

# Council Report



**Prepared For:**

University of Saskatchewan Council

**Prepared By:**

Graduate Students Association



Dear University Council Members,

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Association, I am pleased to share highlights of recent activities, advocacy efforts, and upcoming initiatives for January 2026.

### **Support for Iranian Graduate Students**

In response to the ongoing situation in Iran and its impact on members of the university community, the Graduate Students' Association took formal action to support Iranian graduate students. The GSA issued a public statement of solidarity and subsequently hosted a dedicated support event for Iranian students. This event was organized in collaboration with Student Health & Wellness, Student Affairs and Outreach, and ISSAC, and provided a structured space for students to share their experiences, identify challenges, and access institutional supports.

The GSA continues to engage with senior university leadership to advocate for appropriate academic, wellness, and administrative supports for affected students. Further updates will be provided as discussions progress.

### **GSA Childcare Initiative**

With support from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) secured CAD 1,000 to support the development of a childcare business proposal in response to identified graduate student needs.

The GSA is currently exploring potential collaborations to support the development of this proposal. In parallel, the GSA remains in active communication with the CGPS Dean and our interim vice-provost to identify appropriate pathways to carry this initiative forward and assess options for future implementation.

### **GSA & Education Minister Everett Hindle**

We continue to work on scheduling a meeting with our provincial Education Minister, Everett Hindle, to discuss the challenges faced by graduate students in Saskatchewan, including issues surrounding childcare. We are awaiting confirmation and will keep you updated on the outcome of this important conversation.

### **Advocacy for International Mother Language Day**

In alignment with the university's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priorities, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is advocating for the formal recognition of International Mother Language Day on campus. This initiative reflects the linguistic diversity of the university community and aims to promote cultural inclusion and awareness.

The GSA is currently in communication with the Acting Deputy Provost and the Language Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, and this matter will be discussed further at an upcoming President's Executive Committee (PEC) meeting.

### **Graduate Student Fees**

For the upcoming period, Health and Dental fees will increase by 5%. Although fees were increased in the previous year, that adjustment was insufficient to align with the current level of utilization of health and dental services by graduate students. This adjustment is necessary to ensure the continued provision and sustainability of health and dental coverage and related services for graduate students.

### **Graduate Student Engagement**

The GSA successfully delivered several initiatives supporting graduate student engagement, including:

- The GSA Holiday Hangout, a well-attended, multi-day event delivered in partnership with campus units.
- A Welcome Week session in collaboration with OPUS, highlighting research commercialization opportunities.
- The Indigenous Intercultural Exchange and Resource Fair, hosted for the first time and fully funded through external sponsorship and OVPIE.

The Graduate Students' Association remains committed to advocating for the academic success, well-being, and overall experience of graduate students. The updates outlined in this report reflect ongoing efforts to support graduate students through responsible financial management, inclusive initiatives, and collaboration with university leadership. The GSA looks forward to continued engagement with University Council on these matters.

Regards,



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