin: We have initiated the pre-feasibility plan, and upon passing this motion, we will proceed with a concrete feasibility plan, ensuring full transparency regarding the numbers and the process. Currently, we seek your support to move forward with the motion, so that we can update the university real estate team in the upcoming meeting. Your support in passing this motion is vital for these next steps.

Abbas: We need the majority of council members' support to proceed with the idea. Once endorsed, we can bring it to the real estate team, initiating negotiations to incorporate this perspective into our agreements.

Elyse: So, can I suggest this motion instead: motion to investigate further the repurposing of the GSA building as a GSA childcare (provide budget and feasibility study). Because the motion here is about repurposing, indicating a definitive decision. Are you seeking our vote on a plan

without detailed numbers, or are you asking for approval to explore and investigate the concept? Clarification is needed before the Council can make a decision.

Megan: I agree with Elyse, we need to adjust this motion.

Catherine: Second Elyse's motion.

Kayla: Can we consider voting on the idea today, and then schedule a special meeting in a week for a vote once everyone has had the opportunity to review the feasibility study and business plan?

Elyse: I will make myself available.

Catherine: Do you have a business plan aligned with the pre-feasibility study? What's the deadline for renegotiating the lease with the campus, and can we schedule a meeting before then to discuss the details?

Abbas: The deadline to finalize the GSA agreement is January 30, and we have 20 days. If the council agrees, we can schedule another meeting for further discussion. Regarding the business plan, we don't have a specific budget for it, so we're currently preparing the pre-feasibility study and will share that with the council members.

Catherine: Many agree that a daycare is a great idea for social justice, but documentation is needed for support. The suggestion is to schedule a special GSA meeting dedicated to discussing the daycare before the deadline for renewing the rental agreement. In addition, can you include a line in the agreement that grants the GSA the right to utilize the facilities as needed, as renters typically reserve such rights?

Ramin: The University Real Estate Team, not CGPS, holds the final decision on the lease agreement. It's crucial to secure your support today for potential amendments in the upcoming meeting with the University Real Estate Team. And yeah, the pre-feasibility plan will be shared with the Council, and another emergent meeting will be scheduled to discuss the idea further.

Motion to investigate further the repurposing of the GSA building as a GSA childcare (provide budget and feasibility study). (Elyse/Catherine)

Carried

Yes: 23

No: 0

Abstention: 0

As the majority of the member voted in favor, investigating further the repurposing of the GSA building as a GSA childcare had been moved.

8. Motion to recommending to the Council to amend the budget to allow for an increase in budget that allows the Executive to increase the office manager's salary

The chair urged Kayla to explain the motion to the council members. Kayla explained that the motion is to amend the council budget to increase the office manager's gross salary from \$45,000 to \$105,000, aligning it with the UofS average gross net salary. This adjustment is aimed at making the salary more equitable for the services provided by the office manager, Paul.

Elyse: Is the job description equivalent to the comparisons? While updating the salary to the national average is seen as a positive idea, there's a request for assurance that the job description and required competencies align appropriately with the proposed salary increase.

Ramin: The current office manager, with around 20 years of experience and a Ph.D. in public policy, is considered a senior office manager. Comparing the salary to the previous office manager, who was a junior office manager with a higher salary, raises concerns about the adequacy of the current salary for the senior role. It's emphasized that the office manager's role is crucial for consistent management, especially when the executives are there for GSA merely for one year.

Taylor: Is this motion discussed at the budget committee before sending to the GSA council for approval?

Kayla: No- bylaw 5.4.6 allows the council to make this change without going to budget committee but not allowed to dictate the salary amounts.

Wyatt: Did you not dictate line 5 @105,000?

Kayla: We did dictate that, but here we are proposing an amendment to the budget to increase the office manager's salary.

Taylor: Don't the previous office manager end up the ~ 65k after working for GSA for 7 years. What would be the salary of the current manager after 7 years if GSA offer a starting salary of 65k? Can GSA afford this huge salary?

