University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students’ Association

University Council Report, December 2020

Dear Members of Council,

It has been a challenging term with the ongoing pandemic, and the GSA Executives are now busy preparing for the winter 2021 term as the year is fast approaching its end. Currently, we are working on the following initiatives:

1. Holiday Hangout
2. Winter 2021 Orientation

1. Holiday Hangout
The Holiday Hangout has been a successful event that began in December 2019, led by the GSA Executives and supported by other university partners across campus. It was an initiative where students who were away from home could come together, feel a sense of community, participate in fun activities, and share a meal. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, and the measures in place by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, we are unable to offer an in-person Holiday Hangout event this year. However, with the support from our USask community, such as the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) and members of our Faith Leaders, we are pleased to continue our Holiday Hangout initiative in an alternative format. This year for Holiday Hangout, the GSA will be distributing and delivering meals to graduate students on December 28, and December 29, 2020 with the support of our graduate student volunteers, so
we can continue a sense of community for students that are away from their families during the holidays.

2. Winter 2021 Orientation

At the beginning of the new year, the GSA will be welcoming incoming graduate students for the winter term with an introduction to the services that the GSA and the University offers during these unprecedented times. The GSA is looking forward to holding its virtual orientation on January 11, 2021, and a modified version of our curbside pickup. Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan, the GSA will be offering swag bags to students for the winter orientation by way of appointment and with the permission of the Pandemic Response Team.

The GSA continues its role to advocate on behalf of graduate students in order to support student success and relay student concerns, organize events to engage students, and collaborate with the USask community to foster an environment of positivity. On behalf of the GSA, we wish members of council a wonderful winter break and a happy new year. I look forward to continuing our work with members of council for the year 2021.

Humaira Inam

President

Graduate Students’ Association