



Graduate Students' Association

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN – GRADUATE STUDENTS

Association

December 19, 2024, Report Presented to The University Council

Meeting, Venue – Convocation Hall

Dear Members of the University Council,

We bring you warmth. The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) extends its warm regards and shares updates on several impactful initiatives and upcoming events that aim to support and celebrate our vibrant graduate student community. We wish you a joyful and restful holiday season, and for those celebrating Christmas, we send our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Fall 2024 GSA-CGPS Need-Based Bursary

We have reviewed the applications and will contact the successful applicants on December 19. We will distribute the bursaries electronically before the new year.

Toy and Kids Cloth Drive

Following the success of our massive warm clothing drive, we have launched a toy and kids' clothing drive, which will run through January 2025. This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting student parents and emphasizes GSA's dedication to establishing a daycare center. This facility will provide a nurturing environment for children while enabling parents to focus on their studies and complete their programs within the allotted time. The toy drive marks a significant step toward realizing the GSA's vision of establishing a childcare center.

UPass Opt-Out

The UPass opt-out application is now open through January 17, 2025. Students who are eligible to opt out should fill out the application as soon as possible. Students must opt out every term. GSA has received student feedback that the opt-out criteria are not representative of student needs, and we are in discussions with SaskTransit and USSU about possible changes. We want to clarify that GSA does not exclusively control these criteria, but these are resultant from a long-standing agreement between GSA, USSU, and SaskTransit, which may not be easy to change rapidly without major agreement renegotiations.

Black History month

Plans for Black History Month in February 2025 are still under discussion, and this year, GSA has the privilege of being part of the planning committee.

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) extends its sincere gratitude to the graduate student community. Their collective unity and collaboration, guided by thoughtful and effective leadership, serve as a powerful foundation for achieving shared goals and overcoming challenges. The students united will never be defeated.

David Ohene-Amoako

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President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)