

UMGSA Council Meeting Documents
Wednesday, May 24th, 2017 - 5 PM - UMGSA Lounge

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UMGSA Executive Reports

April 1st - 30th, 2017

Albert Boakye, VP External

From: Albert Boakye, Vice President-External
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date of Submission: 7th May, 2017
Re: April 01, 2017-April 30, 2017

Executive Summary of Work:

- My Executive work in this period of reporting includes: Committee works and official meetings.
- Executive committee meetings, and other official meetings
- Maintaining my regular office hours as well as extra office time. I honored all office hours and other possible commitments.

Executive Summary of Hours:

2017-04-03	Awards Committee	1:30
2017-04-03	Meeting on Survey Review Committee	0.30
2017-04-05	Office Hours	2:00
2017-04-10	Transition Meeting + Executive Meeting	3:00
2017-04-12	Office Hours	2:00
2017-04-17	Meeting with Indigenous Student Coordinator	0.30
2017-04-19	ThinkGrad Conference	8:00
2017-04-20	ThinkGrad Conference	8:00
2017-04-21	ThinkGrad Conference	5:00
2017-04-26	Office Hours	2:00
Monthly Total		32:30hours

Time Spent in Meetings: 6:30hours

Meetings Cancelled: Regrets were sent to Finance Committee and Council Meeting. Delays in Reviewing Survey Responses did not permit a scheduling of a Campaigns meeting.

Office Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00am to 11:00am

Total Hours Spent on UMGSA for April: 32:30hours

MD Monjurul Islam Khan, Senator

From: Md Monjurul Islam Khan, Senator
 To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
 Submitted on: May 3rd, 2017
 Re: April 1st – April 30th, 2017

Executive Summary of Work:

I attended all the executive meetings held in April. I also attended the SCOM meeting, transition meeting, Alumni round table program, hello good bye social and April Council meeting etc. I helped VPI to organize tax session on Saturday. Lastly I maintained my office hours regularly except one day when transition meeting overlapped with my office hours.

Executive Summary of Hours:

4/6/2017	10:00:00 AM	12:00:00 PM	Transition meeting	2
	5:00:00 PM	6:00:00 PM	Exec meeting	2
4/8/2017	9:00:00 AM	12:00:00 PM	Tax session	3
4/12/2017	1:30:00 PM	3:00:00 PM	Senate Committee of Academic Computing	1.5
	5:00:00 PM	18:30:00PM	By-laws committee meeting	1.5
4/17/2017	5:00:00 PM	7:00:00 PM	Alumni round table meeting	2
4/13/2017	11:00:00 AM	1:00:00 PM	Office hours	2
4/20/2017	11:00:00 AM	1:00:00 PM	Office hours	2
4/26/2017	3:30:00 PM	5:00:00 PM	Exec meeting	1.5
	5:00:00 PM	6:00:00 PM	Council meeting	1
4/27/2017	11:00:00 AM	1:00:00 PM	Office hours	2
	5:00:00 PM	7:00:00 PM	Hello goodbye social	2
Monthly total				22.5

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, AND BUSINESS MATTERS

Meetings and Events Attended:

4/6/2017	10:00:00 AM	12:00:00 PM	Transition meeting	2
	5:00:00 PM	6:00:00 PM	Exec meeting	2
4/8/2017	9:00:00 AM	12:00:00 PM	Tax session	3
4/12/2017	1:30:00 PM	3:00:00 PM	Senate Committee of Academic Computing	1.5
	5:00:00 PM	18:30:00PM	By-laws committee meeting	1.5
4/17/2017	5:00:00 PM	7:00:00 PM	Alumni round table meeting	2
4/26/2017	3:30:00 PM	5:00:00 PM	Exec meeting	1.5
	5:00:00 PM	6:00:00 PM	Council meeting	1
4/27/2017	5:00:00 PM	7:00:00 PM	Hello goodbye social	2
Monthly total				16.5

Time spent in meetings and events: 16.5 hours

Meetings Cancelled: None

Office Hours:

Thursday: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Time spent in meeting material review: 1 hours (Not included in the Executive Summary hours)

Time spent report writing: 0.5 hour (Not included in the Executive Summary hours)

Time spent in the office: 6 hours

Time spent in meetings and events: 16.5 hours

Total hours spent on UMGSA in April: 26.5 hours

Appendix I – GU15 Spring 2017 Conference Report

ThinkGrad Spring Conference Report

From: Enoch A-iyeh, UMGSA President, Albert Boakye, UMGSA VPE

To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba

Date: May 24, 2017 Council Meeting

Re: ThinkGrad Conference, April 19-21st, 2017

Introduction

The most recent ThinkGrad Conference formerly called GU15 Conference was attended by two UMGSA executives (Enoch A-iyeh and Albert Boakye. The Conference was hosted by the University of Saskatoon from April 19 to April 21, 2017. This 3-days conference hosted Graduate Student Association members from 6 institutions in all including the University of Manitoba, University of Montreal, McMaster University, McGill University, University of Guelph and the University of Saskatchewan. These institutions were represented by leaders of their respective graduate student associations. This report outlines the various activities and programs at the conference.

