Graduate Students' Association

November 19, 2026

University Council Report

Prepared By :
Graduate Students Association of USask
Sunny Bui
President 2026-27



Graduate Students' Association, University of Saskatchewan
EMMANUAL & ST. CHAD BLDG.
1337 College Dr., Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0W6
110 Place Riel, 1 Campus Dr., Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5A3
(P) 306-966-8471 (F) 306-966-1295 gsa.usask.ca

Dear University Council Members,

Since my October report, the Graduate Students' Association has continued to advance graduate student affordability, research supports, childcare, community engagement, representation, and governance. Considerable attention has also been devoted to completing academic-group ratification, governance activities, and developing a transparent package of proposed electoral reforms for consideration at our December Annual General Meeting.

Graduate Student Engagement and Representation
At its October meeting, GSA Council selected two graduate student representatives for the College of Agriculture and Bioresources Faculty Council. Academic councils and social groups also completed the annual ratification process, allowing recognized groups to continue participating in Council, accessing event funding, and representing their respective graduate student communities.

Recruitment for GSA Standing Committees remains underway. These committees provide graduate students with opportunities to participate in governance, financial oversight, awards, bursaries, sustainability, diversity, and ethical decision-making. The GSA has also continued identifying graduate student representatives for university search, review, and advisory committees.

The GSA continues to support community-building through cultural programming, volunteer opportunities, social events, and family-oriented activities. These initiatives complement formal advocacy by helping graduate students develop connections outside their departments and research environments.

Affordability and Student Fees
Affordability and funding were identified as leading concerns through the recently completed Graduate Student Experience Survey. The GSA will use the findings to strengthen its discussions with university leadership and government partners concerning graduate funding, scholarships, student fees, transportation, and the cost of living.

Spring and Summer U-PASS
Following continued advocacy and engagement with municipal representatives, discussions are beginning with Saskatoon Transit regarding Spring and Summer U-PASS coverage for graduate students. We appreciate the City's willingness to move this matter forward.

Graduate students remain registered, conduct research, complete placements, teach, and access campus throughout the year. The absence of Spring and Summer coverage creates an affordability and access gap, particularly as new professional programs in Physician Assistant Studies, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology include substantial summer activity.

The GSA has collected transit-related information through the Graduate Student Experience Survey and is prepared to share relevant findings with Saskatoon Transit. Our objective is to obtain a transparent assessment of eligibility, cost, service implications, agreement changes, and the feasibility of a Spring and Summer pilot.

Research Conditions and Professional Development
The launch of the GSA's research-participant recruitment in October was established to provide graduate students researchers with an avenue to request promotion of appropriately approved studies through GSA communications.

Childcare Initiative
The GSA continues to review the graduate-student childcare business plan and to clarify the institutional steps required to advance the project. College Quarter remains a potential location for further consideration, although no final site, capital commitment, or operating agreement has been secured.

The next steps include identifying an appropriate university sponsor, refining capital and operating requirements, and preparing the project for consideration through the university's capital-planning process. The GSA will continue advocating for government-supported childcare spaces and a model that recognizes the schedules, affordability challenges, and research obligations of graduate student parents.

Campus Safety and Well-being
Safety is fundamental to the student experience. We have brought concerns to the Presidents Executive Committee and requested that physical, personal, digital, and event safety be considered preventatively rather than only after incidents occur.

Areas raised include campus lighting and safe routes, after-hours access, electrified winter parking for students returning from fieldwork, emergency-response pathways, digital-service continuity, and preventive measures at major university events. We look forward to continued discussion concerning accountable leads, timelines, and opportunities for students to report concerns.

Governance and Electoral Reform
A substantial portion of the GSA's work since the October report has focused on governance. The Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Manual have been reviewed to ensure that previously approved motions are implemented accurately, outdated references are corrected, and responsibilities are stated clearly.

GSA Council received an electoral-reform summary in October and was invited to provide feedback. Proposed reforms address election timelines, complaints and appeals, committee decision-making, campaign materials, candidate communications, social-media activity, proportionate consequences for violations, and standardized election documents.

The November 23 Council meeting will include an academic-integrity presentation, a requested correction to a historical Council attendance record, and formal notice of the December Annual General Meeting. The December 4 Annual General Meeting will focus on electoral reform. The objective is a fairer, clearer, more consistent, and reproducible election process.

Carrying the Work Forward
The GSA is preparing several major initiatives for the coming months. This includes planning the Holiday Hangout, securing a date and venue for the annual GSA Awards Gala, and beginning preparations for the Graduate Research Conference. We are also developing professional-development programming for the Winter Term, including financial-literacy sessions and opportunities that connect graduate students with university and community resources.

We thank the University Council members, university partners, graduate representatives, and grad students who continue to contribute their time and expertise to this work

Respectfully submitted,



Sunny Bui
President, Graduate Students' Association 2026/27
University of Saskatchewan