Dear Members of University Council,

On behalf of the GSA executives, I wish you all a happy New Year and hope you enjoyed your holiday season. The GSA executives start the New Year organizing important events to benefit our graduate students and campus community. To that end we are working on three main objectives this month:

1. **Winter orientation**
2. **Graduate Research Conference**
3. **Other**

1. **Winter orientation**

We have many new graduate students joining the University of Saskatchewan from many different places within Canada and around the world. In reception of our new colleagues, the GSA is organizing a welcome winter term orientation. The main goal of this event is twofold. We want to welcome the new graduate students and help make them feel accepted and comfortable while also showing them the services the GSA and the University has to offer. This event will be held on Thursday, January 16th at the GSA commons. We have put together a resource checklist containing compressed information of the resources available for graduate students. This will be handed out during the orientation and we therefore encourage new faculty members and graduate students to attend. The resource checklist can be found on the GSA website: [https://gsa.usask.ca/documents/important-Documents/resource-checklist-for-graduate-students.pdf](https://gsa.usask.ca/documents/important-Documents/resource-checklist-for-graduate-students.pdf)
2. **Graduate Research Conference (GRC) 2020**

Every year, the GSA organizes the Graduate Research Conference and all graduate students are invited to participate, network, and discuss their research in a professional environment. This year, with support of CGPS, the GSA is proud to present the Graduate Student Research Conference, “Behavior, Society & Technology: A glimpse of current research approaches” to be held on **February 13th and 14th, 2020**. The GRC 2020 aims to bring together graduate students from a wide range of fields to be part of this opportunity and share their knowledge and expertise in different topics. We encourage all graduate students to submit an abstract and participate. The organizing committee is welcoming submissions from all graduate fields. The registration deadline is **February 1st** and we invite faculty members to encourage their graduate students and Post-Docs to participate in this free event.

3. **Other**

The GSA is also organizing the Three Minute Thesis competition and the Annual Gala.

Moreover, on behalf of the GSA, we want to thank USSU, ISSAC, the Director of Student Affairs, and all supporters of the Holiday Hangout. This collaborative initiative helped the University of Saskatchewan community to stay together in the cold holiday season and it was an opportunity to network and make new friends for those who arrived earlier to start their studies. We had a lot of positive feedback from different people and the GSA is glad to know that the Holiday Hangout helped the community to feel more engaged and included within our university. We will continue working on these and other coming events that support and celebrate the academic success of our graduate students and campus community as a whole. The GSA is open to discuss any concerns, ideas, and initiatives that faculty members and the campus community may have. The GSA executive committee is excited to start a new year with new ideas of new initiatives and we look forward to continued workings with each of you in this 2020 year.

Mery Mendoza  
President, Graduate Students’ Association