



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

University Council Report, January 2021

Dear Members of Council,

On behalf of the GSA, I wish you a Happy New Year and hope you had time to relax and recharge after the challenging term we had. The GSA Executives have also been busy navigating the start of this term. Currently, we are working on the following initiatives:

1. Holiday Hangout 2020
2. Winter 2021 Orientation
3. Winter Bursaries
4. Graduate Professional Skills

1. Holiday Hangout 2020

Holiday Hangout for 2020 was quite different due to the ongoing pandemic. The GSA distributed and delivered meals and goodie bags to graduate students across Saskatoon on December 28, and December 29, 2020 with the support of 20 volunteers and 6 cars. We dedicated 20 hours of preparation, and 50 hours of driving to 200 different locations around the city to deliver 350 meals. Additionally, we also provided more than 30 meals to the Lighthouse Supported Living. This initiative could not have been possible without the support of the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC), members of our Faith Leaders, and St. Thomas More College.

2. Winter 2021 Orientation

The GSA conducted a virtual orientation on January 11, 2021 to welcome new graduate students beginning their academic journey at the University of Saskatchewan this term and informed them of the services offered on campus. Additionally, as we were unable to hold a curbside pickup of swag bags, we provided graduate students the option to pick up a swag bag by appointment. We prepared a total of 160 bags and distributed nearly all of them within two weeks.

3. Winter 2021 Bursaries

The GSA will open applications for the Winter 2021 term bursaries on January 18, 2021 to continue supporting our graduate who are in financial need. The applications will remain open until February 25, 2021 and successful bursary applicants will be informed by March 10, 2021.

4. Graduate Professional Skills

One of our goals this academic year was to provide initiatives that will enhance professional skills and assist graduate students in the working world after graduation. Last term, we hosted the “Financial Literacy Seminar” where we invited Professor Lane from the Edwards School of Business, and the “Resume and Cover Letter Writing” seminar where Dr. Janet Hill was the guest speaker. These initiatives were very well received by graduate students, and the GSA Executives are working on organizing them for the winter term as well.

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.

Humaira Inam

President

Graduate Students' Association