Dear members of University Council,

The executives of the Graduate Student’s Association (GSA) had a very busy month continuing the previous initiatives left to us and familiarizing ourselves with the policies and bylaws of the university, which is critical for the continuity of the work we do to benefit our graduate students. We continue our efforts to find new ways to prepare our graduate students to become the future leaders and benefactors of our society during these unprecedented times. Moreover, the GSA continues its efforts to engage partners, both on campus and outside the university, in discussions on creating and developing new initiatives that we can provide to students on an online platform due to the impact of COVID-19. Furthermore, in this report you will find some steps the GSA executives have taken to achieve the following goals:

1. **Strengthening our student relationships and engaging our professional partners around campus**

   We want to maintain collaborations for research, learning, and networking among members of our university and our community as a whole. As such, we have met with the staff members of the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) to discuss future initiatives that address food insecurity for all students on campus. Food security is a critical issue for many students; therefore, we are working towards implementing a program that will benefit all
future University of Saskatchewan students. We will be working on the details of this initiative in collaboration with other stakeholders and we will be providing updates as it progresses.

The GSA executives also had an informative meeting with PSAC, where we discussed the concerns that graduates students have regarding their health and safety if/when returning to work on campus for the fall session. We have also met with the Director of Student Affairs and Services, to discuss virtual events that will engage graduate students during the spring/summer terms. The GSA will be collaborating with the USSU executives and with the Director of Student Affairs and Services’ team in creating interactive online platforms for new students who will be starting in the fall. We are looking forward to working with senior administration on this and other initiatives and forming a strong partnership that will ultimately benefit our graduate students.

2. Looking for opportunities towards better research and life experiences

The GSA will continue developing new initiatives and activities that will ensure that our graduate students will continue having a good student experience while growing both academically and socially. The GSA has opened applications for 2020 spring/summer bursaries for our students who are in need and are facing financial difficulties that influence their academic performance and life in general. We will continue to work on planning future events for our graduate students as well as supporting them to enhance our graduate students’ experience here at the University of Saskatchewan.

Overall, we will strive to promote the health and wellbeing of our graduate student population as a well as support them through these difficult times. We hope to work closely with our partners around campus and continue our discussions on what supports we can provide and how we can engage our graduate students.

Humaira Inam

President, Graduate Students’ Association