

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 September 2025.

### **REINSTATEMENT OF NON-PROFIT STATUS**

The Graduate Students' Association has successfully regained its non-profit status with Information Services Corporation as of September 1. The status had lapsed in 2022 due to missed filings, creating a barrier to fundraising and financial growth. Restoring it required completion of the FY23 and FY24 audits and extensive organizational effort. With this reinstatement, the GSA is once again eligible to pursue grant applications, fundraising initiatives, and new revenue opportunities. I would also like to acknowledge the important contributions of our Vice-President Finance, Lindsay, whose persistence across two terms was instrumental in this achievement.

### **GSA FALL ORIENTATION 2025**

On September 10, the GSA hosted its annual Fall Orientation to welcome new and returning graduate students. The event featured information booths, community partners, and opportunities for students to connect with campus services. Although I was attending an international conference, I shared a recorded welcome message, and the Orientation was successfully delivered under the leadership of our Vice-President Academic, Mandela, with support from the executive team.

### **GRADUATE VOICES INITIATIVE**

The GSA has launched Graduate Voices, a new storytelling project designed to celebrate the unique journeys of graduate students at USask. This initiative will highlight diverse experiences, from groundbreaking research to resilience through challenges, providing a platform for graduate students to share their stories with the university and broader community. Graduate Voices will strengthen connection, visibility, and pride in our graduate community.

## **ANTI-RACISM SYMPOSIUM**

In partnership with the USSU and Student Health and Wellbeing, the GSA is organizing an Anti-Racism Symposium on November 19 at the GSA Commons. The symposium will feature student-led discussions, research presentations, and interactive workshops to equip students with tools to recognize and address racism on campus. Feedback will also help inform the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University, the GSA, and the USSU to advance equity and anti-racism.

## **ADVOCACY AND STUDENT WELLBEING**

The GSA continues to engage in advocacy on behalf of graduate students. Recent discussions with provincial representatives have focused on tuition, childcare, and transit safety. We are also preparing to renegotiate the GSA Transit U-Pass contract, including discussions on opt-out criteria and the potential for spring and summer passes. These efforts are essential to ensuring graduate students have affordable access to education, safe and reliable transportation, and adequate supports during their studies.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

The GSA remains committed to strengthening graduate student life through advocacy, collaboration, and inclusive programming. This fall's work lays the foundation for stronger financial stability, greater emphasis on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), and more innovative events shaped by graduate student feedback. Our goal is to ensure that all graduate students see themselves reflected in the GSA's work and feel connected to the wider USask community.

I look forward to working together with the Council as we continue strengthening the graduate student experience, and I welcome your feedback as we move ahead.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Palash R. Roy

President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)