Dear Members of Council,

In this report, you will find a brief update of the initiatives the GSA has been working on:

1. Student Engagement
2. Graduate Faculty Support
3. Student-Supervisor Relationship

1. Student Engagement
The GSA has been working towards providing Need-Based bursaries to graduate students for the fall 2020 term in collaboration with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, which has been especially crucial during COVID-19. We have received over 100 applications and the GSA Bursary Committee is now in the process of choosing successful applicants. The GSA Executives has also begun their work on the three minutes thesis competition, the Graduate Research Conference, and the Winter 2021 orientation, which will all be offered in alternative formats this year due to the pandemic.

2. Graduate Faculty Support
The supervisor handbook has been in the process of being completed since 2018 when our predecessor was working on this handbook in collaboration with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). The GSA Executives have continued this work with CGPS and are
close to finalizing the handbook so it can go to publishing and be available to faculty in the near future.

3. Student-Supervisor Relationship

We continue to stress the importance of the student-supervisor relationship as well as the mandatory agreement that all incoming graduate students should be completing within the first year of their program. We will continue to promote this document across colleges to students and faculty members to help improve accountability and the relationship between students and supervisors.

The GSA continues its efforts to advocate for the needs and concerns of our members and to look for opportunities to create initiatives that will benefit the academic and social experience of our students at the University of Saskatchewan.

Humaira Inam

President

Graduate Students’ Association