Ramin: The GSA can afford the increased salary this year through effective management and implementing revenue-generating plans, such as exploring additional income streams to cover the office manager's salary. Then he shared screen showing the job description of office manager.

Alex: I would think increases to salary after 7 years would also be brought forward to the GSA for vote?

Elyse: I think it means this: Once the academic council approves the budget change, the executives can decide on the salary.

Tahira: Where would the manager's office be if the GSA commons is converted to a daycare?

Abbas: The intention is to repurpose the building, but there will still be available space in the GSA Common, including rooms underground, for the executives and the office manager.

Jordan: Since we are currently speaking about money and considering the financial concerns of GSA when should the academic councils expect their funding? We still have not received any of our funding.

Emily: Same with the geography and planning, we haven't heard back from finance since September.

Abbas: If you did not receive that funding, you can talk to the office manager, and VP Finance to get your cheque.

Elyse: I see lots of administrative tasks, as a Senior position it would be interesting to adjust some of the tasks with more specific wording to increase the level of performance ie : working towards increasing rental revenues, etc ??

Motion to recommending to the Council to amend the budget to allow for an increase in budget that allows the Executive to increase the office manager's salary. (Alex/Ramin)

Carried

Yes: 13

No: 4

Abstention: 3

Taylor: What are the current revenue streams of the GSA?

Abbas & Ramin: From renting the GSA common, also from the membership fees from the grad students.

Taylor: In your earliest statement, you mentioned that \$12k was earned from renting, which is very small amount. Does that mean you are planning to increase student fees this year significantly?

Kevin: I do not support adding student fees to raise money for GSA. We can find other ways.

Kayla: Obviously we are committed to avoiding fee increases and share the same concern about the financial burdens. We aim to explore alternative revenue streams, including the proposed daycare, grants, collaboration with CGPS, and seeking funding from various university departments without increasing tuition fees.

Ramin: Our purpose is to support students. I, too, am a student. I want to clarify that when we talk about increasing the office manager's salary, it's not about increasing tuition fees.

Megan: Absolutely, grad students also must deal with inflation.

Elyse: And the same financing support rate as 20 years ago.

Taylor: CGPS doesn't give GSA operating funds.

Taylor: What is the amount you are proposing to increase? It is not clear from the motion.

Megan: Sorry I don't understand, are we saying his salary would increase from 33,000 to 78,000?

Ramin: Yes, the net income for manager goes from 33k to 78k. Manager even said if he won't receive this salary, he will resign.

Taylor: How come you make a salary double over the night with only 3 months experience?

Megan: Yes this seems like a drastic increase.

Nasrin: So the salary doubles?

Elyse: Councillors do not vote on the salary increase.

Chelsea: We have to come to an agreed salary. I think this is too much.

Alex: He holds a PhD and has 20 years experience, and he is also the only employee of the GSA - he is the only one that sticks around between executive members coming and going and makes things run.

Nasrin Aliasgharlou: Yes, there should be further discussion.

Kevin: He questioned the proposal to increase someone's salary by this much. He emphasized the need for discussion, highlighting that such significant increases are uncommon. Despite his reservations, he acknowledged the motion had already passed.

Taylor: The motion can still be overturned as per the Robert's rule of order, as the motion is not implemented yet.

Elyse: To note, the GSA has struggled to fill this position for a while now.

Kayla: This was a motion to amend the budget, and assigning salaries is the executive's responsibility as per our bylaws. We assure you that this decision will be made in a financially sound manner for the benefit and continuity of the GSA. The current manager is on a contract, and we aim to transition to a longer or permanent position to avoid continuous turnover. While open to concerns, the intention is to provide a fair wage for the manager's work and expertise. The specific wage increase will be communicated once confirmed by the executives, ensuring all formalities are addressed responsibly.