Day One: Wednesday, April 19, 2017: Updates from Previous Conference and New Agenda Items

Chaired by Carolyn Gasper (Vice President External Affairs), the conference started at 8:45am with a welcoming speech from the University of Saskatoon GSA President Ziad Ghaith. In his short speech, he commended on the role of student leaders from the various universities and indicated how pleased they were to host the conference. Following this, the Dr. Adam Baxter-Jones, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research gave introductory remarks. Dr. Baxter-Jones in his brief speech spoke about the critical role of student leaders for enhancing graduate student experience across Canada. He emphasized on the need to strengthening the indigenizing of students by modifying both undergraduate and graduate programs of which the University of Saskatchewan has already taken a step. He advised on taking critical steps by universities to finding ways for accommodating the rapid growth of international students enhancing diversity.

Following the main agenda, Ashley Ravenscroft from McMaster University gave brief updates from the Summer Conference held at McMaster University. She affirmed the need for incorporating GU15 Conference as ThinkGrad, a critical agenda which was discussed at the previous conference. She reaffirmed the need for incorporation of which several deliberations were discussed. She led the discussion on what Thinkgrad seeks to offer, its action plan and the benefits of participating universities. Philippe Lebel from the University of Montreal was chosen as ThinkGrad Coordinator to amend the existing proposal on ThinkGrad. All attendees agreed to incorporate into ThinkGrad after an extensive deliberation. The agreement led to tasking each member to collecting data drafting white paper.

The second agenda covered the Governance Structure among the various participating GSAs. As a form of shared practice, each member described its organizational structure as well as its reporting and coordinating responsibilities.

The third agenda covered Student Supervisor Agreement, a discussion that was led by University of Saskatchewan GSA President with a supporting staff from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and

Research. The discussion dealt with student supervisor agreement adapted from the University of University. Student leaders were keen to study and examine the responsibilities of students and supervisors within such agreements. Comments were raised regarding some guidelines embody those agreements in the form of contracts. In the final analysis, student leaders were more keen to adopt practices that do not contradict the relationship between the student and supervisor.

Concluding remarks was given by Carolyn Gasper and thanked all members for such a fruitful discussion at 5:00pm. This was followed by a dinner session at 6:00pm

Day Two: Wanuskewin Heritage Park

The second day of the conference started at 9:20am with a trip to Wanuskewin Heritage Park, a historical site in Northern Saskatoon. The first session started with a presentation from the Montreal University by Phillippe Lebel on Copy Right Acts. This was followed by a roundtable discussion through the sharing of ideas on university administration laws and copy right issues within participating universities. The second session involved touring the Heritage Park with the help of a tour guide providing historical briefings about Wanuskewin. The third session covered a series of presentation by student leaders from University of Montreal and McGill University. Phillipe Lebel presented on a mental health issue which was a study conducted at the University of Montreal. Findings and Recommendations were examined and discussed thoroughly. Victor Frankel from McGill University presented on Sustainability Policies-Divestment and Carbon Neutrality. His presentation advised all leaders to consider critical steps embodying climate change issues. He emphasized the need for a strong sustainability policies across Canadian universities. He advised the GSAs to mobilize assets, lead discussions and engage administrative authorities to push for better sustainability policies. The day ended with a concluding remark by Carolyn Gasper which was followed with a departure to GSA Commons at 5:00pm

Day Three: Incorporating and White Paper Discussions

The third day of the conference started at the University of Saskatchewan Administrative Building with a discussion on items to be considered on the White Paper from ThinkGrad. Issues such as mental health, graduate school housing, funding came up during the deliberations. A motion was passed to consider graduate student funding. In the cause of the discussion, ideas were solicited from each University's student representative. Each university was then tasked to conduct surveys on the funding possibilities of graduate students. The upcoming conference would consider the data collected from each university which would be shared and make some recommendations. The University of Manitoba and the University of Montreal agreed to working on the proposed white paper. Questions were raised regarding TAs or Ras being considered as employees of the universities and whether that constitutes funding for graduate students. A structure of the graduate funding survey was discussed. The University of Montreal agreed to host the upcoming conference in August with a proposed date between 2-4th August, 2017. The University of Manitoba was to consider hosting April 2018 conference of which a feedback needs to be given before the August Conference in Montreal. Following this, a \$200.00 observer fee was agreed for universities joining for the first time in which they would attend without a vote for a 2-year period. All members agreed that McMaster University continues to keep monies raised so far for the establishment of ThinkGrad. The last agenda item was to ideas on sexual harassment policy through a roundtable discussion. Concluding remarks was given by the University of Saskatchewan GSA President Ziad Ghaith. at 12:30pm Group pictures were taken in front of the Administrative Building of the University of Saskatchewan.