The Graduate Students’ Association welcomes a new executive team, representing and advocating for graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan from May 2021 to April 2022. The new executive team is as follows:

- **President:** Rifat Zahan
- **Vice-President Finance and Operations:** Ehsan Moradi
- **Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs:** Olusola Akintola
- **Vice-President External:** Leslie Tetteh
- **Vice-President Indigenous Engagement:** Tina Alexis

The new executive team is profoundly honoured to represent graduate students and advocate for them at this university. The executives look forward to working with our colleagues on campus and outside of campus. We will continue to advance the Graduate Students' Association's mandates and provide the necessary services and resources to our graduate students to achieve academic, professional, and leadership excellence. We have worked closely with students, staff, and faculty to support graduate students in many ways, especially during the pandemic. We want to continue this working relationship and hope to expand our scope.

For this academic year, the Graduate Students’ Association executive will focus on four goals:

1. **Requesting student representation on the Board of Governors**

   We want to advance the request initiated by our predecessors to amend *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* and include a graduate student representative on the Board of Governors. The graduate students at the University represent more than 17% of the overall student population at the University of Saskatchewan. We will continue our efforts to make sure our graduate students are represented on the Board of Governors.

2. **Increase awareness on diversity and inclusion**

   The Graduate Students’ Association wants to increase awareness of diversity and inclusion and advocate for establishing benefits and support programs for marginalized student populations.
3. **Work towards enhancing resources to support students’ mental health and well-being during the pandemic**

This past year has been very hard on students, staff, and faculty due to the global pandemic. We have seen many students struggle financially, mentally, physically, and spiritually. Therefore, we need to recognize and address mental health and help students connect to support at the university and community. The Graduate Students’ Association wants to work towards eliminating the stigma around mental health, promote wellness, and work towards increasing available resources to support graduate students’ mental health and well-being.

4. **Enhancing support to students’ academic, professional and leadership skills**

The Graduate Students’ Association will work towards enhancing support for graduate students to improve their academic, professional, and leadership skills. We will work throughout the year to organize social events, workshops, seminars, cross-cultural experiences and connect students to stakeholders for possible collaborations on campus.

We look forward to working with members of the university community to contribute to future graduate student initiatives and support students throughout the academic year.

Rifat Zahan
President, Graduate Students’ Association