As the majority of the member voted in favor, motion to recommending to the council to amend the budget to allow for an increase in budget that allows the Executive to increase the office manager's salary had been moved.

9. Social Club Ratification

- **University of Saskatchewan Working for Inclusivity in Chemistry (USASK-WIC)**

Tahira, the chair of the club, is seeking re-ratification from the GSA for their club. The club was initially ratified in July and is now seeking continuation for this session. The club focuses on organizing events to facilitate networking opportunities in the industry for both graduate and undergraduate students. They also arrange social gatherings like multicultural potlucks to provide students with non-academic activities. Notably, they recently organized a visit to a Geoanalytical lab.

Questions and Responses

Q: How many grad students are there in your club? R: There are 29 students, out of these 76% are graduate student.

Q: How many of your executive are graduate student? R: All are grad students except one.

Approval of the University of Saskatchewan Working for Inclusivity in Chemistry.

Motion to approve of the club. (*Abbas/Kayla*)

Carried

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstention 0

The motion to accept the University of Saskatchewan Working for Inclusivity in Chemistry was approved by the majority of the council members.

Q(Tahira): How can we get a formal acknowledgement that our club is ratified.

A (Sristy): We upload information about ratification on our website. For formal acknowledgment, I recommend our GSA Chair send an email to formally acknowledge the ratification of this new social club after the meeting. I will provide their email for communication.

10. GSA Executive Report

10.1 Vice President Finance and Operations

We received 320 applications for the CGPS GSA Need-Based Bursary, selecting 43 winners by December 22, 2023. Despite the competitiveness, it sheds light on the financial difficulties faced by grad students. Considering this, we aim to increase resources for supporting all graduate students. On December 14, I collaborated with other executives to organize the GSA Research

Conference, featuring 45 poster presentations. Five graduate students received \$500 each for their outstanding work. On December 19, we discussed setting up the GSA Daycare Center in meetings with some folks. I proposed using the GSA common space for daycare, emphasizing its benefits for the entire graduate student association. My report, though delayed in publishing, is now available on the agenda. For further questions, please reach out to me via email.

10.2 Vice President Academic and Student Affairs

I actively supported my colleagues the daycare initiative, and organized the research conference and holiday hangout. Recently, we successfully organized the winter orientation, with 55 students registered for the event. Special guests, including Dean Dr. Debbie, and a Safety Research Officer, were there. Addressing academic and non-academic concerns from students, I advocate on their behalf and collaborate with VP teaching & learning Dr. Gerald in monthly meetings for issue resolution. As the Diversity Committee Chair, I plan to organize diversity and social programs for grad students in February, with event details circulated on social media and our official website.

10.3 Vice President External Affairs

We are currently revising the criteria for the award gala across 13 different disciplines. The specific criteria for each discipline are in progress, and nominations will be announced by the end of January. Before that, we need to finalize the required documents. We'll approach every council to distribute the announcement as the nomination deadline is approaching by the end of January. Your assistance in circulating the advertisement to graduate students is crucial as we seek the best candidates for the gala events. Your help is greatly appreciated.

10.4 Vice President Indigenous Engagement

I was part of the reconciliation task force meeting with key individuals from the University of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon to explore synergies in their initiatives. Additionally, I hosted the Graduate Research Conference, participated in the holiday hangouts, and served on a hiring committee for the Associate Dean at the College of Grad and Postdoctoral Studies. I invite anyone interested in joining hiring committees for higher-level positions within the university to reach out for opportunities. We may have a special meeting soon to address topics like child care, and I appreciate everyone's engagement and input. Our doors are open, and we are here to work

for you. Thank you for your votes, comments, and participation. I look forward to future discussions.

10.5 Questions & Answers

Elyse: Elyse, currently representing GSA in the College of Medicine New Dean Search, appreciates the valuable work on search committees but suggests that GSA members involved in such committees receive compensation or support for expenses like parking. She proposed considering this as a recommendation to address the financial burden on graduate students participating in these committees.

