

Council Report



Prepared For:
University of Saskatchewan Council

Prepared By:
Graduate Students Association



Dear University Council Members,

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), I am pleased to present highlights of our recent activities, advocacy efforts, and upcoming initiatives for October 2025. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting graduate student success, fostering community engagement, and collaborating with university partners to enhance the overall graduate experience.

GSA Transit Pass

This month, the GSA met with representatives from Saskatoon Transit to discuss potential updates to the Graduate Student U-Pass (transit pass).

The discussion focused on exploring the introduction of spring and summer U-Pass options for graduate students. Saskatoon Transit indicated that implementing a spring/summer pass would likely be feasible, though it would require adjustments to the graduate student fee submission process.

A preliminary analysis suggested that if spring/summer passes are added, the overall annual U-Pass cost for graduate students may decrease compared to the current fee structure. Saskatoon Transit will provide the GSA with detailed information on the potential fee changes associated with introducing these seasonal passes.

Once this information is received, the GSA plans to consult graduate students through a referendum to determine their preferences before proceeding with an agreed approach.

GRADUATE VOICES INITIATIVE

The GSA continues to advance the Graduate Voices Initiative, a storytelling project that highlights the diverse experiences and journeys of graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan.

This month, we featured our first story, *"From Farm Fields to Research Fields – Jeremy Irvine's Journey,"* which received positive engagement from the graduate community. (You can read the article at the provided [link](#).)

Graduate Voices serves as a platform for students to share both their successes and challenges, offering an authentic look into the realities of graduate life. It helps foster empathy, connection, and pride within the graduate community by amplifying diverse perspectives.

Moving forward, the GSA will continue to feature stories regularly, showcasing graduate students across disciplines and backgrounds to strengthen belonging and understanding within the university.

Financial Literacy Series (Budgeting 101)

In collaboration with Student Finance and Awards, the GSA is launching a new Financial Literacy Series to support graduate students in developing practical financial management skills. The first session, "Budgeting 101," will be held on October 22 at the GSA Commons.

This session will cover key topics such as personal budgeting, value-based spending, and long-term financial planning. The series aims to enhance financial literacy and confidence among graduate students, contributing to their overall well-being and academic success.

Through this initiative, the GSA continues to promote holistic student support by addressing areas of financial wellness essential to graduate student success.

Halloween Costume Contest and Movie night

Following feedback from graduate students indicating a need for more social and family-oriented programming, the GSA will host a Halloween Costume Competition and Movie Night on October 29 at the GSA Commons.

Graduate students noted that most events focus on academic or professional development, with limited opportunities for relaxation and family participation. In response, this event was designed to provide a fun, inclusive, and family-friendly environment where students and their children can engage with the campus community.

The evening will feature a costume competition for both adults and children, followed by a family-friendly movie screening. Through this initiative, the GSA aims to strengthen community connections, promote student well-being, and ensure that graduate student parents and their families feel welcomed and supported within the university environment.

Engagement with the President's Executive Council on EDI

Earlier in October, the GSA participated in a meeting with the President's Executive Council to discuss ongoing efforts related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) at the University of Saskatchewan.

The GSA used this opportunity to share the graduate student perspective, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that EDI initiatives meaningfully include graduate student experiences. Particular attention was given to the need for equitable access to supports for international students, student parents, and students from equity-deserving groups.

In alignment with these efforts, the GSA is also in the process of organizing anti-racism training for the GSA Executive members and the Diversity Standing Committee. This initiative aims to strengthen our collective understanding and capacity to address racism and promote equity within the graduate student community.

The GSA appreciates the continued collaboration with university leadership and looks forward to contributing to tangible progress in creating a more inclusive and supportive campus environment for all graduate students.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Council as we strengthen the graduate student experience, and I welcome your feedback as we move ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



Palash R. Roy

President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)