



**University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association  
Presented by GSA President  
Report to Council -September 2024**

**Dear Members of the University Council,**

The Graduate Students Association warmly welcomes you to the 2024 fall term. We recognise this is a busy term filled with numerous activities. Nevertheless, we are committed to achieving our goals and ensuring our graduate students feel comfortable while making the university a safe space for all. This fall term is packed with important events, including orientation sessions, GSA Academic Council meetings, the formation of standing committees, the distribution of bursaries, and ongoing student advocacy. We look forward to working together to make this fall term a safer space for all graduate students.

**Need-Based Bursaries for Spring and Summer 2024**

Need-based bursaries for the spring/summer call have been distributed to 32 deserving applicants. Unfortunately, during these challenging economic times, student need outweighs available funding, and many deserving applicants did not receive a bursary this call. An approximately equal number of bursaries will be distributed in each call, so students who were not selected are encouraged to apply again.

**Travels**

The GSA President from July 29-31 2024 attended the Canada Federation of Students' conference in Ontario, participating in the Racialized and Indigenous Student Experience (RISE) summit. This important event focused on empowering students to pursue meaningful causes and embrace cultural diversity for community development. The conference provided important insights and networking opportunities, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive leadership and diverse representation within the graduate student community.

**Council meeting and others**

We recently held our council meeting for the spring and summer terms, which saw excellent attendance. Council members have been actively collaborating, sharing ideas, and contributing to the growth of the Graduate Students Association (GSA).

It's important to inform the council that, due to unforeseen circumstances, our predecessors were unable to secure approval for the GSA 2024/2025 budget. This has somewhat limited our ability to implement certain initiatives. We are currently working diligently to form the Budget and Finance committee so we can take the necessary steps to get a budget approved by committee and council.

### **GSA Fall Orientation**

The GSA Fall Orientation was successfully held on September 11, 2024, at the GSA Commons. We were honored to have the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), Debby Burshtyn as our keynote speaker. The Dean not only delivered an inspiring address but also unveiled our new GSA T-shirt for the 2024/2025 school year. The event brought together various campus groups, including representatives from the University Library, International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC), University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) and other guests. We're pleased to report that the orientation was well-attended, with over 140 graduate students from diverse departments participating. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all participants who contributed to the success of the 2024 Fall Orientation. Your presence and engagement helped create a welcoming environment for our new and returning graduate students.

### **Educational trip**

The Graduate Students Association (GSA), in partnership with the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC), organised an educational excursion to Wanuskewin on August 26, 2024. This initiative was planned to offer participants a blend of stress relief and cultural education, focusing on Saskatchewan's rich heritage and traditions. The trip garnered significant interest, attracting over 30 participants, which represented nearly 80% of the graduate student body. It provided an invaluable opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of land acknowledgments and to explore the region's history and plant life. The excursion was a success, offering participants meaningful insights and a positive, shared experience that broadened their cultural awareness.

### **Media**

We're pleased to announce that starting November 2024, the GSA will implement new logos for all official communications and duties. We selected these logos based on their representations in the USASK community. We kindly request that council members and all relevant parties recognize and use these updated visual identifiers moving forward.



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### **The GSA Commons**

We'd like to inform the council that GSA Commons is available for rentals and open to graduate students for study sessions.

**David Ohene-Amoako**  
President, Graduate Students' Association  
University of Saskatchewan