Kayla: She appreciated and acknowledged the commitment and recognized the time-consuming nature of the role. Despite not having control over finances, she mentioned having an executive with expertise in that area and committed to looking into the suggestion for parking support, expressing gratitude for the idea.

Wyatt: Wyatt asks about the legal matters involving the ex-president, expressing the importance for GSA councilors to understand the steps being taken and the potential consequences. He seeks information on the actions and preparations being made in response to the situation. He wanted to make surer if the executives reach out to someone outside for assistance or guidance in our situation.

Kayla: She highlighted the point in the motion where the GSA almost missed out on \$47,000 due to a communication issue by the previous president. She emphasized the importance of having documented proof and following policies. She collected the documents which will serve as evidence, and they are prepared for any potential legal recourse from the ex-president. They also talked to a few leaders regarding this.

11. Other Business

The chair asked for other businesses, hearing none he moved to the next and final agenda.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. (Elyse/Alex)

Yes: 7
No: 0
Abstention 0

Carried

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by the majority of the council members.

Appendix A

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

Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Biomedical	Blessing Ekwueme	P	P	P	P				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Chemical	Maliheh Heravi Ehsan Samimi Sohrforozani (Alternate)	P	P	P	A				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Civil, Geological & Environmental	Ehsan Samimi Sohrforozani Corwyn Shomachuk (Alternate)	P	A	P	A				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Electrical & Computer	Mohammad Salimi Hossein Nezhadian (Alternate)	P	P	P	P				
Engineering Graduate Community Council (EGCC) – Mechanical	Siddhartha Gollamudi Kathryn Avery (Alternate)	P	P	P	P				
English Course Council	Parastoo Tahmasbi Gwen Rose (Alternate)	A	P	P	A				
Geography & Planning Graduate Council	Emily Ireland Prakash Sapkota (Alternate)	P	P	P	P				
Kinesiology Graduate Student Council	Kevin Mageto Karissa Johnson (Alternate)	P	P	P	P				
Nursing Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	Jordan Sherstobitoff Catherine Lavigne Sarah Karwacki Solie (Alternate) Geneveave Barbo (Alternate)	P	P	P	P				
Plant Science	Sainey Ceesay Suma Ghosh- Alternate	P	P	P	P				
Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS)	Tyler Blanchette Carter Frerichs (Alternate)	P	P	P	A				

SENSSA	Chelsea Ohenewaa Nyarko Aisha Adelah (Alternate)	P	P	P	P				
School of Public Health (SPHSA)	Somayeh Abdi Jacyn Edwards Ahmed Muftah (Alternate)	A	P	P	A				
Sociology GSA	Meaghan Boily Leah Houseman (Alternate) Kayla Arisman (Alternate)	P	P	P	A				
Soil Science Graduate Student Association	Landon Orenchuk Tristan Chambers (Alternate)	P	P	P	P				
Animal and Poultry Science GSA	Megan Dubois Wyatt Armes	A	P	P	P				
ARE Graduate Student Society	Koal Sammons Josh Bourassa	P	P	P	P				
Toxicology Graduate Student Association (TGSA) Academic Councilor	Alexandra Cullen Emily Kennedy	P	P	P	P				
History Graduate Student Association	Kiegan Lloyd Catlin M. Woloschuk	A	P	P	P				
Physics & Engineering Physics (PEGASUS)	Jeisson A. Vanegas Carranza Nicholas Simonson	N/A	N/A	P	A				
Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Student Association	Harjot Tu Bazal Khalid	N/A	P	P	A				

Executive member	Name of executive member	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024
Exec. VP Finance and Operations	Ramin Mohammadi	P	P	P	P				
Exec. VP Academic and Student Affairs	Sristy Sumana Nath	P	P	A	P				
Exec. VP External Affairs	Abbas Fazel Anvari Yazdi	A	P	P	P				
Exec. VP Indigenous Engagement	Kayla Benoit	A	A	P	P				